

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING
AND
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding particular certificated employees at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

Present at Executive Session was: James Tomeo (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Deborah Weiss, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Gayle Steele, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman.

2. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:36 p.m.

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present: James Tomeo	President
Deborah Weiss	Vice President
Walter Edwards	Member (arrived at 8:29 p.m.)
Thomas Scarola	Member
Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member

Absent: None

Staff: Dr. Gayle Steele	Superintendent of Schools
Lorraine Dunkel	Assistant Superintendent/Business
Eileen Kelly Gorman	Assistant Superintendent/Special Education
Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk

Absent: Dr. Amy Meyer	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
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D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. April 16, 2026 and April 21, 2026 Regular Business Meetings
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meetings of April 16, 2026 and April 21, 2026, as presented.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

F. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell, Ex Officio Student Board Member Report

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:

Michaela Kalemera, Emma Rothleder & Abigail Taft- Girl Scout Gold Award recipients

H. BUDGET HEARING

1. Open the Budget Hearing

Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to open the Budget Hearing at 7:49 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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

3. Residents Remarks Regarding the Budget for 2026-2027

4. Close the Budget Hearing

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to close the Budget Hearing at 8:28 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote 4-yes, 0-no.

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 and the Board Policy Sub-Committee, the Board of Education hereby approves the second reading and adoption of the following policies, as presented to the Board at this meeting:

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

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

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

L. BOARD RECOGNITION OF A DONATION

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the donation of \$3,900, with gratitude, from the Elwood Booster Club, to support the following after school clubs for the 2026 Late Winter Session:

Boyd Coding Club (4 weeks-1 session \$360)
 Boyd Video Gaming Club (4 weeks-1 session \$360)
 Boyd Yoga and Mindfulness Club (4 weeks-1 session \$360)
 Boyd Basketball Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 Boyd Basketball Club (5 weeks-1 session TA \$100)
 Harley Art Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 Harley Art Club (5 weeks-1 session TA \$100)
 Harley Coding Club (3 weeks-1 session \$270)
 Harley Sweets & Treats Club (5 weeks-1 session, 2 teachers \$900)
 Harley Basketball Club (5 weeks-1 session \$450)
 Harley Basketball Club (5 weeks-1 session TA \$100)

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

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

M. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items N.1, O.1-O.14, P.1-P.9, Q.1-Q.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.

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

N. 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 March, 2026
 b) Revenue Status Report through March, 2026
 c) Cash Flow Report for March, 2026
 d) Budget Status Report through March, 2026
 e) Trial Balance Report through March, 2026
 f) Executive Summary for March, 2026
 g) Budget Transfer Report through March, 2026
 h) School Lunch Fund Report through March, 2026
 i) ExtraClassroom Activity Fund Reports for JGHS & EMS through March, 2026
 i) Claims Auditor Report for March, 2026.

O. ACTION ITEMS-PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure for the following:

Name	Tenure Area	Effective Date
Elle Chan	ENL	September 1, 2026
Kristen Devine	Foreign Language Spanish	September 1, 2026
Marley Herbert	Elementary Education	September 22, 2026
Samantha McDermott	Music	September 1, 2026
Devon Pisano	Elementary Education	September 1, 2026
William Riedel	Special Education	September 1, 2026
Shannon Rooney	Science	September 1, 2026
John Rottkamp	Science	September 1, 2026
Samantha Messina	TA	September 1, 2026
Monique Pardes	TA	September 1, 2026
Jillian Sparks	TA	September 1, 2026

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following Election Officials for the Annual Meeting of the Elwood Union Free School District to be held on May 19, 2026; and,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the District Clerk to make any changes to the appointments or employ substitutes as deemed necessary.
Chairperson/Election Inspector: Rate of pay - \$17.00/hour
Patricia Grasso
Election Inspectors: Rate of pay - \$17.00/hour
Veronica Bohrer, Sam Batanchiev, David Rigo, Michelle Lavitt, Nancy Dunn, Rita Anilionis, Loretta Wilson, Kathleen Corrigan, Judith Tessitore
Election Inspectors: Rate of pay-Employee Hourly Rate
Nancy Mancini, Medeline Palencia-Cordero, Maryanne Martello.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of William Powers, from his position as a Maintenance Mechanic III, effective May 1, 2026.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accept the resignation of Lisa Fassberger for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a secondary Cook, effective June 26, 2026.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Mary Lou Marx for the purpose of retirement, from her position as the Secretary to the Superintendent, effective October 16, 2026.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the terms and conditions of the extension of the probationary term of Employee #3197, for a twelve month period through August 31, 2027, as per his/her letter of request dated March 16, 2026 and said letter of request will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the extension of the appointment of the following permanent substitute positions, who serve at the pleasure of the Board, through June 26, 2026, at their Board approved daily rates of pay:

Francesca Ciriello	Caitlin Crowe	Danielle Pineyro	Cole Grecki
Sarah Clinard	Kathleen Maguire	Peter Flanagan	Caterina Rovito
Susanne Woods	Brett Kelly	Lori Mariniello	Lisa Fusaro
Alexandra Schelin	Natalie Zirkel	Meghan Morris	James Walker

8. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional compensation for the following employees who will participate in before and after-school kindergarten screening in June of 2026, with the additional hours up to 10 hours per person, not to exceed 65 hours total, with compensation at their 2025-2026 hourly rates of pay:

Amanda Culbertson
Martha DeMartini
Shanna LaBarbera
Kristy Mancinelli
Gloria Vetter
Danielle Palma
Christine Shay
Danielle Sullivan
Alex Itzler
Lisa Cento
Kelly DiBiase
Kaitlyn Parker

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, effective May 13, 2026, with compensation at the hourly rate of \$66.00 per hour:

Name	Subject Area	# of Sessions (1 session=1.5 hours)
Danielle Goerler	Global History	3
Richard Rose	US History	3
Sarah Santos	Algebra II	2
Joseph Pushee	Algebra II	2
Matthew Carrino	Algebra II	2
Brittany Chalmers	Algebra I	3
Samantha Abruscatti	Geometry	2
Kim Barnes	Geometry	1
John Rottkamp	Physics	3
Jennifer Champouillan	Chemistry	2
Lori Fornaro	Chemistry	1
Richard Greening	Earth Science	2
Garrett Chesnoff	ELA	3
Diane Warren	Flacs B-Spanish	3
Alessia Franco	Blacs B-Italian	3
Shannon Rooney	Living Environment	3
Laura Raimondi	ENL Support	6

Kevin Teixeira	ENL Support	6
Jaime Hermann	Special Education-US/ELS	6
Samantha Vanterpool	Special Education Support-Alg I	3
Shannon Chetuck	Special Education Support Living Environment	3
Sima Lis	Special Education Support	3

10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Selene Negron, who possesses an English Language Arts 7-12 Certificate, to a leave replacement regular substitute position for the duration of the leave of Employee #1533, as an English Teacher, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective May 8, 2026, at a salary of \$150 per day.
11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves 2026 summer hours for the following employees, with compensation at their hourly rate of pay, for the purpose of Chromebook preparation, distribution and other technology related duties:
Terry LoPipero - 60 hours
Susan Triolo - 60 hours
Frank Benavides - 60 hours
12. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Summer Custodial Workers, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective May 8, 2026 through September 2, 2026, at a rate of \$17.00 per hour:
Chase Abrams
Anthony Addeo
Mark Antoniak
Colin Bible*
Francis Charles*
Shay Daly
Daniel Debruin
Sean Faraci
James Froh
Salvatore Inga
Peter Kenney
Brian McCormick*
Mikayla Piersa
Justin Vega
(* pending fingerprint clearance)
13. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves 2026 summer hours for the following employees, with compensation at their 2026-2027 hourly/daily rate of pay, for the purpose of cleaning and preparing the buildings for the first day of school:

Stacey Mortillaro	Florence Postorino	Regina White
Tara Browning	Ana Margarita Delcid	Karla Daniela Nunez Velazquez
Sophia Charzuk	Maria Gransasso	Karen Kember
Melissa Ford	Rose Capalbo	

14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Summer Grounds Custodians, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective July 1, 2026 through September 2, 2026, with compensation of \$17.00/hour:
Theodore Ballard
Wesley Berenger
Robert Carhart
Deborah Gordon

P. ACTION ITEMS-BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business to make all necessary budgetary transfers for the 2025-2026 end-of-year book closings.
2. RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:
Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called "Notes") of Elwood Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (herein called "District"), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$15,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter -a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law").
Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:
(a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.
(b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.
(c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.
(d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.
Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.
Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute tax certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.
Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of one of the following: the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.
Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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 an Agreement with Elwood Care and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing pre-kindergarten program services to the District, effective September 1, 2026 through and including June 30, 2027, 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 an Agreement with Gina's Daycare, LLC, d/b/a The Learning Experience and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing pre-kindergarten program services to the District, effective September 1, 2026 through and including June 30, 2027, 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, 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 Syosset Central School District for health and welfare services for resident students of the Elwood Union Free School District attending non-public schools in the Syosset Central School District, in the amount of \$1,381.00 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.
6. 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 Abilities, Inc. at the Viscardi Center, to provide services to students with disabilities, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
7. 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 publicly requested proposals for providing SUMMER Home to School Transportation (Regular & Special Education) services for the 2026-2027 school year; and,

WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District received proposals from transportation contracting firms in response to its request for proposals, which were received by the School District on January 16, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the District's Administration has reviewed the proposals submitted by the vendors in connection with the pupil transportation services for the SUMMER 2026-2027 school year; and,

WHEREAS, based upon said review, the School District's Administration recommends that the Board of Education enter into the pupil transportation services contract with Huntington Coach LLC; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the School District to enter into a pupil transportation services contract with Huntington Coach LLC; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District authorizes the Board to enter into a transportation contract with Huntington Coach LLC for the SUMMER Home to School Transportation (Regular & Special Education) services for July, 2026 through August, 2030; and,

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

8. 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 publicly requested proposals for providing SUMMER Home to School Transportation (Regular & Special Education) services for the 2026-2027 school year; and,
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District received proposals from transportation contracting firms in response to its request for proposals, which were received by the School District on January 16, 2026; and,
WHEREAS, the District's Administration has reviewed the proposals submitted by the vendors in connection with the pupil transportation services for the SUMMER 2026-2027 school year; and,
WHEREAS, based upon said review, the School District's Administration recommends that the Board of Education enter into the pupil transportation services contract with Huntington Coach LLC; and,
WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is in the best interest of the School District to enter into a pupil transportation services contract with Huntington Coach LLC; and,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District authorizes the Board to enter into a transportation contract with Huntington Coach LLC for the SUMMER Home to School Transportation (Regular & Special Education) services for July, 2026 through August, 2030; and,
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.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the following technology items located in the Elwood Union Free School District School as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:
2026 Obsolete Technology Equipment

Q. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Board of Education meeting schedule, for the 2026-2027 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, 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 2/12/26, 3/6/26, 3/9/26, 3/12/26, 3/18/26, 3/19/26, 3/26/26, 4/27/26 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 3/16/26, 3/23/26, 3/25/26, 4/15/26, 4/20/26, 4/22/26, 4/27/26 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.

R. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

S. 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.

T. RECONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – 8:43 p.m.

1. A motion was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mrs. Weiss to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment applicants at 8:43 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

U. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 10:44 p.m.

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to return to Open Session at 10:44 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

V. ADJOURNMENT – 10:44 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk