

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment status of particular certificated employees. at 6:01 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss (arrived at 7:01 p.m.), Walter Edwards, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Amy Meyer, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman.

2. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:32 p.m.

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood-John H. Glenn High School auditorium at 7:32 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
	Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk

Absent: None

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. November 13, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2025, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

F. 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. Holiday Cheer from 4th and 5th Grade Musical Performer led by Rachel Nagle.
- 2.

2025 Cross Country	2025 Girls Swimming		
Camryn Szokoli	Samantha Williamson		
Boys Soccer Championship			
Vance Sofield	David Palencia	Jake Piacentini	Peter An
Parker Dimina	Cristian Alfaro	Lucas Tast	Cooper Kassan
Jack Ziminski	Peter Bell	Isaac Perez	Jesse Columbo
James D'Angeli	Matthew Moreno	Miles Boremski	Hector Catalan
Tomas Comba-Narvaez	Nicholas Augustine	Thomas Bove	Brody Allstadt
David Taylor	Ethan Alkelai	Luigi Gaudio	Cian Daly
Ethan Katz	Anderson Hinke		

G. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell

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. PRESENTATIONS

1. James H. Boyd Highlights – Elissa Millan, Principal
2. Budget Workshop #1 – Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent for Business

K. BOARD RECOGNITION OF DONATIONS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donations with gratitude:
 1. Boyd indoor recess games valued at \$631.62 from the Boyd PTA to support the students in grades 3-5.
 2. A donation of felt tip pens, crayons, markers and colored pencils with a total value of \$142.24 from Elwood Booster Club to support the Boyd Children's Authored Book club.
 3. \$742.73 from Elwood Booster Club to support the Harley, Boyd and Elwood Middle Schools SEPTA Coffee Cart initiative.
 4. Video Games and materials valued at \$858.66 from Elwood Booster Club to support the

video gaming club at James H. Boyd Intermediate School.

5. \$7,000 from the Elwood Booster Club to support improvements to the baseball and softball fields.

6. \$500 from the Elwood Booster Club together with the Varsity Softball team's fundraising efforts to support improvements to the Varsity softball fields.

7. \$1,750 from the JGHS Football Alumni to support improvements to the baseball and softball fields.

8. \$5,000 from the Elwood Booster Club together with the JV and Varsity Baseball teams' fundraising efforts to support improvements to the baseball field.

9. \$500 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the staff breakfast during the Superintendent's Conference Day on November 4th.

10. \$4,060 from the Elwood Booster Club to support the following 2025 late fall after-school clubs:

Boyd Coding Club (6 weeks-1 session \$480)

Boyd Video Gaming Club (4 weeks, 1 session \$320)

Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (5 weeks, 1 session \$400)

Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (5 weeks, 1 session TA \$100)

Boyd Sweets & Treats Club (6 weeks, 1 session \$480)

Boyd Sweets & Treats Club (6 weeks, 1 session TA \$120)

Boyd Children's Authored Books Club (5 weeks, 1 session \$400)

Harley Art Club (4 weeks, 2 sessions \$640)

Harley Art Club (4 weeks, 1 session TA \$80)

Harley Coding Club (3 weeks, 1 session \$240)

Harley Sweets & Treats Club (5 weeks, 1 session, 2 teachers \$800)

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

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

L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.18, O.1-O.10, P.1), as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

M. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt for audit of the following reports:

a) Treasurer's Report for October, 2025

b) Revenue Status Report through October, 2025

c) Cash Flow Report for October, 2025

d) Budget Status Report through October, 2025

e) Trial Balance Report through October, 2025

f) Executive Summary for October, 2025

g) Budget Transfer Report for October, 2025

h) School Lunch Fund Report through October, 2025

i) Claims Auditor Report for October, 2025

N. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure for the following:

Candidate's Name	Tenure Area	Effective Date
Irene Calanese	Teaching Assistant	January 14, 2026

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Ann Gill, from her position as a Permanent Substitute, effective December 5, 2025.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Lauryn DeMarco, from her position as a part-time Food Service Worker, effective November 28, 2025.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Sofia Charzuk as a full-time Cook (10 month), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary period, effective December 15, 2025, at a salary of \$32,200 (prorated), for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Sean Saporito, as a Permanent Substitute, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective December 15, 2025 through January 8, 2026 with compensation of \$150 per day worked; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints Sean Saporito to a leave replacement substitute position as an English Teacher, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, for the duration of the leave of Employee #3087, effective January 9, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with a salary of \$67,396 (MA Step 1, prorated).

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following mentors for the 2025-2026 school year:

Mentor	Period	Compensation
Kristen Saidler	1.5 Semesters	\$750
Darren Szokoli	1 Semester	\$500
Allison Peiliker	1 Semester	\$500

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Lisa Esposito from a part-time Paraprofessional (5.75 hours/day) to a full-time Paraprofessional (6.5 hours/day), in the labor class of the civil service, commencing December 12, 2025, with compensation of \$26,305.50 (Step 13, prorated).
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends/updates the following coach appointments, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Coaching Appointment	Building	Previously Appointed Advisor/Coach	Previous Appointment Date	New Appointment	Effective Date	Stipend
Assistant Girls Varsity Winter Track Coach	JGHS	Darren Szokoli	October 16, 2025	Carla Weiss	December 12, 2025	\$6,602
Girls Varsity Winter Track Coach	JGHS	Louis Hanner	October 16, 2025	Darren Szokoli	December 12, 2025	\$8,910
Assistant Boys Varsity Winter Track Coach	JGHS	n/a	n/a	Louis Hanner	December 12, 2025	\$6,602

9. 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
Devon Pisano	Boyd Sweets & Treats	6	\$80	November - December, 2025
Marley Herbert	Boyd Coding Club	6	\$80	November-December, 2025
Jen Decker	Boyd Yoga & Mindfulness Club	5	\$80	November-December, 2025
Adam Goudreau	Boyd Video Gaming Club	4	\$80	November-December, 2025
Amy Chiarello	Boyd Children's Authored Book Club	5	\$80	November-December, 2025

10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation for the following teachers, to support the duration of the leave of Employee #3087, effective November 21, 2025, with compensation as presented:

Name	Class to be covered	School	Compensation
Shannon Swan	Period 1, English 10	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Jessica Kennedy	Period 5, English 10	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Allison Peiliker	Period 6, English 10	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Garrett Chesnoff	Period 8, English 10	JGHS	0.2 FTE
Garrett Chesnoff	Period 9, English 9	JGHS	0.2 FTE

11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the adjustment of hours for the following employees, for the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation at their 2025-2026 hourly rate, as presented:

Name	Position	Previous Hours/Day	New Hours/Day	Effective Date
Katherine Anderson	Food Service Worker	4.5	6.25	December 15, 2025
Tamah Pagan	Paraprofessional	2.5	4	December 12, 2025

12. 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, to participate in curriculum writing projects, during the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher Participants</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Maximum Hours per Teacher</u>
Boyd	Elizabeth Held Devon Pisano	Makerspace Curriculum Writing	2.0 Hours

13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following Elwood-John H. Glenn High School Co-Curricular Advisor to the corresponding club/activity for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Natural Helper/Sources of Strength Mental Health Advisor - Joanna Sepp (Stipend \$1,614)

14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the following previously approved co-curricular appointments, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Club	Building	Previously Appointed Advisor(s)	Previous Appointment Date	New Appointment
Knowledge Masters	JGHS	Richard Rose	October 16, 2025	Move from monthly to bi-weekly: Updated Salary for 2025-2026 - \$2,270
World Language Honor Society	JGHS	Nicole Correia, Nicole Gendjoian	October 16, 2025	Move from bi-weekly to weekly: Updated Salary for 2025-2026 - \$2,929
Freshman Buddies	JGHS	Janine Ferrante, Kristine Romanchuk	October 16, 2025	Move from bi-weekly to weekly: Updated Salary for 2025-2026 - \$2,929
FACS Club	EMS	Kerry Klein	October 16, 2025	Kerry Klein & Dana Dorrain as advisors

15. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves up to forty (40) hours of service for Melanie Spooner for transitional purposes in the kitchen, effective December 22, 2025 through the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation of \$26.90 per hour.
16. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as volunteer coaches, for the 2025-2026 school year:
Kaitlyn Murphy - Volunteer Girls Lacrosse Coach (pending issuance of temporary coaching license)
Anthony Dibartolo - Volunteer Varsity and Junior Varsity Wrestling Coach (pending issuance of temporary coaching license & fingerprint clearance)
17. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby rescinds the July 10, 2025 appointment of Elizabeth Musi as a Varsity Cheerleading Coach for the Fall Season of the 2025-2026 school year.
18. 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.

O. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute the Special Education Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting (SEDCAR) Agreements for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting, and said Agreements will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting:
Metro Therapy
NYSARC
2. 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 Remy D'Esposito and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing accompanist concert services to the District during the 2025-2026 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

3. 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 Sid Cherry and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing musical and concert accompanist services to the District during the 2025-2026 school year, and said Contract 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 Consultant Service Contract with Matthew Quinn and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing musical choreographer services to the District, effective December 8, 2025 through March 8, 2026, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the club charters as presented at this meeting, and authorizes the Board President to execute the Charter on behalf of the Board:
JGHS Knowledge Masters Club Charter
JGHS Freshman Buddies Club Charter
JGHS World Language Honor Society
6. 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 Smithtown Central School District to provide special education services for student(s) who reside in the Elwood Union Free School District, at the most current special education non-resident tuition rates as approved by New York State, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said Agreement 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 Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to sign and execute the Memorandum of Agreement dated July 1, 2025 between the District and the Elwood Teachers Alliance (ETA) regarding a labor agreement modification, 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.
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 an amended Rider to the Agreement with WorldStrides and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for the Elwood-JGHS Music Department to travel to Orlando, Florida in January-February, 2026 and provide related services to the District, and said amended Rider to Agreement 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 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 the Elwood-JGHS Kickline Team to travel to Orlando, Florida in February of 2026 and provide related services to the District, and said Rider to Agreement will 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 hereby declares the following items as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond

repair, duplicate copies or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:
1-Library Books (Boyd), as presented

P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. 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 10/7/25, 10/9/25, 10/10/25, 10/30/25, 11/3/25, 11/5/25, 11/11/25, 11/19/25, 11/21/25, 11/25/25, 11/26/25, 12/1/25, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meeting held on 10/29/25 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.

Q. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None

R. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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S. ADJOURNMENT – 8:50 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk