

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

A. CALL TO ORDER – 5:45 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential interviews regarding the potential employment of a particular person at 5:45 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. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.
- Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:53 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 7:53 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
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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
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D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. February 12, 2026 Regular Business Meeting
Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 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

Ishan Shah, JGHS student, presented the Ex-Officio Student Board Member report on Peter Bell's behalf.

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 students:

Camila Avila - Valedictorian

Ava Haddad – Salutatorian

H. PRESENTATION- John H. Glenn High School Highlights - Irene McLaughlin, Interim Principal, Lindsay Fritch, Assistant Principal and JGHS students

I. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele

J. 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.

K. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICIES

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the second reading and adoption of the following policies, as presented to the Board at this meeting:
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

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

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

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 fifteen (15) books valued at \$199.87, with gratitude, from the James H. Boyd Intermediate School PTA, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

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

M. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items N.1-N.11, O.1-O.6, P.1-P.3), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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 Martha DeMartini, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Diane Warren, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Spanish Teacher, 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 Lisa Sallie, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a School Counselor, 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 Kristin Tiernan, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Library Media Specialist, effective July 10, 2026.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Lorraine DePietri, for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
6. 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	5	\$90	March, 2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	5	\$90	March, 2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Coding	3	\$90	March, 2026
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	5	\$90	March, 2026
Brett Kelly	Harley Basketball Club	5	\$90	March, 2026
Marley Herbert	Boyd Coding Club	4	\$90	March, 2026
Jennifer Decker	Boyd Yoga & Mindfulness Club	4	\$90	March, 2026
Adam Goudreau	Boyd Video Gaming Club	4	\$90	March, 2026
Brett Kelly	Boyd Basketball Club	5	\$90	March, 2026

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the previously appointed 2026 rate per session for the after-school Booster Club Session Advisors as presented to the Board at this meeting:

Advisor	Club	Previous Appointment Date	Previously appointed Rate per Session	Updated Rate per Session	Period
Leslie Seilback	Harley Sweets & Treats	January 15, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February,

					2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Sweets & Treats	January 15, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Cheri Murcott	Harley Computer Coding	January 15, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Nicole Franz	Harley Art	January 15, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Brett Kelly	Harley Basketball	January 15, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Devon Pisano	Boyd Sweets & Treats	February 12, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Marley Herbert	Boyd Coding Club	February 12, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Jen Decker	Boyd Yoga & Mindfulness Club	February 12, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Jesse Marroquin	Boyd Video Gaming Club	February 12, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Brett Kelly	Boyd Basketball Club	February 12, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026
Marsha McLeod	Boyd Invention Convention Prep Club	February 12, 2026	\$80	\$90	January-February, 2026

8. 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 Alexandria Simone's participation in Parent University training and presentation, with compensation of \$66 per hour.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Madison Mullman as the Elwood Middle School Softball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year, at Step 1-\$5,082.00.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the additional provider, as listed, to provide Intensive Behavioral Intervention Services for the 2025-2026 school year, as mandated by the Committee on Special Education (CSE), with compensation of \$66 per hour:
Samantha Messina
11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the August 28, 2025 appointment of Donna Dorsam, who possesses an Childhood Education 1-6 Certificate, to a 0.4 FTE part-time Family & Consumer Science position, at an annual salary of \$26,958.40 pro rated (0.4 of MA Step 1 - \$67,396), to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective March 13, 2026 through June 30, 2026; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby amends Donna Dorsam from a full-time Permanent Substitute to a 0.6 FTE Permanent Substitute, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective March 13, 2026 through June 30, 2026, with compensation of \$90 per day worked.

O. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education President and Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to sign and execute a Multi-year Agreement with Western Suffolk BOCES and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing Chromebooks and other technology related services to the District, effective July 1, 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, the Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute an Agreement with St. James Tutoring Services, Inc. and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing tutoring services to the District, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said Agreement 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 Assistant Superintendent of Business is hereby authorized to sign and execute a Contract with Matthew Fitton and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing consultant after school IBI services to the District, effective March 5, 2026 through June 30, 2026, 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 hereby authorizes the Board of Education President to sign and execute an Agreement with the Hillcrest Educational Centers, Inc., to provide for the instruction of handicapped children, effective January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, and said Agreement 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 pursuant to Section 912 of the Education Law, the Board of Education President and the District Clerk are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Half Hollow Hills Central School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Half Hollow Hills Central School District, in the amount of \$1,547.51 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.
6. 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 Commack 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 Commack Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,960.79 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.

P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby endorses the nomination of Jeannette Santos and Robert Scheid as candidates for reelection to the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Legal Notice of the Annual School District Election, Budget Vote and Budget Hearing and establishes the following dates for said Elwood Union Free School District's Annual School District Election and Budget Vote:
BUDGET VOTE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026
Time: 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Place: Elwood Middle School Cafeteria
PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES:

- 1) April 2 for Long Islander, April 3 for LIBN
- 2) April 16 for Long Islander, April 17 for LIBN
- 3) April 30 for Long Islander, May 1 for LIBN
- 4) May 14 for Long Islander, May 15 for LIBN

BUDGET HEARING

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Elwood Middle School

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 10/10/25, 1/21/26, 1/23/26, 1/28/26 and 2/9/26, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 1/30/26, 2/11/26 and 2/13/26, 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. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:49 p.m.

Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the mid-year evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools at 8:49 p.m.

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

Mr. Edwards was excused from Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

T. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 10:06 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 10:06 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

U. ADJOURNMENT – 10:06 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk