

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:09 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of particular persons at 6:09 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), 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 7:24 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:32 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present:	James Tomeo	President
	Deborah Weiss	Vice President
	Thomas Scarola	Member
	Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member
Absent:	Walter Edwards	Member
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. January 15, 2026 Regular Business Meeting
Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2026, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

F. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell

G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele

H. 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.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion for a brief recess at 7:49 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene into open session at 8:05 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

I. POLICIES

1. Draft Policies Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee and Submitted for a First Reading
4311.1 & 4311.1-R Display of the Flag
4742 High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian
5100 Student Attendance
5500 & 5500-R Student Records
5550 Student Privacy
5605 Voter Registration for Students
5710 School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting

The Board President, Mr. Tomeo, requested the policies to be placed on the March 12, 2026 agenda for a second reading.

J. PRESENTATION

1. Mid-Year Goals Presentation, Dr. Gayle Steele, Superintendent of Schools
2. Budget Workshop #3 Presentation – Ms. Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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 following donations from Elwood Booster Club, with gratitude:
 - 1) \$3,764.15 for the purchase of an I-Click projector to be used at Boyd Intermediate School for enrichment, and;
 - 2) \$4,860 to support the following after school clubs for the 2026 Early Winter Session:
 - ***Boyd Coding Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 - ***Boyd Video Gaming Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 - ***Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 - ***Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (5 weeks-1 session TA \$100)
 - ***Boyd Sweets & Treats Club 4 weeks-1 session \$360)
 - ***Boyd Sweets & Treats Club (4 weeks-1 session TA \$80)
 - ***Boyd Invention Convention Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 - ***Boyd Basketball Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 - ***Harley Art Club (5 Weeks-1 session \$450)

- ***Harley Art Club (5 weeks-1 session TA \$100)
- ***Harley Coding Club (4 weeks-1 session \$360)
- ***Harley Sweets & Treats Club (4 weeks-1 session, 2 teachers \$720)
- ***Harley Basketball Club (4 weeks-1 session \$360)
- ***Harley Basketball Club (4 weeks-1 session TA \$80)

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

Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.16, O.1-O.3, P.1), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-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 December, 2025
 - b) Revenue Status Report through December, 2025
 - c) Cash Flow Report for December, 2025
 - d) Budget Status Report through December, 2025
 - e) Trial Balance Report through December, 2025
 - f) Executive Summary for December, 2025
 - g) Budget Transfer Report through December, 2025
 - h) School Lunch Fund Report through December, 2025
 - i) ExtraClassroom Activity Fund Reports for JGHS & EMS through December, 2025
 - j) Claims Auditor Report for December, 2025

N. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Vivian Roldan, from her position as a Teaching Assistant, effective February 2, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of David DeSimone, for the purpose of retirement, from his position as a Maintenance Mechanic, effective June 30, 2026.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Gloria Vetter, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Pamela Fine, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Director of Humanities, effective September 11, 2026.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Christine Shay, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Kerry Klein, from her positions as a Family & Consumer Science Teacher and Permanent Substitute, effective February 12, 2026.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Chimene Frascino, from her position as a Paraprofessional, effective January 23, 2026.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Stacey Parks as an Office Assistant (10 month) in the competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twenty-six week probationary period, effective February 26, 2026, at a salary of \$35,732 (Step 1, pro-rated) for the 2025-2026 school year.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as a part-time Food Service Worker, for the 2025-2026 school year, effective February 13, 2026:

Name	Hours per day	Hourly Rate
Karla Daniela Nunez Velasquez	5.5	\$18.00

10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Patricia Kavanaugh as a part-time Paraprofessional (5.75 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary term commencing February 23, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$17.89 per hour (Step 1, pending fingerprint clearance), for the 2025-2026 school year.
11. 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 teaching Math and English SAT Prep Courses at John H. Glenn High School, effective February 23, 2026, with compensation of \$66 per hour:
Alexandria Szewczuk (Mathematics) not to exceed 21 hours
Cassandra Pitocchi (English) not to exceed 19 hours
12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the following previously approved co-curricular appointment, 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
FACS Club	EMS	Kerry Klein & Dana Dorrian	December 11, 2025	Dana Dorrain as sole advisor for the remainder of the year effective January 28, 2026 with a stipend of \$1,757.40

13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Alaine Bugge, who possesses a Social Studies 5-9, 7-12 Certificates, to a leave replacement regular substitute position for the duration of the leave of Employee #2752, as a Special Education Teacher, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective on or about March 16, 2026, at a salary of \$150 per day.
14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following coaches and equipment supervisors, at the

corresponding stipends as per the ETA Agreement, for the spring season of the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

15. 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	4	\$80	January-February, 2026
Marley Herbert	Boyd Coding Club	5	\$80	January-February, 2026
Jen Decker	Boyd Yoga & Mindfulness Club	5	\$80	January-February, 2026
Jesse Marroquin	Boyd Video Gaming Club	5	\$80	January-February, 2026
Brett Kelly	Boyd Basketball Club	5	\$80	January-February, 2026
Marsha McLeod	Boyd Invention Convention Prep Club	5	\$80	January-February, 2026

16. 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 a Contract with Half Hollow Hills Central 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 Half Hollow Hills Central 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.
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 Insightful Vision, LLC and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing vision services to the District, for 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 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:
Suffolk County Department of Health Services

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 12/10/25, 12/16/25, 1/12/26, 1/14/26, 1/23/26 and 1/27/26, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 12/15/25, 1/14/26, 1/21/26, 1/30/26 and 2/9/26 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 – 10:34 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Dunkel
Alternate District Clerk