

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

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 5:10 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential interviews regarding the potential employment of particular corporations at 5:10 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Walter Edwards (arrived at 6:15 p.m. and departed at 7:20 p.m.), 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 7:28 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:42 p.m.**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School at 7:42 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present: James Tomeo	President
Deborah Weiss	Vice President
Walter Edwards	Member (arrived at 8:35 p.m.)
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. February 13, 2025 Regular Business Meeting  
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the minutes Regular Business Meeting of February 13, 2025.  
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

**F. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele**

### **G. 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

### **H. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Elementary Literacy Program Implementation Plan - Dr. Sonia Hood, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Pamela Fine, Director of Humanities, Elissa Millan, Principal, Dr. Denise Toscano, Principal, Kaitlyn Parker, Elementary Teacher, Bari Shapiro, Elementary Teacher, Kelly DiBiase, Elementary Teacher and Devon Dickens, Elementary Teacher
2. 2025-2026 Budget Discussion - Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business

### **I. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items J.1, K.1-K.11, L.1-L.7, M.1-M.4), as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

### **K. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Denise Toscano for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Principal, 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 Karen Maggio for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Reading Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Christopher Lafferty for the purpose of retirement, from his position as a 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 request for transfer of Denise Mastrangelo, Account Clerk, to a position in the same, former, or comparable title or lower title in the direct line of promotion under the jurisdiction of the Town of Huntington effective on or about March 7, 2025 in accordance with Rule 17 of the Suffolk County Civil Service Rules.
5. 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	\$20	January-February, 2025
Leslie Seilback	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	March-April, 2025
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	March-April, 2025
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Exploration	6	\$80	March-April, 2025
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	11	\$80	March-April, 2025
Devon Dickens	Boyd Sweets & Treats	5	\$80	March-April, 2025
Lauren Baker	Boyd Coding Club	5	\$80	March-April, 2025
Joanna Maricondo	Boyd Dance Club	6	\$80	March-April, 2025
Jesse Marroquin	Boyd Video Gaming Club	6	\$80	March-April, 2025

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as advisors to the corresponding weekly after-school clubs, for the 2024-2025 school year, with compensation as listed:

Name of Advisors	Club	School	Dates	Sessions	Rate
Alexandria Simone	Blooming Buddies Program	Harley	March 18, 2025 - May 12, 2025	15	\$1,148.50
Jessica Shay	Blooming Buddies Program	Harley	March 18, 2025 - May 12, 2025	15	\$1,148.50

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Allison Parker, from her position as a Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective March 13, 2025, contingent on her subsequent appointment as a Teaching Assistant.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Allison Parker, who holds a Teaching Assistant Level I Certificate, to a four-year probationary term as a Teaching Assistant, commencing on March 14, 2025 and terminating on March 13, 2029 in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant with compensation of \$26,232, (Step 1, pro-rated).
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Jennifer Richards-Foley as a Clerical Substitute, with compensation of \$38.59 per hour for the 2024-2025 school year, effective March 11, 2025.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Alexandra Rush as the Girls' JV Lacrosse Coach for the 2024-2025 school year, with compensation of \$5,922, pending issuance of a temporary coaching license and fingerprint clearance.

11. 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.

**L. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS**

1. 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 Smithtown Central School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Smithtown Central School District, in the amount of \$1,434.00 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.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and 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 Huntington 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 Huntington Union Free School District, in the amount of \$878.90 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.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President and the District Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Half Hollow Hills Central School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Half Hollow Hills Central School District, in the amount of \$1,500.93 per eligible child for the period September 1, 2024 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 a Contract with the Harborfields Central 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 Harborfields Central School District, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said contract 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 West Islip 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 West Islip Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,140.95 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 President is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Consultant Service Contract with Emily Kang and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing professional development services to the District, effective December 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
  
7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to adopt the following resolution:  
 WHEREAS, the Board of Education, in accordance with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law, has invited sealed bids for Unarmed Security Guard Services, which bids were opened publicly on February 6, 2025; and  
 WHEREAS, the bid for the Unarmed Security Guard Services requires further evaluation of the terms and conditions, and the Board of Education believes it to be in the best interests of the School District to reject all bids;  
 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education in the best interests of the School District, hereby rejects all bids for the Unarmed Security Guard Services.

**M. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby endorses the nomination of Ilene Herz, Peter Wunsch and Brian Sales as candidates for reelection to the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education.
  
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Legal Notice of the Annual School District Election, Budget Vote and Budget Hearing and establishes the following dates for said Elwood Union Free School District's Annual School District Election and Budget Vote:  
 BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION  
 Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025  
 Time: 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
 Place: Elwood Middle School Cafeteria  
 PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES:  
 1) April 3 for Long Islander, April 4 for LIBN  
 2) April 17 for Long Islander, April 18 for LIBN  
 3) May 1 for Long Islander, May 2 for LIBN  
 4) May 15 for Long Islander, May 16 for LIBN  
 BUDGET HEARING  
 Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025  
 Time: 7:30 p.m.  
 Elwood Middle School
  
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby adopts the following textbook for use in grades K-5 classes:  
 "Magnetic Reading"  
 Publisher: Curriculum Associates  
 Authors: D. Ray Reutzel, James W. Cunningham, Dr. Sharroky Hollie  
 Copyright: 2022 with transition to 2026
  
4. 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 12/18/24, 1/22/25, 1/27/25, 1/28/25, 2/3/25, 2/6/25, 2/7/25, 2/11/25, 2/13/25, 2/14/25, 2/26/25, 2/28/25, 3/3/25 and 3/5/25 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 2/5/25, 2/14/25, 2/26/25 and 3/5/25 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.

**N. 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.

**O. RECONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:56 p.m.**

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of particular persons at 8:56 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**P. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 10:58 p.m.**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School at 10:58 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**Q. ADJOURNMENT – 10:58 p.m.**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk