

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:04 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of a particular person at 6:04 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Sonia Hood, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman.

2. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:39 p.m.

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School at 7:39 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present: James Tomeo	President
Deborah Weiss	Vice President
Thomas Scarola	Member
Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member

Absent: Walter Edwards	Member
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Staff: Dr. Gayle Steele	Superintendent of Schools
Lorraine Dunkel	Assistant Superintendent/Business
Dr. Sonia Hood	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
Eileen Kelly Gorman	Assistant Superintendent/Special Education
Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk

Absent: None

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. January 16, 2025 Regular Business Meeting and January 30, 2025 Special Business Meeting
Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the minutes Regular Business Meeting of January 16, 2025 and the Special Business Meeting of January 30, 2025.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

F. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT – Caroline Weiss, Student Liaison to the Board

G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele

H. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA

The Board encourages all residents to attend its meetings, and this section of the agenda affords them the opportunity to speak. Persons wishing to speak should identify themselves, state whether they are a resident of the Elwood School District and any organization they represent at the meeting. Comments related to district business or any agenda item should be kept as brief as possible and may not exceed three minutes (Board Policy 1230). Questions or comments concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and may be discontinued by the President. Public discussion of matters relating to staff, students, or others at which their reputations, privacy or right to due process could be in some way be violated, is prohibited

I. PRESENTATIONS

1. Wall of Heroes Presentation, Lindsay Fritch, JGHS Assistant Principal and Nicola Palisciano, Bryce Blaylock and Walidaad Malhi
2. Mid-Year Goals Presentation, Dr. Gayle Steele, Superintendent of Schools
3. Budget Workshop #3 - Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business

J. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATIONS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donations, with gratitude:
 - 1) \$200 from Gary and Valerie Hamilton, community residents, to support the Blooming Buddies Club.
 - 2) One Smart MX265 Interactive Flat Panel from John Ball, Chief Operating Officer of Teq, to the John H. Glenn High School, for the purpose of supporting the Wall of Heroes Project, with a value of \$2,999.00.
 - 3) 8 Golf bags, 10 golf hats and 5 boxes of golf balls from the Elwood Booster Club to assist the JGHS Varsity Golf Team with a value of \$1,766.25.
 - 4) \$3,680 from Elwood Booster Club to support the following after school clubs for the 2025 Winter Season:
 - Boyd Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-1 session-\$400)
 - Boyd Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-1 session TA-\$100)
 - Boyd Coding (5 weeks-1 session-\$400)
 - Boyd Video Gaming (6 weeks-1 session-\$480)
 - Harley Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-2 session-\$800)
 - Harley Sweets & Treats (5 weeks-1 session TA-\$100)
 - Harley Coding (4 weeks-1 session-\$320)
 - Harley Art Club (6 weeks-2 sessions-\$960)
 - Harley Art Club (6 weeks-1 session TA-\$120)

Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approved Item J.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

K. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items L.1-L.2, M.1-M.19, N.1-N.6, O.1-O.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

L. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt for audit of the following reports:
 - a) Treasurer's Report for December, 2024
 - b) Revenue Status Report through December, 2024
 - c) Cash Flow Report for December, 2024
 - d) Budget Status Report through December, 2024
 - e) Trial Balance Report through December, 2024
 - f) Executive Summary for December, 2024
 - g) Budget Transfer Report through December, 2024
 - h) School Lunch Fund Report through December, 2024
 - i) ExtraClassroom Activity Funnd Reports for JGHS & EMS through December, 2024
 - j) Claims Auditor Report for January, 2025

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the budget transfers as presented to the Board at this meeting.

M. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of John Ledda for the purpose of retirement, from his position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Solomon Buchman for the purpose of retirement, from his position as an Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Lisa Magrino for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Beth Theodorellis for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Nicole Biscari for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Christina Tellekamp for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Denise Michelle Ottley for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Joshua Fenner, from his positions as a Paraprofessional and volunteer basketball coach, effective February 5, 2025.

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Brad Stentiford as a Maintenance Mechanic III, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twelve-month probationary term commencing March 3, 2025, with compensation of \$67,373 prorated, for the 2024-2025 school year.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Tara Browning as an Assistant Cook (10 month), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, effective February 24, 2025, at a salary of \$27,840, prorated, for the 2024-2025 school year.
11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the additional provider, as listed, to provide Intensive Behavioral Intervention Services for the 2024-2025 school year, as mandated by the Committee on Special Education (CSE), with compensation of \$66 per hour:
Matthew Cerrato
12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following coaches and equipment supervisors, at the corresponding stipends as per the ETA Agreement, for the spring season of the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following co-curricular appointment, for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Club	Building	Advisor	Appointment Date	Stipend
Fashion Club	JGHS	Samantha Heuer	September - December, 2024	\$634.40 (prorated)

14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the advisors to the following previously approved after-school Booster Club sessions:

Advisor	Building	Club	Previous Appointment Date	Previous Appointment Sessions	Amended Appointment Sessions	Rate for Each Session
Adam Goudreau	Boyd	Video Gaming Club	January 16, 2025	3 Sessions (1/9/25, 1/16/25, 1,23/25)	6 Sessions (1/9/25, 1/16/25, 1/23/25, 1/30/25, 2/6,25, 2/13/25)	\$80
Jesse Marroquin	Boyd	Video Gaming Club	January 16, 2025	3 Sessions (1/30/25, 2/6/25, 2/13/25)	6 Sessions (March-April, 2025)	\$80

15. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as volunteer coaches, for the 2024-2025 school year, effective February 14, 2025:
Christopher Jacobi - Volunteer Boys Lacrosse Coach
Robert Costanzo - Volunteer Varsity Baseball Coach (pending issuance of Temporary Coaching License)
16. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following at Harley as an after-school advisor to the

corresponding club as presented:

1-Cheri Murcott to Harley Sweets & Treats (5 Sessions, January through February, 2025) - \$80 per session

17. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves curriculum writing for the following educator, with a submission deadline to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, as presented to the Board at this meeting, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

Project	Building	Hours Per Teacher	Teacher
Curriculum Writing Grades 3-5 Music Scope & Sequence	James H. Boyd Intermediate School	6 Hours	Rachel Nagle

18. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation for the following teacher, to support the duration of the leave of Employee #2342, effective February 5, 2025, with compensation as presented:

Name	Subject Area	School	Compensation
Elena Jersey	Italian	JGHS	0.2 FTE

19. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

N. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc., to provide instruction to children with disabilities, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to sign and execute an Agreement with O'Brien Speech, Language and Learning, PLLC and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and related services to the District, effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of the meeting.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with Nassau Suffolk Services for the Autistic, Inc. (NSSA)/The Martin C. Barell School, to provide instruction to handicapped children, effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute an Agreement with Auctions International, Inc. and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for preparing for and conducting the sale of educational institution assets, as presented to the Board at this meeting, effective January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Jericho Union Free School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Jericho Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,465.27 per eligible child for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 inclusive, and said agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the following technology items located in the Elwood Union Free School District School as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:
(180) Obsolete Technology Equipment

O. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2025-2026 Elwood Union Free School District Calendar, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Committee and Subcommittee on Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 9/10/24, 12/19/24, 1/2/25, 1/3/25, 1/9/25, 1/10/25, 1/13/25, 1/14/25, 1/15/25, 1/22/25, 1/23/25, 1/30/25 and 2/4/25 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 12/11/24, 12/18/24, 1/3/25, 1/8/25, 1/22/25, 1/24/25 and 1/30/25 for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes and appropriates the use of District funds necessary to implement the special education programs and services consistent with said recommendations.

P. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

The Board encourages all residents to attend its meetings, and this section of the agenda affords them the opportunity to speak. Persons wishing to speak should identify themselves, state whether they are a resident of the Elwood School District and any organization they represent at the meeting. Comments related to district business or any agenda item should be kept as brief as possible and may not exceed three minutes (Board Policy 1230). Questions or comments concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be taken under consideration and may be discontinued by the President. Public discussion of matters relating to staff, students, or others at which their reputations, privacy or right to due process could be in some way be violated, is prohibited.

Q. ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk