

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:08 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of particular certificated persons at 6:08 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss (arrived at 6:12 p.m.), Walter Edwards (arrived at 7:17 p.m.), Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Amy Meyer, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman.

2. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:38 p.m.

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:38 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

Absent: None

Staff:	Dr. Gayle Steele	Superintendent of Schools
	Lorraine Dunkel	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Dr. Amy Meyer	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	Eileen Kelly Gorman	Assistant Superintendent/Special Education

Absent: Mary Lou Marx District Clerk

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. September 18, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 16, 2025, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

F. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell

G. COMMENDATIONS

This section of the agenda gives the Board of Education an opportunity to publicly recognize and commend individuals for outstanding accomplishments or contributions made to Elwood Schools. Tonight we honored the following:

1) School Board Recognition Week - October 13-17

The Board of Education:
James Tomeo, President
Deborah Weiss, Vice President
Walter Edwards, Member
Thomas Scarola, Member
Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Member

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele

I. 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.

J. POLICIES

1. Draft Policies Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee and Submitted for a First Reading
 - 0100 Non Discrimination and Equal Opportunity
 - 0110.2 Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
 - 0111 Sexual Harassment Grievances Under Title IX
 - 0115 Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
 - 1120 School District Records Regulation
 - 1900 Title I Parent and Family Engagement
 - 1925 Interpreters for Hearing Impaired Parents
 - 2260.1 Citizens Finance Committee (CFBC)
 - 4526 Computer Use in Instruction
 - 8636 Artificial Intelligence

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to accept forwarding the Item J.1 draft policies for adoption, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

K. PRESENTATIONS

1. Harley Avenue Highlights - Julie Bilello, Principal
2. Annual Audit Report – Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent for Business

L. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATION

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the donation of fourteen (14) books valued at \$200.82, with gratitude, from the James H. Boyd Intermediate School PTA, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

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

M. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items N.1, O.1-O.17, P.1-P.12, Q.1-Q.3), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

N. 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 July & August, 2025
 - b) Revenue Status Report through July & August, 2025
 - c) Cash Flow Report for July & August, 2025
 - d) Budget Status Report through July & August, 2025
 - e) Trial Balance Report through July & August, 2025
 - f) Executive Summary for July & August, 2025
 - g) Budget Transfer Report through July & August, 2025

O. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. 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
Leslie Seilback	Harley Sweets & Treats	4	\$80	September-November, 2025
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Coding	5	\$80	September-October, 2025
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	11	\$80	September-November, 2025
Devon Pisano	Boyd Sweets & Treats	4	\$80	September-November, 2025
Marley Herbert	Boyd Coding Club	4	\$80	September-November, 2025
Jennifer Decker	Yoga & Mindfulness Club	5	\$80	September-October, 2025
Jesse Marroquin	Boyd Video Gaming Club	6	\$80	October-November, 2025

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation for the following teacher, to support the duration of the leave of Employee #3192, effective October 1, 2025, with compensation as presented:

Name	Subject Area	School	Compensation
Deidra O'Brien	English	JGHS	0.2 FTE

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Alexa Wilbrecht, who holds Teaching Assistant Level 1, Childhood Ed 1-6 and Students with Disabilities 1-6 Certificates, to a four-year probationary term as a Teaching Assistant, commencing on September 26, 2025 and terminating on

September 25, 2029 in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant with compensation of \$26,757, (prorated, Step 1).

4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Amarah Hill, who holds Childhood Ed 1-6 and Students with Disabilities Certificates, to a four-year probationary term as a Teaching Assistant, commencing on October 17, 2025 and terminating on October 16, 2029 in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant with compensation of \$26,757, (prorated, Step 1).
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Jonah Magnus as a part-time 0.5 FTE Maintenance Mechanic I, in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twelve-month probationary term commencing October 17, 2025, at a rate of \$27,371 (prorated), for the 2025-2026 school year.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Daniel Charzuk as an Assistant Cook (10 month), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, effective October 17, 2025, at a salary of \$27,840, (prorated, pending fingerprint clearance), for the 2025-2026 school year.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the July 10, 2025 appointment of Tara Ryder, who possesses Early Childhood Education B-2, Childhood Education 1-6, Students with Disability B-2 and Students with Disabilities 1-6 Certificates, to a four-year probationary term as an Elementary Education Teacher, in the Elementary tenure area, effective September 2, 2025 through September 1, 2029, from a previously appointed salary of \$59,403 (BA 15 Step 1) to a salary of \$67,396 (MA Step 1) retroactive to September 2, 2025. In order to be eligible for appointment to tenure, said teacher must have at least three years of effective or highly effective APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law Section 3012-d during the four year period prior to the proposed effective date of tenure and may not receive a rating of ineffective during the final year of probation.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Permanent Substitutes, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, at a rate of \$150.00 per day worked, effective October 17, 2025 through June 5, 2026:

Name	Initial School Assignment
Caterina Rovito	Elwood-John H. Glenn High School
Meghan Morris	Harley Avenue Primary School

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Alice Wolcott as the Online Learning Site Coordinator for the Virtual High School, with compensation of \$6,000 for the 2025-2026 school year.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following John H. Glenn High School and Elwood Middle School Advisors to the corresponding clubs/activities for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following James H. Boyd Intermediate School Advisors to the

corresponding clubs/activities for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Advisor	Activity	Stipend
Jesse Marroquin	Student Council Advisor	\$2,145.00
Joanna Maricondo/Julian Gordon	Boyd Musical Co-Directors (50/50 split)	\$2,020.00
Joanna Maricondo	Boyd Musical Choreographer	\$2,020.00
Samantha McDermott	Boyd Musical Producer	\$2,020.00
Julian Gordon	Boyd Musical Director	\$2,020.00
Chris Warren	Boyd Musical Sets and Art Advisor	\$2,491.00

- 12.** 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 2025-2026 school year, with compensation as listed:

Name of Advisors	Club	School	Number of Sessions	Dates	Rate
Alexandria Simone	Blooming Buddies Program	Harley	30	November, 2025 - June, 2026	\$2,336.00
Jessica Shea	Blooming Buddies Program	Harley	30	November, 2025 - June, 2026	\$2,336.00
William Cordts	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	14	October 6, 2025 - February 2, 2026	\$1,168.00
Chris Warren	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	14	October 6, 2025 - February 2, 2026	\$1,168.00
Daniel Corazzata	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	14	February 9, 2026 - June 1, 2026	\$1,168.00
Mary Trimble	Blooming Buddies Program	Boyd	14	February 9, 2026 - June 1, 2026	\$1,168.00

- 13.** BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves after-school hours for the following teachers, for the purpose of completing after-school curriculum writing for Superintendent's Conference Day, as presented to the Board at this meeting, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

Superintendent Conference Day Lessons	Not to exceed 3 hours per participant
James H. Boyd Intermediate School	Lindsey Merrow, Meagan Dolan, Daniel Corazzata, Caylie Gaccione, Jill Smith, Kristen Poulos
Elwood Middle School	Jon Rowland, Renee Spanos
John H. Glenn High School	Sima Lis, Joanna Sepp, Dylan Kilkenny, Shannon Chetuck, Lori Fornaro
District	Moir Citko

- 14.** BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby creates the following coordinator positions for the 2025-2026 school year:
Live Event Coordinator
Seal of Civic Readiness Coordinator

- 15.** BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following employees as Live Event Coordinators, with an hourly rate of \$35 per hour, for the 2025-2026 school year:
Susan Triolo
Irene Calanese
Nancy Mancini
Martha Hanley

16. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the following coaches and Equipment Managers for the winter season of the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
17. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitutes, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

P. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and based on the recommendations of the Audit Committee, the Board of Education hereby accepts the annual financial statements as presented to the Board at this meeting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 as performed and prepared by Nawrocki Smith, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, for submission to the New York State Education Department.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and based on the recommendations of the Audit Committee, the Board of Education hereby accepts the internal auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 as performed and prepared by RS Abrams & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants, and presented to the Board at this meeting.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and based on the recommendations of the Audit Committee, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the Corrective Action Plan developed in response to the Internal Audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Town of Huntington 2025-2026 tax levy in the amount of \$54,545,732 and that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education.
5. 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 Brielle Ross Richards and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing vision services to the District, for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Contract 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 Mike Ochs, LLC and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing professional development services to the District, for the period October 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with the Kings Park Central School District to provide special education services for student(s) who reside in the Kings Park Central School District, at the most current special education non-resident tuition rates as approved by New York State, effective September 1,

2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

8. 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 Donna Gorelick and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing accompanist services to the District, for the 2025-2026 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 Superintendent of Schools, the Board President and Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to sign and execute the Memorandum of Agreement dated October 16, 2025 between the District and the Elwood Custodial Workers, effective October 17, 2025, as presented to the Board at this meeting, a copy of which Memorandum of Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
10. 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 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, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
11. 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 Rider to Agreement with WorldStrides and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for Elwood-JGHS Music Department to travel to Orlando, Florida in January-February, 2026 and provide related services to the District, and said Rider to Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the following technology items located in the Elwood Union Free School District School as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:
Obsolete Technology Equipment

Q. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints Scott Paterniani as a member to the Audit Advisory Committee for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
2. WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District has incurred a series of unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses during the 2025-2026 budget year, which are necessary to effectuate the education of the students of the Elwood Union Free School District relating primarily to instruction and personnel; 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 \$500,000 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 Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the transfer of \$500,000 of the available unassigned fund balance to the necessary item lines of the 2025-2026 Budget to allow for the payment of unanticipated ordinary contingent expenses, which the District is legally obligated to pay.

3. 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 9/12/25, 9/15/25, 9/18/25, 9/22/25 and 10/3/25, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 9/4/25, 9/12/25, 9/19/25 and 9/26/25 for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes and appropriates the use of District funds necessary to implement the special education programs and services consistent with said recommendations.

R. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None

S. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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T. ADJOURNMENT – 8:56 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Dunkel
Alternate District Clerk