

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of particular certificated employees at 6:01 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

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

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:34 p.m.

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:34 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. December 11, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 11, 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) Christina Kerensky-DeSimone - EMS Food Pantry Coordinator
- 2) 2025-2026 Reflections Winners

2025-2026 Reflections Winners			
JGHS	EMS	Boyd	Harley
Gianna Rosa	Lena Kougemitros	Theresa Dorval	Island Abdulkhalek
Ava Frank	Ella Zwang	Olivia Choi	
Walidaad Malhi	Omar Asadullah	Anna Scarola	
Elizabeth Benavides	Saachi Gandhi	Kaia Abdulkhalek	
	Abby Zbytniewski	Charlotte Guild	
	Cole Catbagan	Logan Moran	
	Aria Pineda	Sadie Hasher	
	Shayna Rand	Isabella Dennis	
	Victoria Agrawal	Jason Cabasso	
	Mia Giacalone	Stefano Larrauri	
	Erika Assimilalo	Kyle Clancy	
	Harper-Sage Moran		

G. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell**H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele****I. RESIDENTS’ REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA**

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J. PRESENTATION

1. Budget Workshop #2 Presentation - Ms. Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent for Business

K. 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 Elwood Middle School classroom furniture from W.B. Mason, valued at \$20,000, with gratitude:
 - (2) Yoqui tables/desks
 - (1) Grassy Ottoman

- (1) Store N' Draw
- (1) Conclave Collection

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola 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. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.3, O.1-O.9, P.1-P.2), 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 November, 2025
 - b) Revenue Status Report through November, 2025
 - c) Cash Flow Report for November, 2025
 - d) Budget Status Report through November, 2025
 - e) Trial Balance Report through November, 2025
 - f) Executive Summary for November, 2025
 - g) School Lunch Fund Report through November, 2025
 - h) Claims Auditor Report for November, 2025

N. 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	January-February, 2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	4	\$80	January-February, 2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Coding	4	\$80	January-February, 2026
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	5	\$80	January-February, 2026
Brett Kelly	Harley Basketball	4	\$80	January-February, 2026

- 2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the appointment of Tania Berner from an Office Assistant (12 month) to a Senior Office Assistant (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, effective January 15, 2026, at a salary of \$49,257 (Step 2, pro-rated), for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 3. 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, and that pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the

Huntington Union Free School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Huntington Union Free School District, in the amount of \$995.00 per eligible child for the period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Addendum to Financial Advisory Services Agreement with Capital Markets Advisors, LLC and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing state building aid consulting and strategic consulting services to the District, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of the meeting.
3. 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 South Huntington Union Free School District to provide special education services for student(s) who reside in the Elwood Union Free School District, at a cost pursuant to this Agreement and in accordance with the Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to sign and execute the Memorandum of Agreement dated January 15, 2026 between the District and the Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Elwood Custodial Unit regarding a retirement incentive, 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.
5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, COMMENCING January 1, 2026, the Suffolk County Board of Elections (“Board”) will be utilizing new voting systems from Election Systems and Software for all future elections; and
WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of leasing its current inventory of Dominion Voting Systems ImageCast Evolution Voting Machines (“Voting Equipment”) to Suffolk County Villages and Districts for use in their annual elections that occur between January 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026 excluding the month of June; and
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District has advised the Board of its desire to lease four (4) voting machines and twelve (12) privacy booths for use between January 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026, excluding the month of June; and
BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with Suffolk County Board of Elections; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to adopt the following resolution:
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donation, as requested, from the Suffolk County Board of Elections: Four (4) Dominion Voting Systems ImageCast Evolution Voting Machines and twelve (12) privacy booths; and

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Education hereby authorizes the District to enter into a Donation of Voting Equipment Agreement with the Suffolk County Board of Elections; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District solicited proposals for universal pre-kindergarten services for four-year-old students residing in the Elwood Union Free School District pursuant to a request for proposals ("RFP");
WHEREAS, on or about January 8, 2026, the School District received four sealed proposals in response to the RFP;
WHEREAS, said proposals were reviewed and evaluated by the School District in accordance with the RFP;
WHEREAS, upon said review, the Administration recommends that the following eligible agencies/community-based organizations be awarded contracts for the provision of universal pre-kindergarten services as the proposals best meeting the criteria in the RFP:
Elwood Care, Inc.
Kiddie Care Early Learning Center
The Learning Experience
Suffolk Y JCC
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards the contracts for the 2026-2027 universal pre-kindergarten services to Elwood Care, Inc., Kiddie Care Early Learning Center, The Learning Experience and Suffolk Y JCC at a cost of \$5,400.00 per student; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 403(b) Adoption Agreement with U.S. Omni & TSACG, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing retirement plan compliance services to the District, effective January 1, 2026, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District advertised for the bid for Base Bid No. GC-1 - General Construction at James H. Boyd Intermediate School;
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District received bids for Base Bid No. GC-1 - General Construction on January 6, 2026; and
WHEREAS, the District's Architect and Administration have reviewed the bids submitted by the bidders in connection with the Base Bid No. GC-1 - General Construction at James H. Boyd Intermediate School; and
WHEREAS, based upon said review, Statewide Roofing Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder on Base Bid No. GC-1 - General Construction in accordance with General Municipal Law section 103.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby awards the contract for the Base Bid No. GC-1 - General Construction at James H. Boyd Intermediate

School to Statewide Roofing Inc., 2049 9th Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 in accordance with the bid specifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Board of Education

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business is hereby authorized to approve change orders in the maximum amount of \$25,000 per change order for this project.

P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2026-2027 Elwood Union Free School District Calendar, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
2. 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, 10/24/25, 11/20/25, 11/25/25, 12/1/25, 12/3/25, 12/4/25, 12/11/25, 12/19/25 and 12/23/25, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 11/14/25, 11/24/25, 12/8/25, 12/15/25, 12/17/25 and 12/22/25 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 – 8:23 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk