

ELIDA BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Elida High School Community Room at 7:00 p.m. February 18, 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.

A G E N D A

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Announcement of 300 Club Winners
\$75 – Lauren Smith; \$50 – Monica Donley; \$25 – Esther Ruhe

IV. HONORS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Students of the Month

V. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LIAISON REPORT – Dr. Agozzino

Dr. Agozzino along with students from the Leadership Class, Arleigh Amspoker and Julia Thomas, reported on the following:

Elementary

The elementary got to have an exciting gym class with anytime fitness coming in to help the students understand the idea of exercising correctly.

The fire department also got to come in to show 2 of the third grade classes about the special equipment and gear they get to wear along with some stories about their adventures fighting different kinds of fire.

The third graders also got to have a tasty reward treat with enjoying ice cream while learning multiplication math facts

We also had two elementary students, 5th grade Samantha Jones and her younger sister 3rd grader Madilyn Jones win the Shawnee Optimist Pass, Dribble, and Shoot contest for their age group. And, last but not least, Rory Krouskop, an Elida Elementary student got a beautiful send off to her Make a Wish trip to Disney

Middle School

The middle school had two events celebrating good behavior. The Winter Sports Assembly celebrated the achievements of students through fun games involving the whole school. Then, over 268 students qualified for a skating field trip by maintaining positive behavior and good grades.

High School

At the high school this month, Emily Long was recognized for her leadership, citizenship, and volunteerism by the Lima Noon Optimists during Youth Appreciation Week. Also Ryan McGue placed second at the Lima Noon Optimists speech contest. In his speech, Ryan shared how optimism has guided him through trying times.

Our clubs in the high school are keeping busy as well. Elida's FFA hosted the blood donor day. Here, students were able to donate blood for a good cause. In the classroom, this month students in the Advanced Physics class are working on their roller coaster projects. For Valentines day, students made candle holder decorations during their free time in the media center.

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FCCLA

There was a “Show the Love” spirit week brought to the high school for Valentines Day for FCCLA. Many students had fun participating in the spirit days. A few we have pictured here are Colton Rader dressed as Miss Morris for “Dress as your favorite teacher” day, Anna Martinez and Kaylee Dillon twinning for “twin day” and Alaina Howard, Julia Thomas, Abby Daugherty, and Emily Long representing the senior class for the “Class Color Wars” day.

All into Music

From left to right: Alex Dunahay was selected to perform in the OSU honor band after a competitive audition process. He participated over a weekends time. Pierce Tracy and Benton Harris performed in the D3 Concert band along with Allen Vizzutti, a world renowned trumpeter. Railee Ronshausen and Isabella LaPointe performed in the D3 Honor Choir also alongside Allen Vizzutti.

National Honor Society

Elida’s National Honor Society has been continuing their 2nd and 7 Reading program at the elementary where they read a book and lead an activity with a second grade classroom. Many NHS members go to the elementary weekly to tutor a class as well. They also spent this past Saturday volunteering at Our Daily Bread in downtown Lima. They spent their time deep cleaning the building and also donated over \$200 that they collected at the high school during 2nd quarter. Elida’s NHS is currently planning their next big event where they will be partnering with a local school. Stay tuned!

THOR Committee

Elida’s THOR Committee has been spreading the valentines spirit across the high school. Railee Ronshausen created an anonymous box where students could write compliments to other students and teachers. The committee has also spread spirit throughout the building by making posters and hearts to hang around the hallways. The THOR committee also hosted a winter pep rally to recognize our winter athletes for their hard work this season. Any student who earned 0 referrals during the second quarter were entered into a gift card raffle. 370 students were entered and 40 winners received a \$5 gift card. Students also received their quarter 2 THOR badges. These are earned based off attendance, academics, and lack of referrals. This quarter 200 students received a badge. PBIS currently has 44 students enrolled in peer tutoring allowing them to continue studying Monday through Friday during bulldog.

Paw Cast

the latest episode covered the last pep rally. The episode included fun activities like the slime sensory challenge, you make the face I make the sound, favorite songs of teachers, and how to approach staff correctly. It also showed the latest updates like upcoming events and the lunch calendar.

Sports

Mens and womens wrestling have had successful seasons and we wish them luck in the rest of their season. Mens and womens bowling have also had a successful year as their season is coming to an end. The boys are 4-12 and the girls are 1-12.

In boys basketball, senior Zori Island recently reached 1000 career points. The teams record is 15-7 and their next tournament games is Friday at 7:30.

In girls basketball senior Oliveah Sanders broke the record for the most 3 pointers in a season with a new record of 50. The lady dawgs also became sectional champs for the first time since 2002. Their record is 14-9 which is also the first time to have a winning girls basketball record in 23 years. Their next tournament game is Wednesday at 7:30

The swim team took 6 girls: Arleigh Ampoker, Julia Korzan, Ally Sharp, Ava Frueh, Vivian Elrod, and Saige Bullock to the D2 district swim meet. Arleigh Ampoker got 3rd place in the 100 backstroke and she will be competing in the state swim meet this Thursday.

VI. LEGISLATIVE LIAISON – Dr. Christoff

Dr. Christoff reported on the following:

Governor DeWine

released his budget proposal, including the final phase in of years five and six of the six-year Fair School Funding formula for K12 public education, but without updates to the base cost inputs from 2022. Funding guarantees will be reduced for FY2026 (95%) and FY2027 (90%).

- creates a grant program to fund driver’s training in high schools.
- invests funding to ensure K-3 students who fail eye screenings receive comprehensive exams and eyeglasses, as needed

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136th General Assembly

- Speaker of the House Matt Huffman pre-emptively announced that the Fair School Funding Formula was “fantasy” about two weeks prior to the release of Governor DeWine’s budget proposal

Recently introduced bills for the 136th General Assembly

[HB 3](#) – the “School Bus Safety Act” would appropriate \$25 million to create a School Bus Safety Grant Fund at ODEW to assist districts with the cost of installing safety features on new and existing school buses. The bill would also increase the penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus and designate August as “School Bus Safety Month”.

[HB 7](#) – would make foster caregivers and kinship caregivers eligible for publicly funded childcare.

[HB 10](#) – would require public school boards of education and ODEW to adopt policies prohibiting the purchase of “cultivated-protein food” products or food “misbranded as a meat or egg product”.

[HB 22](#) – would authorize a full homestead exemption for surviving spouses of members of the uniformed services killed in the line of duty.

[HB 25](#) – is the House companion bill to SB 13, establishing the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program.

[HB 28](#) – would eliminate the authority to levy replacement property tax levies.

[HB 40](#) – would increase the enhanced homestead exemption for certain disabled veterans.

[HB 42](#) – would require certain agencies, including schools, to report data concerning the citizenship or immigration status of persons with whom they come into contact.

[HB 43](#) – would waive required minimum instructional hours for Ashtabula Lakeside High School after weather damage made their school building unusable for a significant period.

[HB 57](#) – would require all types of school districts to obtain and maintain a supply of an overdose reversal drug for use in an emergency. It would also require the district's superintendent to adopt and implement a policy regarding the supply's maintenance and the drug's use at each school operated by the district.

[HB 61](#) – would modify the amount of the homestead exemption and owner-occupancy property tax credit.

[HB 62](#) – makes changes to the College Credit Plus program, including requiring notice to school districts when a student drops a college course, transitioning to open-source textbooks and lowering the cost of certain online CCP courses.

[HB 77](#) - would require the Department of Health to develop informational materials on type 1 diabetes for parents and guardians of elementary school students.

[HB 79](#) – would increase the penalties for assault if the victim were acting as a sports official or the assault were committed in retaliation for the victim's actions as a sports official.

[HB 88](#) – would, among other things, require public schools to incorporate instruction on fentanyl awareness and abuse prevention for grades K-12 and require boards of education to designate one week of the school year as "fentanyl poisoning awareness week".

[HB 89](#) - would authorize a temporary property tax reduction to eligible properties in tax year 2024 by the difference in taxes owed in 2022.

[HB 96](#) - the House’s version of the FY26-27 state operating budget.

[HB 97](#) – would require public schools to provide free meals to students regardless of their ability to pay.

[HB 98](#) –would establish the Community Connectors Workforce Program to support connecting students to jobs, internships and career professionals in their communities and would appropriate \$8 million in state lottery funds to the program.

[SB 3](#) – would phase down the state income tax to a flat rate of 2.75% over two years. Soon thereafter, [HB 30](#) was introduced as a companion bill.

[SB 7](#) – would require all types of school districts to provide annual instruction to students in grades K-12 on short-term or chronic substance use. ODEW and OMHAS would be required to compile a list of best practice curricula and materials, while local boards of education would determine how instruction is delivered and ensure that delivery is age-appropriate and within the ODEW and OMHAS best practice framework.

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[SB 12](#) – would permit a community foundation to be trustee of endowments and other charitable funds received by public schools, allow a public school to appoint a community foundation to invest money in the Education Foundation Fund created under continuing law and classify a fund held for an institution by a community foundation trustee as an “institutional fund.”

[SB 13](#) – would establish the Foster-to-College Scholarship Program, require the Department of Education and Workforce to hire a full-time school foster care liaison, and make an appropriation for program.

[SB 19](#) – would require districts and schools to develop a mathematics improvement and monitoring plan for each student who qualifies for math intervention services beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Each district or school with 51% or fewer students attaining at least a proficient score on the third-grade math achievement assessment would have to develop a mathematics achievement improvement plan. Additionally, the bill would require ODEW to randomly select 5% of districts and schools annually for a review of their academic intervention services.

[SB 22](#) – would authorize a refundable income tax credit or rebate for homeowners and renters whose property taxes or a portion of their rent exceed 5% of their income.

[SB 28](#) – would levy a tax on certain high-volume landlords.

[SB 29](#) – would allow two or more municipalities to create a joint economic development district without involving a township.

[SB 34](#) – would require public school boards to select at least one of the bill's listed historical educational documents to display in every classroom in each school building the district operates by July 1, 2026. It would also permit the school board to accept donated funds and/or donated displays to meet the requirements of the bill.

[SB 44](#) – would allow students to concurrently receive an Educational Choice scholarship or Pilot Project scholarship and either an Autism or Jon Peterson Special Needs scholarship. It would also make a \$42 million appropriation in FY26 and FY27 to offset costs.

[SB 47](#) – would require disclosure of the for-profit status of community school operators and post-secondary educational institutions on various promotional materials and contracts for employment.

[SB 48](#) – would require the Auditor of State to annually audit each chartered nonpublic school that receives public money.

[SB 49](#) – would eliminate the right of first refusal for certain schools in the acquisition of school district real property.

[SB 62](#) - is the Senate’s version of the “School Bus Safety Act” (HB 3)

[SB 66](#) – would include emergency levies, substitute levies, all inside millage and school district income taxes in the calculation of a school district's effective millage floor.

[SB 68](#) – would establish a Non-Chartered Educational Savings Program at ODEW and allocate \$51 million to the program.

[SB 81](#) – would authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes, including for senior individuals who are over sixty-five years old and senior owners of manufactured homes.

[SB 92](#) – would authorize a total property tax exemption for the homesteads of totally disabled veterans and their surviving spouses.

[SB 93](#) - declares the General Assembly's intent to establish a new school financing system that provides a statewide per-pupil funding payment to public and chartered nonpublic schools based on a single statewide property tax and increased state sales tax.

- Much of the first half of 2025 will be focused budget bills, however, committee hearings, committee votes, and chamber votes may occur for various “fast-tracked” bills (*e.g.* HB 42 – Ashtabula High School instructional waiver, SB 1/HB 6 Enact Advance Ohio Higher Education Act)

Federal government

White House – signed several Executive Orders requiring the use of the term “sex” rather than the term “gender” in federal agencies, ensure that intimate spaces are designated by sex, not gender identity, combating anti-Semitism including K-12 education, ending “indoctrination” of “gender and DEI ideology”, and expand educational choice.

Further educational actions of the administration include nominating Linda McMahon as Secretary of Education, and empowering the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to reduce staffing levels at numerous government agencies, including the USDOE.

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The administration has proposed a complete dismantling the USDOE, but the actual authority to dissolve a federal agency lies with Congress. In the meantime, USDOE Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced that it will enforce Title IX under the provisions of the 2020 Title IX rule.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a directive **rescinding** previous guidance that restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities in “sensitive” areas. K-12 schools, vocational or trade schools, and colleges and universities were previously listed as “sensitive” locations. The rescission of the 2021 “sensitive” areas policy means K-12 schools are no longer specifically protected areas.

Supreme Court docket

Mahmoud v. Taylor

Issue: whether public schools burden parents’ religious exercise by compelling elementary school children to participate in instruction on gender and sexuality against their parents’ religious convictions without notice or the opportunity to opt out. (HB 8 - "Parents' Bill of Rights" - signed by Governor DeWine on January 8, 2025, effective April 9, 2025, requires public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification instructional materials with sexuality content)

A.J.T. v. Osseo Area Schools

Issue: whether the Americans with Disabilities Act requires children with disabilities to satisfy a uniquely stringent “bad faith or gross misjudgment” standard when seeking relief for discrimination related to their education.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RELATED TO ACTION ITEMS

- John Geise, Alternatives to OSBA

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Mr. Mengerink

- Semi-Annual Bullying Report for the first half of the 2024-2025 school year.
Elida High School – 3; Elida Middle School – 2; Elida Elementary - 0
(Exhibit A)

Mr. Mengerink reported on the following:

- Gave the semi-annual bullying report.
- Students will be taking the ACT on March 11th.
- Reported that the state budget is currently \$950 million projections to the good for fiscal year 2025.
- Addressed the proposed budget cuts and reductions-in-force. The proposed cuts are for approximately \$1.37 million per year.
- Gave an update on the solar project.

IX. TREASURER REPORT – Mr. Kaiser

Mr. Kaiser reported on the following:

- Closed at \$3,952,711 in the General Fund
 - **\$384,360.44** less than this time last year
 - **\$1,047,039** Expenses over Revenue for the month
 - **\$2,333,679** Expenses over Revenue FYTD
- \$9,033,459.62 across all funds
 - \$773,263.82 more than this time last year
 - **\$1,041,224.45** Expenses over Revenue for the month
 - **\$3,477,717.88** Expenses or Revenue FYTD.
- Interest for December- \$18,673.43
 - **\$2,860.60** less than this time last year.
 - **\$3,799.72** less FYTD than last year at this time.
- Checks between \$25,000 - \$50,000
 - Check #111251 - \$42,043.00 - American Express for Workers Compensation Premium
 - Check #111363 - \$37,081.28 – AEP

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- State Foundation
 - Simulations show a decrease of \$148,739 from FY 25-26 and \$411,038 from FY26-27
 - This is a 1.5% and 4.2% reduction, respectively.
 - Uses updated local capacity data (property and income data)
 - Does not update base cast (keeps at FY22 levels)
 - State share of base cost drops from \$4.62B FY25 to \$3.81B in FY27 (-17.5%)
 - Vouchers and School Choice scholarships increase from \$1.07B FY 25 to \$1.25B in FY27 (15.8% increase)

X. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Point moved and Dr. Agozzino seconded to have a Power Purchase Agreement in place by the March board meeting, otherwise to scrap the project.

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

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

Motion fails to be added to the agenda.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Agozzino moved and Dr. Christoff seconded that the Agenda for the February 18, 2025, meeting of the Elida Board of Education be adopted.

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

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

XII. CONSENT ITEMS

1. Approve Previous Minutes

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the minutes for the January 14, 2025 organizational board meeting, January 14, 2025 regular board meeting, and the February 6, 2025 special board meeting.
(Exhibits B, C, D)

2. Students of the Month

It is recommended that the following students be designated as Students of the Month for February, 2025, for the Elida Local School District:

Elida Elementary School
Oaklee Poling
Caden Liening
Harper Reeves
Thaddeus “Thad” Good
Emma Shaw

Elida Middle School
Addison Snyder
Makaylah Judy
Peyton Lehman

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Elida High School

Jonan Snyder

Carly Clay

Emersyn Painter

Benjamin Osmon

3. Graduation

It is recommended by the Superintendent that the Elida Board of Education approve the graduation for Adrian David Levan Lopez, recommended by Mr. Darren Sharp, Elida High School Principal, for graduation on January 17, 2025, contingent upon satisfactory completion of all of his minimum standard requirements for graduation.

4. National FFA Week

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education does hereby recognize February 15-22, 2025 as National FFA Week

5. Financial Reports

It is recommended that the Board acknowledge the financial reports submitted by the Treasurer. (Exhibit E)

6. Resignations/Retirements

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the following resignations and retirements:

Certified:

Laura Lotz, Gr. 1 Teacher, effective May 30, 2025 for retirement purposes

Non-Certified:

Madison Hawkey, Food Service at Elida Middle School, effective February 6, 2025

Becky Cressman, Paraprofessional Classroom Special Education Aide at Elida High School, effective August 4, 2025 for retirement purposes

Brian Adams, High School Custodian, effective February 12, 2025

Supplemental:

Tom Thomas, High School Boys Soccer Coach

7. Employment

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the following personnel for employment pending criminal investigation check, negative drug test and for teaching, aides, and coaching personnel meeting certification requirements as determined by the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, per salary schedule in effect.

Certified:

Macy Poling, Long-Term Substitute Intervention Specialist at Elida Elementary, Non-Bachelor, Step 0, effective February 24, 2025 through the end of the 2024-2025 school year

Non-Certified:

Shannon McGuire, Rotating Dishwasher/Server at Elida Middle School, 2.25 hours/day, Step 10, Effective February 18, 2025

Tim Smith, Substitute Bus Driver, effective January 24, 2025

Denise Bowers, Substitute Food Service, effective February 11, 2025

Bobbi Sanders, Substitute Custodian, effective February 11, 2025

Haili Comer, Substitute Food Service, effective February 18, 2025

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8. Substitute Teachers

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education employ the following substitutes who have met Ohio Department of Education & Workforce certification requirements and have on file a clear criminal record check.

Substitutes with Bachelors Degree

Lori Ringwald Londell Smith
Megan Kenny (Emmons) Claire Plikerd
Kathleen Radebaugh

General, Non-Degree Substitutes

Reese Taviano Gina Fox Haili Comer
Lydia Sage Coker Michael Niebel
Mary Nichols Whitney Johnson

9. Volunteers

It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the following personnel as volunteers. Volunteering will be pending following the school volunteer policy guideline and proper certifications from ODE for Class II Volunteers.

Class I – (Including but not limited to 8th Grade Washington DC Trip)

Heather Baumunk
Julia DePaoli
Olivia Verhoff

Class II

Cody Monfort, OH3557689, Middle School Baseball
Lana Burtchin, OH3439147, Softball Volunteer

10. Resolution of Acceptance of Rate

The Allen County Budget Commission met and examined the proposed Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the Elida Local School District. The budget presented was accepted. The motion is recommended:

WHEREAS, This Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year, commencing 7-1-25; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Commission of Allen County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax necessary to be levied by the Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill limitations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Education of the Elida Local School District, Allen County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there be and is hereby levied on the tax duplicate of said School District the rate of each tax necessary to be levied within and without the ten mill limitation as follows:

<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>OUTSIDE</u> <u>10 MILLS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>INSIDE</u> <u>10 MILLS</u>	<u>INSIDE</u> <u>RATE</u>	<u>OUTSIDE</u> <u>RATE</u>
Gen.	\$11,829,760	\$3,206,909	5.40	24.655
Perm. Imp.	204,230			.500
Bond Ret.	\$3,877,985			6.530

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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of this Board be and is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the County Auditor of said county.

- 11. Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Membership**
It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the membership with Ohio High School Athletic Association for the school year 2025-2026.
(Exhibit F)

- 12. Waiver of Use of Facilities**
It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the following use of facilities requests:
- Members of German Baptist Church New Conference to use the Middle School Commons and Gym on Sunday, April 6, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. for Church service and fellowship
 - National Honor Society, to use the High School on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. for “Laps for Life”

- 13. College Credit Plus Partnership with Sinclair Community College**
It is recommended that the Elida Board of Education approve the College Credit Plus agreement and the 2025-2026 payment rates for Sinclair Community College.
(Exhibit G)

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

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

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

XIII. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Public Schools Week (2-25-1)**
WHEREAS, traditional public school districts in Ohio serve more than 1.6 million students and employ more than 245,000 Ohioans full time; and
- WHEREAS, all children in Elida, Ohio should have access to the highest quality education possible; and
- WHEREAS, the community of Elida recognizes the important role that an effective education plays in preparing all students to be successful adults; and
- WHEREAS, quality education is critically important to the economic vitality of Elida; and
- WHEREAS, public education not only helps to diversify our economy, but also enhances the vibrancy of our community; and
- WHEREAS, Elida Local Schools has many high-quality teaching professionals who are committed to educating our children; and
- WHEREAS, public education is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective public schools;

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THEREFORE, The Elida Board of Education does hereby recognize February 24, 2025 – February 28, 2025 as PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK in Elida Local Schools and we call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens.

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

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

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

2. Resolution Supporting Military Children and Families (2-25-2)

WHEREAS, our country owes the daily freedoms to the members of the Armed Forces, their family members and loved ones who share in their service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, THE Elida Board of Education wholeheartedly recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices of all those who have served our country and those currently serving; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the exceptional service, strength, resilience, and character of all military-connected students and families in Elida Local Schools; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that military families face unique challenges due to deployment, reintegration, service in combat zones and frequent relocations based on duty assignments; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Elida Local Schools affirms a commitment to support our military connected students and their families and is dedicated to providing resources and programs, which could benefit students and families academically, socially and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Elida Local Schools calls for the continued creation of opportunities for military families and community members to purposely partner with schools in supporting student achievement, aspirations and social-emotional development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the School Board of Elida Local Schools officially supports all military children and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Elida Board of Education encourages all school staff and community members to initiate, support and participate in appreciation activities designed to recognize the exceptional role and unique sacrifices our military-connected youth make in our nation’s best interest.

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

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

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

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3. Resolution Regarding Reduction-In-Force of Teachers (2-25-3)

WHEREAS the Superintendent has recommended the abolishment of certain teaching positions for one of the reasons set forth in Revised Code 3319.17, that is, financial reasons;

WHEREAS the contract between the Board and the Elida Education Association allows reduction in force for any of the reasons set forth in Revised Code 3319.17, including financial reasons;

WHEREAS the Elida Local School District faces an operating deficit this fiscal year and/or in fiscal year 2026;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Elida Local School District Board of Education that the Board finds that there are financial reasons for a reduction in force pursuant to 3319.17 of the Revised Code and pursuant to Article XIX of the contract between the Board and the Elida Education Association;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the reduction plan of the Superintendent as submitted and abolishes the following positions for reasons set forth above, effective August 22, 2025:

Elida High School

Computer Science Teacher Position

Spanish Teacher Position

Physical Education Teacher Position

Social Studies Teacher Position

Math/Intervention Position

Elida Middle School

6th Grade Math Teacher Position

6th Grade ELA Teacher Position

Elida Elementary School

Kindergarten Teacher Position

1st Grade Teacher Position

3rd Grade Teacher Position

4th Grade Teacher Position

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, giving preference to teachers on continuing contract and those with greater seniority when evaluations of teachers are comparable, the contracts of the following teachers are suspended, effective August 22, 2025:

Mark Suter

Victoria Weiland

Jason Cox

Rachel Baucher

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent shall provide written notice to each of said affected teachers of the adoption of this Resolution.

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

Mr. Birks asked for explanation on how these positions could be removed without tremendous disruption to the process. Mr. Mengerink explained they would all be a disruption, but were done in the least disruptive way to students.

Mr. Peters asked about declining enrollment. Mr. Mengerink explained that enrollment fluctuates, but kindergarten is the hardest to predict.

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

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

4. Elimination of Supplemental Contract positions (2-25-4)

It is recommended by the superintendent that the following supplemental contract positions be eliminated effective with the beginning of the 2025-26 school year.

<u># each</u>	<u>Position</u>
1	1/2 of Faculty Manager
1	Assistant Swim Coach
1	9th Grade Football Coach
1	Assistant Bowling Coach

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

Dr. Christoff questioned the four positions reflected in action item 5. Stressed the difficulty of one coach being able to manage teams that are coed, and believes those should be priority in bringing back.

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

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

5. Reductions in Supplemental Salary positions (2-25-5)

It is recommended by the superintendent that the base pay of the following supplemental contract positions be reduced by 23% with the beginning of the 2025-26 school year:

<u># each</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u># each</u>	<u>Position</u>
1	Head Football	1	9th Basketball Boys
2	Head Basketball Boys & Girls	1	9th Basketball Girls
1	Marching Band	1	9th Volleyball
1	Head Track Boys	1	9th Grade Football
1	Head Track Girls	1	Head Bowling
1	Head Soccer Boys	1	7th & 8th Track Boys
1	Head Soccer Girls	1	7th & 8th Track Girls
1	Head Volleyball	1	7th Football
1	Head Wrestling	1	8th Football
1	Head Baseball	1	7th Volleyball
1	Head Softball	1	8th Volleyball
1	Head Swimming	1	7th Basketball Boys
4	Assistant Varsity Football	1	8th Basketball Boys
1	Assistant Athletic Director	1	7th Basketball Girls
2	J.V. Football	1	8th Basketball Girls
1	Head Tennis Boys	1	7th Wrestling
1	Head Tennis Girls	1	8th Wrestling
1	Head Cross Country	1	7th Baseball
1	Head Golf	1	8th Baseball

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1	Assistant Varsity Basketball Boys	1	7th Softball
1	Assistant Varsity Basketball Girls	1	8th Softball
1	J.V. Basketball Boys	1	M.S. Yearbook
1	J.V. Basketball Girls	1	M.S. Student Council
1	H.S. Yearbook	1	HS Football Cheer Advisor
1	H.S. Choral Director	1	HS Basketball Cheer Advisor
1	Instrumental Music Director	1	M.S. FB/BB Cheer Advisor
1	Head Weight Coach	1	H.S. Quiz Bowl Advisor
1	Assistant Track Boys	1	Musical Vocal Director
1	Assistant Track Girls	1	HS Drama Club Advisor
1	Assistant Softball	1	M.S. Cross Country
1	J.V. Softball	2	MS Assistant Football
1	Assistant Baseball	1	Stage Musical Director
1	J.V. Baseball	1	H.S. Student Council Advisor
1	Assistant Wrestling	1	7th & 8th Quiz Bowl Advisor
1	J.V. Volleyball	1	M.S. Choral Director
1	Assistant Soccer Boys	1	Asst. Instrumental Music Dir.
1	Assistant Soccer Girls	1	National Honor Society
1	J.V. Wrestling Coach	1	Pep Band
1	Assistant Marching Band	1	5th Quiz Bowl Advisor
1	Assistant Marching Band	1	6th Quiz Bowl Advisor
1	Stage/Drama Director	1	9th Grade Class Advisor
1	eSports Advisor	1	10th Grade Class Advisor
		1	11th Grade Class Advisor
		1	12th Grade Class Advisor

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

Mr. Mengerink referenced the 23% reduction of supplementals being on the base salary.

Mr. Peters questioned why the Athletic Director was not on this list, and does not want to put Athletics above Education.

Discussion on what the board will be doing with the Athletic Director.

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

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

6. Reduction in Administrator Contract Days (2-25-6)

It is recommended by the superintendent that the following administrator contracts be reduced by the number of specified days for the 2025-26 school year:

HS Principal	3
HS Asst. Principal	2
MS Principal	3
MS Asst. Principal	2
Elem. Principal	3
Elem. Asst. Principal	2
Elem. Asst. Principal	2
Special Ed. Director	3

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Technology Coordinator	3
Grounds Supervisor	2
Grounds Asst.	2
Maintenance Supervisor	2
Transportation Director	3
Superintendent	3

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

Mr. Birks asked what the normal administrator contract days are.

Mr. Peters questioned if there could be more to trim off of the administrators, and why the Treasurer and Curriculum Director are not on this list.

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

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

7. **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH ENNIS BRITTON CO., LPA (2-25-7)**

WHEREAS, the Elida Local School District Board of Education desires to utilize Ennis Britton Co., LPA, to provide legal services to the Board of Education and the Administration; and,

WHEREAS, the Elida Local School District Board of Education desires to retain Ennis Britton Co., LPA, as an authorized and approved law firm for the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Elida Local School District Board of Education as follows:

SECTION I

Ennis Britton Co., LPA, is authorized and approved to provide legal services to the Board and Administration.

SECTION II

It is determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning or related to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting. All deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were adopted in meetings open to the public in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Ohio Revised Code. (Exhibit H)

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

Discussion on whether we have one or two general legal counsels, and why the move from Scott Scriven LLP to Ennis Britton CO., LPA.

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

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

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8. National School Boards Leadership Council (NSBLC) (2-25-8)

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 per participating Board member for calendar year 2025.

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

Mr. Peters corrected the price of joining NSBLC to be \$1,500 per person joining not \$1,500 for the entire board.

Kelly Kohls presented on NSBLC.

Dr. Christoff asked if joining this group would be paid for from the Board Service Fund. He will continue with OSBA but will not stand in the way of someone who wants to join NSBLC.

Mr. Point questioned if Mr. Peters and Mr. Birks would follow a code of ethics or code of conduct since not signing them at the Organizational Meeting. Mr. Peters believes it is put out by OSBA to put a muzzle on the board.

Dr. Agozzino read inconsistencies from the NSBLC website on the signs of effective and ineffective board members and noted there was no difference, and believes this is unprofessional. This and the lack of a code of ethics is why she is voting no.

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

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

9. Revision of the Public Participation Policy (2-25-9)

It is recommended that Board approve revisions to the public participation policy. (Exhibit I)

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

Mr. Peters does not believe stating an addresses necessary for public participation. He does not want to limit speaking to residents to the district. He believes people should be allowed to sign-up to speak the night of the board meeting.

Dr. Christoff prefers to only allow residence of the district to speak.

Dr. Agozzino does not believe the voices outside of our district matter, only the voting district matters as that's who they are here for. She is in favor of only the voting district speaking and registering ahead of time, but would be fine with not stating address.

Mr. Birks is in favor of allowing signing up at the beginning of the board meeting.

Dr. Christoff moved and Mr. Birks seconded to table until next month in order to give time to speak to Ennis Britton.

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

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

This item was tabled.

XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – OTHER

Jen Brinkman addressed her concerns with the Board.

XV. OPEN BOARD FORUM

Dr. Agozzino read a prepared statement about her ability to participate in key decision being actively undermined due to her being a professional woman. She does not feel all board members are conducting themselves ethically, and would like them to identify in the board member code of ethics what they disagree with.

Mr. Peters assured Dr. Agozzino he has no intention of excluding her from meetings and decisions.

Dr. Christoff would like calamity days to be days where no assignments are made (assuming hours are met) because of the number of students without the resources to do online work.

Dr. Christoff would like to change “Pay to Participate” to “Pay to Practice,” if it were to be brought back, due to the number of athletes who do not get to compete against opponents. He discourages bringing it back at all.

Mr. Point read a prepared statement questioning how those who voted in favor of paying to join NSBLC and hiring Mr. Deters as a second attorney would justify the spending on these while also approving severe cuts to the district.

Mr. Peters referenced a letter Kelly Kohls gave the board and would like to contact Mr. Deters to make sure the district is in compliance.

Further discussion on new legal counsel.

Discussion on having Mr. Mengerink produce a deeper cut list if the levy fails.

XVI. INFORMATION/REMINDER

- Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, May 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
- The following items are additional reductions the district will be making that either do not necessitate Board approval or will be done at a later date:
 - Eliminate 3 summer help at-will positions
 - Eliminate 1 summer technology help at-will position
 - Reduce the following extended contracts:
 - MS Guidance – 2 days
 - HS Guidance (2) – 3 days
 - Instructional Coach – 3 days
 - Reduce yearly computer replacement expense by \$50,000
 - Reduce, re-negotiate, or eliminate the following software contracts:
 - Read 180 6th grade intervention
 - Into Math grades K-5
 - Into Math grades 6-8
 - Study Sync grades 6-8 ELA

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XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Christoff moved and Mr. Peters seconded that the February 18, 2025 meeting of the Elida Board of Education be adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

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

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

President

Treasurer