

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:05 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the particular certificated employees at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Walter Edwards, Thomas Scarola, 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 7:28 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present:	James Tomeo	President
	Deborah Weiss	Vice President
	Walter Edwards	Member
	Thomas Scarola	Member
Absent:	Dr. Sara Siddiqui	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
	Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk
Absent:	None	

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. March 12, 2026 Regular Business Meeting
Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 12, 2026, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

F. ACTION ITEM – JOHN H. GLENN HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Lindsay Fritch, who possesses School Building Leader and School District Leader Certificates, to a four-year probationary term as Principal of Elwood-John H. Glenn

High School, commencing on July 1, 2026 and terminating on June 30, 2030, in the tenure area of Secondary Principal, at a salary of \$175,651 (Step 2) for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. In order to be eligible for appointment to tenure, said employee must receive at least three APPR ratings of effective or highly effective during the four year probationary term and may not receive an ineffective rating in the final year of probation.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve Item F.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

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.

I. PRESENTATIONS

1. Technology Showcase Presentation – Christopher Onorato, Director of Instructional and Information Technology
2. Budget Workshop #4 Presentation – Ms. Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent for Business

J. 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 \$6,000, with gratitude, from the Elwood Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA), to be used to support the expansion of the Blooming Buddies program at Harley Avenue Primary School and James H. Boyd Intermediate School.

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

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

K. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items L.1, M.1-M.5, N.1-N.6, O.1-O.3), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

L. 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 January and February, 2026
 - b) Revenue Status Report through January and February, 2026
 - c) Cash Flow Report for January and February, 2026

- d) Budget Status Report through January and February, 2026
- e) Trial Balance Report through January and February, 2026
- f) Executive Summary for January and February, 2026
- g) Budget Transfer Report through January and February, 2026
- h) School Lunch Fund Report through January and February, 2026
- i) Claims Auditor Report for January and February, 2026

M. 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 Lindsay Fritch, from her position as an Assistant Principal, effective June 30, 2026, contingent on her appointment as Elwood John H. Glenn High School Principal.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves curriculum writing for the following educators, for the purpose of designing sessions that will be presented at the Superintendent's Conference Day, with compensation of \$66 per hour, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Name	Title	Hours (to be split between the number of presenters)
Lindsey Merrow	Book Creator, Canva, WeVideo, Oh My!	3 Hours
Loren Levine	Google Vids - Enhance your Google Slides with a Click	3 Hours
Jon Rowland	MagicSchool: Unleash the Magic of AI	3 Hours
Therese Regan	All You Need To Be Successful in Implementing the New HS Biology State Mandated Labs	3 Hours
Joseph Pushee	Collaborative Grading	3 Hours
Joseph Pushee	Reflecting on the new HS Math curriculum	3 Hours
Allison Peiliker	New ELA Regents	3 Hours
Richard Greening	Solutions for a Sustainable Future: New Visions Curriculum in Action	3 Hours
Richard Greening	Trippin' on NYSSLS: White Sands and Sustainability with Teacher on a Trip	3 Hours
Danielle Whitcomb and Chris Vandernoth	NGSS Middle School Assessments	3 Hours (Split- 1.5 Hours Each)
Danielle Whitcomb and Jenine Harris	Evaluating Accelerated Recommendations Criteria (with Jenine Harris)	3 Hours (Split- 1.5 Hours Each)
Dana DeSousa and Alyssa Drell	Math 7 Data Analysis	3 Hours (Split- 1.5 Hours Each)
Chris Warren and Amy Lindenbaum	Artistic Integration using the Aurora Borealis	3 Hours (Split- 1.5 Hours Each)
Marianne Klein	6th Grade Seminar Curriculum Update	3 Hours
Garrett Chesnoff	High School Reading Curriculum Update	3 Hours
Dylan Kilkenny and	High School Skills Lab: A Tiered Mental Health Initiative	3 Hours (Split- 1.5 Hours Each)

Kristen Romanchuk		
Dylan Kilkenny	Voices from the Classroom: Problem-Solving Together	3 Hours
Paul Lasurdo	Memorial Day Celebration	3 Hours
Carolyn Goudreau	Post Secondary Planning	3 Hours
JoAnna Sepp	The Emotional Anchor: Maximizing Your Impact in Supporting Students	3 Hours
Courtney Meis	Canva: Beyond the Basics	3 Hours
Michael Hoenigman and Liam Thompson	7th Grade Personal Finance Curriculum Review	3 Hours (Split- 1.5 Hours Each)
Joanna Osman	Spotlight on Learning: The K-12 Interactive Community Showcase Experience.	3 Hours
Dana Dorrian	The Elective Engine: Building Skills, Sequences, and Success	3 Hours

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves an additional two and one-half hours for Domenica Piccoli's participation in Parent University training and presentation, with compensation of \$66 per hour.

4. 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	\$90	April-May, 2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	4	\$90	April-May, 2026
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	9	\$90	April-May, 2026
Tracy Ott	Harley Basketball	6	\$90	April-May, 2026

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as a volunteer coach, for the 2025-2026 school year: Asa Mikelbank - Elwood Middle School Baseball Coach (pending issuance of Temporary Coaching License and fingerprint clearance)

N. ACTION ITEMS BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Northport-East Northport 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 Northport-East Northport Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,650.27 per eligible child for the period September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, 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, that pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Smithtown Central School District for health and welfare

services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Smithtown Central School District, in the amount of \$1,412.45 per eligible child for the period September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the "Participant") is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and
WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the "Program") in the areas mentioned above; and
WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and
WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, evaluating bids, awarding via Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board approval, and reporting the results to the Participant.
WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges that "additional insured" status shall be secured by signing a risk transfer/Indemnification Agreement when engaging services through the Cooperative Bidding Program with each awarded vendor when Services are requested. Said agreement must be signed by both parties and will remain in effect for the current term of the Bid. In the event the Bid is extended, and a Participant requires Service, a new risk transfer/Indemnification Agreement must be executed.
BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.
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 Notable, Inc. (Kami) and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing professional development services to the District, for the 2025-2026 school year, and said Contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

5. 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 following internal auditor's reports for the period ending December 31, 2025 as performed and prepared by R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP, Certified Public Accountants: Risk Assessment Update.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the Corrective Action Plan developed in response to the Annual Risk Assessment for the period ending December 31, 2026.

O. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvements at the District's facilities:
 - JGHS Building walkway access from tennis court to football field
 - JGHS Replace bathroom partitions
 - EMS gymnasium bleacher replacement
 - EMS gymnasium wall padding replacement
 - James H Boyd Upgrade of basketball courts
 - James H Boyd water heater replacement
 - Harley Avenue - replace gutters and downspouts on roof section
 - Installation of Door Ajar Alarm System for all four buildings
 - Purchase of Vehicle for Maintenance department
 - Lacrosse netting for JGHS Football Field(hereinafter the "Projects"); and
WHEREAS, said capital improvements are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and
WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and
WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and
WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));
WHEREAS, the purchase of equipment or supplies are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(31)); and
WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all

information related to the capital improvement projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2), (10) and (31) of the SEQR Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education shall present to the qualified voters of the Elwood Union Free School District at the annual meeting to be held on May 19, 2026, the following proposition in substantially the following form:

RESOLVED:

SHALL the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District be authorized to expend up to \$350,000 from the capital reserve fund established on May 15, 2018 for the purpose of performing the following projects: (a) installation of door ajar alarm system for Elwood-John H. Glenn High School, Elwood Middle School, James H. Boyd Intermediate School and Harley Avenue Primary School; (b) purchase of District wide vehicle for the Maintenance department; and (c) installation of lacrosse netting for Elwood-John H. Glenn High School Football Field; all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto.

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, charter schools and public school districts are funded with public funds through taxation; and,

WHEREAS, the expenditures and budgets of public school districts are overseen by elected boards of education, which are accountable to the public; and,

WHEREAS, the budgets of fiscally independent school districts are approved by the citizens of the communities that they serve; and,

WHEREAS, charter schools divert public funds from all public school districts that have resident students attending charter schools; and,

WHEREAS, this diversion of public funds adversely impacts the budgets of all school districts that have resident children attending charter schools; and,

WHEREAS, charter school expenditures are not overseen by an elected school board that is accountable to the public; and,

WHEREAS, charter school budgets are not approved by school districts or the citizens of the affected communities; and,

WHEREAS, charter schools are routinely permitted to open even where they do not have the approval of voters of impacted communities and therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District, advocates for legislation requiring all charter applications to be approved by the local voters of impacted communities prior to submission to the relevant State chartering entity.

P. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None

Q. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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.

R. ADJOURNMENT – 8:39 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk