

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 5:17 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential interviews regarding the potential employment of particular corporations at 5:17 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

2. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:40 p.m.

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

Absent: None

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. March 27, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 27, 2025.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-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. EMS Schools To Watch - Dr. Christina Moran, EMS Principal
2. Budget Workshop #5 - Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business

J. RESIDENTS’ REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA

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K. 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) \$8,696.78 from the James H. Boyd Intermediate School PTA to support the installation of an approved Gaga pit at Boyd's outdoor playground.
 - 2) \$500 from the James H. Boyd Intermediate School PTA to support the school musical at Boyd.

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

Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.7, O.3-O.5, P.1-P.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

M. 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 February, 2025
 - b) Revenue Status Report through February, 2025
 - c) Cash Flow Report for February, 2025
 - d) Budget Status Report through February, 2025
 - e) Trial Balance Report through February, 2025
 - f) Executive Summary for February, 2025
 - g) Budget Transfer Report through February, 2025
 - h) School Lunch Fund Report through February, 2025
 - i) Claims Auditor Report for March, 2025

N. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Sonia Hood, Ed.D. for the purpose of retirement, from her position as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, effective June 30, 2025.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Gabrielle Caviglia, from her position as a Music 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 Krista Bienkowski, from her position as an Earth Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the reinstatement of Denise Mastrangelo, as an Account Clerk, effective May 1, 2025 with compensation of \$49,245 pro-rated, for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as a volunteer coach, for the 2024-2025 school year, effective April 11, 2025:
Matthew Lauria - Volunteer Boys Varsity Lacrosse Coach
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as the advisors to the corresponding after-school Booster Club sessions:

Advisor	Club	# of Sessions	Rate per Session	Period
Sara Quappe	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	April-May, 2025
Leslie Seilback	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	April-May, 2025
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Coding	6	\$80	April-May, 2025
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	6	\$80	April-June, 2025

7. 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.

O. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby adopts the expenditure appropriation of \$79,395,286 (The Budget) to operate the schools for the 2025- 2026 fiscal year, which requires a tax levy increase of 4.20% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 1.29% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following proposition shall be presented to the voters at the Annual Budget Vote and Election to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025: Shall the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York be authorized to expend the sum of \$79,395,286 in accordance with the budget submitted for the school year 2025-2026 and to levy the necessary tax therefor. Adoption of the budget requires a tax levy increase of 4.20% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 1.29% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting.

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

Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2025-2026 Property Tax Report Card as presented to the Board at this meeting; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business is directed to submit the Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business is authorized to amend and subsequently resubmit the Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department at a later date if School District's state aid changes as a result of the final adoption of the New York State budget.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approved Item O.2, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President and Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to sign and execute a Multi-year Lease Agreement with Western Suffolk BOCES and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing Chromebooks and other technology related services to the District with financing under Coser A501.020 for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting:

Equipment	\$229,556
Coordination	\$22,956
Insurance/Legal	\$6,000
Financing	\$22,952
Total Payment	\$281,464

4. 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 Syosset Central School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Syosset Central School District, in the amount of \$1,399.00 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.
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 and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Uniondale 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 Uniondale Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,164.08 per eligible child for the period September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 inclusive, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District’s facilities: (a) Install Wireless Access Points District-Wide; (b) Upgrade Universal Power Supply District-Wide; (c) Enhance Local Backup Infrastructure; (d) Upgrade District Wireless Access Points; (e) Upgrade District Server/SAN; (f) Upgrade technology network infrastructure; (g) Upgrade District’s Universal Power Supply; (h) Upgrade technology backup infrastructure; and (i) Purchase computer hardware District Wide (hereinafter the “Projects”); and

WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

WHEREAS, the purchase of equipment or supplies are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(31)); and

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all

information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2), (10) and (31) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

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 1/1/25, 1/14/25, 1/28/25, 2/5/25, 2/5/25, 2/11/25, 2/13/25, 2/25/25, 2/26/25, 3/6/25, 3/10/25, 3/14/25, 3/20/25, 3/21/25, 3/24/25, 3/25/25, 3/26/25, 3/27/25, 4/2/25, 4/3/25 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 11/20/24, 1/3/25, 2/10/25, 3/5/25, 3/7/25, 3/10/25, 3/12/25, 3/14/25, 3/17/25, 3/19/25, 3/21/25, 3/26/25 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.

Q. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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R. RECONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential interviews regarding the potential employment of a particular person at 9:53 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.
2. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to extend the Executive Session beyond 11:30 p.m. as per Policy 2310.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

S. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 12:48 a.m.

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the District Office Conference Room at 12:48 a.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

T. ADJOURNMENT – 12:48 a.m.

Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 a.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk