

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:04 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 discussions regarding regarding particular certificated employees at 6:04 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Walter Edwards, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Amy Meyer, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman. Michael Raniere, Esq. from Ingerman Smith, LLP arrived at 6:25 p.m.

2. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:33 p.m.

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:33 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. March 26, 2026 Regular Business Meeting
Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2026, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

F. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER – Peter Bell

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. We honored the following students:

Gabriela Solis & Riley Perinchief - Girl Scout Gold Award recipients

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele

I. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING THE AGENDA

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J. POLICIES

1. Draft Policies Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee and Submitted for a First Reading:

- 4321 Programs and Services for Students with Disabilities
- 4321.1 Provision of Special Education Services in the LRE
- 4321.11 Public Report on Revisions to District Policies, Practices and Procedures Upon a Finding of Significant Disproportionality
- 4321.13 Preschool Students with Disabilities
- 4321.14 Special Education Personnel Qualifications and Training
- 4321.2 Schoolwide Pre-Referral Approaches and Interventions
- 4321.3 Allocation of Space for Special Education Programs
- 4321.4 Independent Educational Evaluations
- 4321.5 Confidentiality and Access to IEPs, IESPs and Service Plans
- 4321.6 Availability of Alternative Format Instructional Materials for Students with Disabilities
- 4321.7 Districtwide and Statewide Assessments of Students with Disabilities
- 4321.8 Impartial Hearing Officer Appointment and Compensation
- 4327-R Homebound Instruction Regulation
- 4772 Graduation Ceremonies
- 4772-R Graduation Ceremonies Regulation
- 4773 Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities
- 5460 Child Abuse, Maltreatment, or Neglect in a Domestic Setting
- 5460-R Child Abuse, Maltreatment, or Neglect in a Domestic Setting Regulation
- 5151 Homeless Children
- 5151-R Homeless Children Regulation

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to place the policies on the May 7, 2026 agenda for a second reading and adoption.

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

K. PRESENTATION

1. Budget Workshop #5 Presentation - Ms. Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent for Business

L. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items M.1, N.1-N.11, O.1-O.10, 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 approves the budget transfer as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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 Anne Cosmai for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Principal Office Assistant, effective August 26, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Suzanne Smyth for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Senior Office Assistant, effective June 26, 2026.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Lynette Bubeck for the purpose of retirement, from her position as an Account Clerk, effective August 5, 2026.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Rosemarie Ortiz, from her position as an Administrative Assistant, effective May 29, 2026.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Brittney Olcott, from her position as Special Education 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 Justin Kersh, from his position as Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2026.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the appointment of Juliette (Lassig) Montemurro, possessing a Speech and Language Disabilities Certificate, and who was previously appointed on August 28, 2025 as a 0.8 FTE part-time Speech Teacher effective September 2, 2025 through June 30, 2026, to a four-year probationary term as a 1.0 FTE Speech Teacher, in the Speech and Language Disabilities tenure area, effective April 17, 2026 through April 16, 2030 at an annual salary of \$67,396, prorated (MA Step 1). In order to be eligible for appointment to tenure, said teacher must have at least three years of effective or highly effective APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law Section 3012-d during the four year period prior to the proposed effective date of tenure and may not receive a rating of ineffective during the final year of probation.

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following overage for the duration of the leave of employee #2752, effective April 13, 2026:

Name	School	Subject Area	Additional	Total
Sima Lis	EMS	Resource Room	0.2	1.2 FTE

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation to the following teachers for the purpose of performing after-school Regents review, for the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation at the hourly rate of \$66.00 per hour:

Name	Subject Area	School	Hours
Gala Handler	Italian	EMS	2 hours
Christina Kerensky	Algebra I	EMS	2 hours 15 minutes
Jessica Guercio	Algebra I	EMS	2 hours 15 minutes
Jon Mead	Earth Science	EMS	2 hours 15 minutes
Julianna Joseph-Whyte	Earth Science	EMS	2 hours 15 minutes
Valentina Fucella	Spanish	EMS	1 hour
Kristen Devine	Spanish	EMS	1 hour

10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the August 28, 2025 approval of the 0.2 FTE overage to Employee #2752 effective September 2, 2025 for the duration of the 2025-2026 school year to exclude compensation of the overage for the duration of her leave, effective March 9, 2026.
11. 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	\$90	April-May, 2026
Marley Herbert	Boyd Coding Club	6	\$90	April-May, 2026
Jen Decker	Boyd Yoga & Mindfulness Club	6	\$90	April-May, 2026
Adam Goudreau	Boyd Video Gaming Club	6	\$90	April-May, 2026

O. ACTION ITEMS BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby adopts the expenditure appropriation of \$80,042,789 (The Budget) to operate the schools for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and present such budget appropriation to district residents for a vote on May 19, 2026.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the 2026-2027 Property Tax Report Card as presented to the Board at this meeting; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business is directed to submit the Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assistant Superintendent for Business is authorized to

amend and subsequently resubmit the Property Tax Report Card to the State Education Department at a later date if School District's state aid changes as a result of the final adoption of the New York State budget.

3. 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.
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 Contract with Blue Sea Educational Consulting, Inc. and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing consultant Evaluation Speech Language (Bilingual) services to the District, effective March 30, 2026 through June 30, 2026, 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, 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:
Eden II Programs.
6. 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 the Harborfields 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 Harborfields Central School District, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 inclusive, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
7. 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 West Islip 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 West Islip Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,284.80 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.
8. 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 is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Westbury 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 Westbury Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,415.97 per eligible child for the 2025-2026 school year, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

9. 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 Jericho 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 Jericho Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,631.44 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.
10. 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 Seaford 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 Westbury Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,430.07 per eligible child for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 inclusive, and said contract will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

P. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the amended Legal Notice of the 2026 Annual School District Budget Vote and Election, 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 1/19/26, 3/3/26, 3/6/26, 3/13/26, 3/18/26 and 3/30/26, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 2/13/26, 3/2/26, 3/4/26, 3/11/26, 3/18/26 and 3/24/26, 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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Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve a letter to be mailed to a particular community resident.

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

S. ADJOURNMENT – 8:58 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk