

ELIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Elida High School Community Room at 6:30 p.m. January 14, 2025

Tape recordings shall be made of each meeting of the Board as an administrative aid and shall be preserved as public documents of the Board.

This meeting is a meeting of the Elida Board of Education in public for the purpose of conducting the School District’s business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated in the agenda.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>P</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>P</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>P</u>	Mr. Point	<u>P</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>P</u>		

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Peters added to join National School Boards Leadership Council (NSBLC) for \$1,500 per year. This will be action item #15.

V. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Christoff seconded that the Agenda for the January 14, 2025, organizational meeting of the Elida Board of Education be adopted.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

VI. Action Items:

1. Election of Officers (01-25-1)

A. Nominations for President (01-25-A)

The President requests nominations for the position of President of the Elida Board of Education. (Nominations do not require seconds).

Mr. Christoff stated that he went through training that recommended rotating positions, and since Mr. Peters was Vice President last year, he would nominate him.

Mr. Christoff nominates Mr. Peters for President.
Mr. Point nominates Mr. Point for President.

Mr. Point moved that the nominations for the position of President be closed.
Mr. Christoff seconded the motion.

Roll call votes (if more than one candidate, please state the person you wish to vote for Vice-President).

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Mr. Point</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Mr. Peters</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Mr. Peters</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Mr. Point</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Mr. Peters</u>		

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Mr. Peters was elected President of the Elida Board of Education for the 2025 calendar year.

The President takes office and presides over the balance of the agenda.

B. Nominations for Vice-President (01-25-B)

Mr. Peters assumes the presidency and requests nominations for the position of Vice President of the Elida Board of Education. (Nominations do not require seconds).

Mr. Birks nominates Mr. Christoff for Vice-President.
Mr. Peters nominates Mr. Birks for Vice-President.

Mr. Christoff has been offered an opportunity where he may be out of town, and may be parting the area as soon as June 1st.

Mr. Peters moved that the nominations for the position of Vice-President be closed.
Mr. Birks seconded the motion.

Roll call votes (if more than one candidate, please state the person you wish to vote for Vice-President).

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Christoff</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Birks</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Birks</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Christoff</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Birks</u>		

Mr. Birks was elected Vice-President of the Elida Board of Education for the 2025 calendar year.

2. Board of Education Legislative Liaison Representative (1-25-2)

Mr. Peters moved and Mr. Birks seconded to appoint Board Member Mr. Christoff as Elida Local Schools Board of Education Legislative Liaison Representative for 2025; effective January 1, 2025:

Mr. Christoff said he was willing to keep doing it, but the same conditions would apply, referring to comments about item 1B.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Christoff</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Christoff</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Chrisoff</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Christoff</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Christoff</u>		

Mr. Christoff was elected Board of Education Legislative Liaison Representative for the 2025 calendar year.

3. OSBA Student Achievement Liaison Delegate (1-25-3)

It is recommended that the Board appoint a delegate to be the Student Achievement Liaison. The role of the student achievement liaison will be to help the board focus on issues and actions that will improve student achievement in our district.

The responsibilities of the student achievement liaison board member will include:

- Coordinating with the superintendent and treasurer to see that there is a student achievement activity or item on each board agenda. Such items could include recognition of an achievement by a student or group, performance by a student group, planning for a district program to assist student achievement, discussion of an issue or article affecting student achievement, and similar activities.

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- Distributing information and materials related to student achievement provided by OSBA.
- Informing OSBA about student achievement activities, successes and problems in our district.

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Peters seconded the appointment of Mrs. Agozzino as the OSBA Student Achievement Liaison Delegate for 2025; effective January 1, 2025.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Agozzino</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Agozzino</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Agozzino</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Agozzino</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Agozzino</u>		

Mrs. Agozzino was elected OSBA Student Achievement Liaison for the 2025 calendar year.

4. Appointment of Administrative Official (01-25-4)

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to serve as the purchasing agent and administrative official with full authority to enter into contracts up to \$25,000 for the Board of Education during the 2025 calendar year. Fuel purchases, utilities and cafeteria related purchases are excluded and may be approved by the Superintendent up to \$50,000.00

Mr. Point moved to amend the amount to \$50,000 flat rate. Mrs. Agozzino seconded.

Mr. Birks questioned how often and in what way the \$25,000 was a hindrance.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote to amend the wording was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to serve as the purchasing agent and administrative official with full authority to enter into contracts up to \$50,000 for the Board of Education during the 2025 calendar year. Any amounts between \$25,000-\$50,000 will be reported to the board as part of the Treasurer’s report

Mr. Christoff moved and Mrs. Agozzino seconded that the above amended item be approved.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote to approve the amended wording listed above was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

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5. Establish Service Fund (1-25-5)

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Peters seconded to certify Elida Local Schools Official Enrollment of 2,111 students and to adopt the following Service Fund Resolution, effective January 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, R.C. 3315.15 provides for the setting aside from the general fund a sum of two dollars (\$2.00) for each child enrolled or twenty thousand (\$20,000) or whichever is greater, such a sum of money to be known as the “Service Fund” to be used only in paying the expenses of members of the Board of Education actually incurred in the performance of their duties, or of their official representatives when sent out of the school district.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Elida Local School District does hereby establish a Service Fund, such fund is to be set aside as an account within the General Fund and there is hereby appropriated for the purpose of said Service Fund, the sum of twenty thousand (\$20,000) which amount shall be incorporated into the appropriations of this school district for the year 2025.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

6. Adopt Standing Authorization of Calendar Year (1-25-6)

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Christoff seconded to adopt the following standing authorization for calendar year 2025, effective January 1, 2025.

- A. Advance on Tax Settlements – authorization for Treasurer to secure an advance from the County Auditor when funds are available and payable to the school district.
- B. Payments of Bills – authorize Treasurer to pay all bills within the limits of the appropriation resolution as bills are received and when the merchandise has been received in good condition.
- C. Employment of Temporary Personnel – authorization for the Superintendent to employ such temporary personnel as needed for emergency situations, as determined by the Local Superintendent. Substitute personnel daily rate during personnel emergency to be double the regular substitute pay.
- D. Appointment of Purchasing Agent – authorize the Local Superintendent to serve as the purchasing agent for the school district.
- E. Use of Facsimile Signature Plate – authorize the use of a facsimile signature plate to sign all checks, salary notices, and contracts for 2025.
- F. The Elida Board of Education agrees to participate in the following federal programs for the fiscal year 2025:

516 - IDEA-B

507 - ESSER

572 - Title I

551 – Title III

590 - Title IIA

587 – ARP IDEA

584 - Title IV-A

599 – Ohio K-12 Safety Grant

587 - Preschool Restoration
- G. Authorize the Treasurer to make advances to State and Federally Funded Programs provided funds are returned to the General Fund.

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- H. Authorize the Treasurer to purchase \$20,000 Public Official Bond for the Treasurer’s position.
- I. The Treasurer will be appointed to fulfill the public records training as required by the Ohio Revised Code.
- J. To authorize, Larry Kaiser, Treasurer, and Joel Mengerink, Superintendent, all financial powers at Premier Bank.
- K. Authorize as a public purchase, the purchase of food, drink or minor gifts relating to: professional development meetings, staff meetings, in-service days, opening day, appreciation days, athletic events, student incentives or other events as approved by the Superintendent.
- L. Appoint the Allen County Educational Service Center Superintendent as the Elida Local School District Board of Education designee to hear student expulsion appeal hearings held in accordance with Board Policy 5610 and Administrative Guideline 5610, pursuant to ORC 3313.66 and 3313.661

Mr. Peters questioned the need to have ESSER still on, and asked if these were items we qualified for.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

7. Board Members Rate of Pay (1-25-7)

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education shall earn \$125.00 per meeting (limited to one paid meeting per month).

Mr. Christoff moved and Mr. Peters seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

8. Approval of 2025 Board of Education Dates (1-25-8)

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education approve the following dates for 2025 Board of Education board meetings:

The regular 2025 monthly Board of Education meetings are listed below and will be held at 7:00 P.M. at the Elida High School Community Room, 401 E. North St., Elida, Ohio. However, June, July, and August meetings will all be held at the Board of Education Central Office Conference Room, 4380 Sunnydale, Elida, OH.

- January 14, 2025
- February 18, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- April 15, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- June 24, 2025
- July 15, 2025
- August 19, 2025
- September 16, 2025

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October 21, 2025
November 18, 2025
December 16, 2025

Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a disabled person to be able to participate in these meetings.

Mrs. Agozzino moved and Mr. Point seconded to move the June 17, 2025 meeting to June 24 2025.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

Mr. Peters suggested moving the meeting times to 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Birks moved and Mr. Christoff seconded that the 2025 Board of Education dates be approved as amended.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote to approve the amended dates was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

9. Policy #5113 – Inter-District Open Enrollment (1-25-9)

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education continue with policy #5113 for inter-district open enrollment.

(Exhibit A)

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Christoff seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

10. Board Member Code of Ethics (1-25-10)

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the Board Member Code of Ethics and agree to abide by the Code of Ethics as witnessed by the signature of each board member.

(Exhibit B)

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Christoff seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Mr. Peters feels it is put out by OSBA to muzzle board members and get them to do what they want.

Mr. Birks agrees with Mr. Peters and believes the Code of Ethics has been weaponized in a way that is unproductive.

Mr. Peters added that this is not required by law and is something OSBA has come up with.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>NO</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>NO</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

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11. Legal Counsel – Scott Scriven, LLP (1-25-11)

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education appoint Scott Scriven, LLP as general legal counsel for calendar year 2025 in accordance with ORC 3313.203 & 3313.47

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Peters seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Mr. Peters questioned if we should look at other counsel.

Mr. Point would like to retain Scott Scriven, LLP due to ongoing items in 2024 that they would already have information on, and look at adding a second counsel instead of replacing.

Discussion on cost of having one or two legal counsel.

Mrs. Agozzino questioned why we would seek additional counsel.

Mr. Peters does not believe the Board has Board counsel, that there is only a Superintendent counsel at this point, and they have supported the Superintend more than the Board.

Mr. Birks believes most questions are filtered through the Superintendent, and he would like counsel they can ask questions directly too instead.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

12. Legal Counsel – Brickler & Eckler, LLP (1-25-12)

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education appoint Brickler & Eckler, LLP as legal counsel for calendar year 2025 for all matters regarding and associated with construction related matters, including solar, with ORC 3313.203 & 3313.47

Mrs. Agozzino moved and Mr. Christoff seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

13. Legal Counsel – Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP (1-25-13)

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education appoint Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP as legal counsel for calendar year 2025 for all levies/bonds in accordance with ORC 3313.203 & 3313.47

Mr. Point moved and Mr. Birks seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

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14. Legal Counsel – Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP (1-25-14)

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education approve Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP as legal counsel for the bleacher lawsuit for calendar year 2025.

Mr. Point moved and Mrs. Agozzino seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

15. National School Boards Leadership Council (NSBLC) (1-25-15)

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education enter into a subscription with National School Boards Leadership Council (NSBLC) at a cost of \$1,500 for calendar year 2025.

Mr. Peters moved and Mr. Birks seconded that the above recommendation be approved.

Mr. Point read comparisons between NSBLC and OSBA, and addressed concerns with various NSBLC stances.

Mr. Birks believes there is a hierarchy, and nothing is wrong with telling their employees what to do, and authority rests with the school board. He has had challenges getting more information about hiring people because it’s not their role according to OSBA.

Mr. Peters believes using some of the \$20,000 service fund to purchase this service is a justified cost. Challenged professional groups being paid for (OSBA, BASA, and OASBO) as all lobbying for more money and people. Read a statement about OSBA compared to NSBLC, and his interpretation of what a good board member should be.

Mr. Christoff did not know this would come up tonight and could not do his due diligence, and would have a tough time voting at this time because of that.

Mr. Christoff moved to table this until next month. Mr. Birks seconded that this be tabled until next month.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

This item was tabled.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Agozzino moved and Mr. Christoff seconded that the January 14, 2025 organizational meeting of the Elida Board of Education be adjourned 7:19 P.M.

Upon the call of the roll, the vote was recorded as follows:

Mrs. Agozzino	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Peters	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Birks	<u>Y</u>	Mr. Point	<u>Y</u>
Mr. Christoff	<u>Y</u>		

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President

Treasurer