

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 9, 2023

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:06 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions related to collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and discussions regarding the appointment of a certificated administrator at 6:06 p.m.

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

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

2. Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

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

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

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:40 p.m.

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

|          |  |                |
|----------|--|----------------|
| Present: | James Tomeo                              | President      |
|          | Heather Mammolito (arrived at 7:49 p.m.) | Vice President |
|          | Thomas Scarola                           | Member         |
|          | Dr. Sara Siddiqui                        | Member         |
|          | Deborah Weiss                            | Member         |

Absent: None

|        |                     |  |
|--------|---------------------|--|
| Staff: | Kelly Fallon        | Interim 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 A PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. October 12, 2023 Regular Business Meeting  
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2023 Regular Business Meeting, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

**F. COMMENDATIONS**

Class of 2024 Valedictorian - Christopher Sanelli  
Class of 2024 Salutatorian - Lauren LaMena  
Girl Scout Silver Award Recipients - Troop 2597:  
Abby Taft  
Ella Drucker  
Grace Murphy  
Nicole Dietz

**G. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT - Anthony Bell, Student Liaison to the Board**

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Ms. Kelly Fallon**

**I. RESIDENTS' REMARKS**

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 violated, is prohibited.

**J. PRESENTATION**

1. Update on Grant Funded Positions and Programs-Dr. Sonia Hood, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction & Dawn Valle, Director of MST and Federal Grants

**K. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATIONS**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donations, with gratitude:
  - 1-\$12,570 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the boys' and girls' athletic programs for the 2023-2024 school year.
  - 2-\$2,000 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the following after-school clubs for the 2023 Fall Session:
    - a) Boyd Maker Space Club (5 weeks-1 session \$400)
    - b) Harley Maker Space Club (5 weeks-2 sessions \$800)
    - c) Harley Art Club (5 weeks-2 sessions \$800)
  - 3-\$500 from Elwood SEPTA to support the cost of the EMS guest speaker for disabilities, Rowan Murphy
  - 4-\$3,000 from the Elwood Athletic Club to support the purchase of a scorer's table for Elwood Middle School

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Mammolito seconded a motion to approve Item K.1 as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Mrs. Mammolito moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.11, O.1-O.9, P.3), 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 Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt for audit of the following reports:
  - a) Treasurer's Reports for July & August, 2023
  - b) Revenue Status Reports through August 31, 2023
  - c) Cash Flow Reports for July & August, 2023
  - d) Budget Status Reports through August 31, 2023
  - e) Trial Balance Reports through August 31, 2023
  - f) Executive Summaries for July & August, 2023
  - g) Budget Transfer Reports for July & August, 2023
  - h) Claims Auditor Report for September, 2023

**N. ACTION ITEMS -PERSONNEL**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Kyle McMahon, from his position as a Teaching Assistant, effective November 3, 2023.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Charlayne Scarabelli for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Paraprofessional, effective December 31, 2023.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Christopher McGinnis as a Custodial Worker I (night shift), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twelve month probationary term commencing November 13, 2023, at a rate of \$52,810 (\$51,460 + \$1,350 shift differential) pro-rated, for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as part-time Food Service Workers, effective November 13, 2023:
 

| Name                  | Hours per day | Hourly Rate |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Anna Margarita Delcid | 6.25          | \$15.30     |
| Tara Browning         | 6             | \$15.30     |
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Lisa Fusaro as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, at a rate of \$120.00 per day worked, effective September 4, 2023 through June 7, 2024.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following mentors for the 2023-2024 school year:
 

| Mentor | Period | Compensation |
|--------|--------|--------------|
|--------|--------|--------------|

|                |               |       |
|----------------|---------------|-------|
| Diane Locascio | 1.5 Semesters | \$750 |
| Erica Andrich  | 1.5 Semesters | \$750 |

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as advisors to the corresponding weekly after-school clubs, for the 2023-2024 school year, with compensation as listed:

| Name of Advisors | Club                     | School | Number of Sessions | Dates                        | Rate       |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Mary Trimble     | Blooming Buddies Program | Boyd   | 15                 | November 2023 - March 2024   | \$1,131.50 |
| Loren Levine     | Blooming Buddies Program | Boyd   | 15                 | March 2024 - June 2024       | \$1,131.50 |
| Kevin Lavey      | Blooming Buddies Program | Harley | 15                 | November 2023 - January 2024 | \$1,131.50 |

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as after-school advisors to the corresponding clubs as presented:  
1-Marley Carhart to Boyd Maker Space Club (5 sessions (October to November, 2023))- \$400  
2-Kyle McMahan to Harley Maker Space Club ((1 session, October, 2023) - \$80)  
3-Cheri Murcott to Harley Maker Space Club ((4 sessions, October to November, 2023))- \$320  
4-Michael DelNegro to Harley Maker Space Club ((5 sessions, October to November, 2023))- \$400  
5-Nicole Franz to Harley Art Club ((10 sessions, October to November, 2023))- \$800
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Dylan Kilkenny as the Club Advisor for the Knights United Program at John H. Glenn High School, for the 2023-2024 school year, with compensation of \$2,835.00.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as a volunteer coach, for the 2023-2024 school year:  
Joshua Fenner: Volunteer JV Basketball Coach (pending receipt of temporary coaching license and fingerprint clearance)
11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitutes, for the 2023-2024 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

**O. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS**

1. WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District has incurred a series of unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses during the 2023-2024 budget year, which are necessary to effectuate the education of the students of the Elwood Union Free School District relating primarily to security and technology infrastructure; and WHEREAS, the District has available unassigned fund balance sufficient to fulfill its obligations to pay for these legally required expenditures; and WHEREAS, the District wishes to designate available unassigned fund balance to pay for these legally required expenditures;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes a

budget revision increasing the budget in the amount of \$300,000 to allow for the use of unassigned fund balance to pay for the unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses referenced herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the transfer of \$300,000 of the available unassigned fund balance to the (Object codes 1622 & 2630) item lines of the 2023-2024 Budget to allow for the payment of unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses, which the District is legally obligated to pay.

2. WHEREAS, the Board of Education previously established and funded an Insurance Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 6-n of the General Municipal Law; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it requires the use of said money for the purposes outlined in Section 6-n of the General Municipal Law. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the transfer of \$250,000 from the Insurance Reserve Fund to the General Fund for the purpose of utilizing said money for the settlement of certain action commenced against the school district.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board President is hereby authorized to sign and execute the following change order for Bond Phase IV Building Improvements at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School:  
Change Order No. 2 : for Gatz Sitework & Landscape Construction, Inc. related to the repavement of the entire existing track asphalt subsurface to provide adequate surface for installation of specified rubber track system which will require an increase to the contract by \$139,061.40.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with Abilities, Inc. at the Viscardi Center, to provide services to students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District, having reviewed a Settlement Agreement in Executive Session, hereby approves such Settlement Agreement and authorizes the Board of Education President to execute such Settlement Agreement.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the various technology related items (i.e. projectors, access points, monitors, chromebooks, desktops & printers) presented to the Board at this meeting, as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Donna Gorelick and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing accompanist services to the District, for the 2023-

2024 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Daniel Maimone and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing accompanist services to the District, for the 2023-2024 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Contract with the Huntington Union Free School District and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing special education services to parentally placed students with disabilities who attend private school within the Huntington Union Free School District, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 inclusive, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

**P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER**

1. WHEREAS, the District received a complaint regarding the content of a library book entitled Flamer at the John Glenn High School and a library book entitled Melissa/George at the Elwood Middle School; and  
WHEREAS, pursuant to Board Policy 1420 and its accompanying regulation, 1420-R, the Superintendent of Schools designated Instructional Review Committees to investigate and judge the challenged material; and  
WHEREAS, by letter dated October 11, 2023, the Superintendent of Schools notified the Complainant that the Instructional Review Committees issued a determination dated October 10, 2023 which concluded that the concerns and complaints presented did not rise to the level of removal of the challenged books from the John Glenn High School library and Elwood Middle School library; and  
WHEREAS, by email dated October 25, 2023, the Complainant notified the Superintendent of Schools that she was requesting a review of her complaint by the Board of Education; and  
WHEREAS, in accordance with regulation 1420-R, the Superintendent of Schools delivered a copy of her October 11, 2023 communication and the Committees' reports to the Board of Education for its consideration.  
NOW, THEREFORE, upon reviewing the October 11, 2023 communication from the Superintendent of Schools to the Complainant and the Instructional Review Committee's determination dated October 10, 2023 and giving due consideration to the concerns and complaints raised in the challenge to the library books entitled Flamer, the Board of Education sustains the determination of the Instructional Review Committee that was communicated by the Superintendent of Schools to the Complainant and denies the Complainant's appeal.

Mrs. Mammolito moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve Item P.1 as presented to the Board at this meeting.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 1-no (Weiss).

2. WHEREAS, the District received a complaint regarding the content of a library book entitled Flamer at the John Glenn High School and a library book entitled Melissa/George at the Elwood Middle School; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Board Policy 1420 and its accompanying regulation, 1420-R, the Superintendent of Schools designated Instructional Review Committees to investigate and judge the challenged material; and  
WHEREAS, by letter dated October 11, 2023, the Superintendent of Schools notified the Complainant that the Instructional Review Committees issued a determination dated October 10, 2023 which concluded that the concerns and complaints presented did not rise to the level of removal of the challenged books from the John Glenn High School library and Elwood Middle School library; and  
WHEREAS, by email dated October 25, 2023, the Complainant notified the Superintendent of Schools that she was requesting a review of her complaint by the Board of Education; and  
WHEREAS, in accordance with regulation 1420-R, the Superintendent of Schools delivered a copy of her October 11, 2023 communication and the Committees' reports to the Board of Education for its consideration.  
NOW, THEREFORE, upon reviewing the October 11, 2023 communication from the Superintendent of Schools to the Complainant and the Instructional Review Committee's determination dated October 10, 2023 and giving due consideration to the concerns and complaints raised in the challenge to the library books entitled Melissa/George, the Board of Education sustains the determination of the Instructional Review Committee that was communicated by the Superintendent of Schools to the Complainant and denies the Complainant's appeal.

Mrs. Mammolito moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve Item P.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 Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Committee and Subcommittee on Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 9/22/23, 10/5/23, 10/6/23, 10/10/23, 10/13/23, 10/22/23, 10/23/23, 10/25/23 and 11/1/23 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 10/16/23, 10/17/23, 10/18/23 and 10/26/23 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. POLICY**

1. Draft Policies Reviewed by the Interim Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee and Submitted for a First Reading:
  - 2310 Regular Meetings
  - 2325 Videoconferencing of Board Meetings
  - 2340 Notice of Meetings
  - 2360 Minutes
  - 6710 Purchasing Authority
  - 6690-E Audit Committee Charter
  - 9500 & 9500-R Compensation and Benefits

**R. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA** - None

**S. COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**T. RESIDENTS' REMARKS**

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**U. ADJOURNMENT – 8:29 p.m.**

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk