

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 20, 2006
Elwood Middle School Auditorium

A. **CALL TO ORDER** – District Clerk 8:07 p.m.

Present	Michael Kaszubski	President
	Joseph Fusaro	Vice President
	Dina Annunziata	Member
	Julie Badlato	Member
	Dan Ciccone	Member
Staff	Dr. William J. Swart	Superintendent
	Dr. Howard Koenig	Acting Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Robert Annucci	Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources
	John Hogan	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	David Cenerelli	Director/Special Education
	Carlene Granieri	District Clerk

B. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Board President

C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

(TAB N)

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 6, 2006.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 9, 2006.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on April 6, 2006.
The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM STUDENT LIASION – Vickie Cangero

Elwoodstock was held last week. Various student and teacher bands performed. It was successful and everyone had a lot of fun.

Elections for all class officers will be held on May 24. Petitions are being submitted and posters are going up.

The band, chorus and orchestra left this afternoon for a competition in Virginia Beach. They will be competing on Friday. After the competition, they plan to visit an aquarium and a mall. On Saturday they will be going to Busch Gardens, weather permitting.

On May 6 there will be a double-header, boys baseball & girls softball game, at the Tri-Village Field in Greenlawn.

On May 10 there will be a double-header boys & girls Lacrosse game.

May 10 is also Voter Registration Day for residents to register to vote in the upcoming Budget & Election Vote. It will be held at Glenn.

The Student Council Teacher Recognition Awards went to 4 teachers at the Middle School and 1 at Boyd. They were presented with Certificates of Appreciation.

Camille Rizzo - Math teacher at the Middle School. In addition to being a creative and dynamic math teacher, Mrs. Rizzo recently organized Burger Night and also helped raise scholarship money for the Elwood Music Sponsors by participating in Battle of the Bands.

Darren Szokoli - Physical Education & Health teacher at EMS. Mr. Szokoli coached both the football and wrestling teams to winning seasons.

Eileen Sullivan – teaches 6th grade Language Arts and a Social Studies Inclusion class at EMS. Mrs. Sullivan is also a legendary director of EMS musicals. In this year's production of *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, she involved over 100 students.

Maria Trucios – 8th grade English Language Arts teacher. The New York State Council of English Teachers named Mrs. Trucios Teacher of the Year. She is the Director of Student Activities and helped organize aid for Hurricane Katrina victims. She also organized a Trivia Challenge for United Cerebral Palsy and the students raised \$5,000, the most money raised by any Suffolk County school.

Martha Simpson- 3rd grade teacher at Boyd. She is part of the inclusion team and has made a tremendous impact on special needs students. She helped raise money for a child who was temporarily paralyzed. In addition, she helped raise money for school supplies in Mississippi, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She was a Secret Santa and purchased a wardrobe for a less fortunate student. Along with Science teacher assistant, Mrs. Anderson, she was instrumental in creating and maintaining the Butterfly Garden.

D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Dr. William J. Swart

Dr. Swart introduced Dr. Howard Koenig who has been named Acting Assistant Superintendent for Business. Dr. Koenig is an expert in school finances and was the Superintendent for Central Islip, East Meadow and worked for the Harborfields School Districts. Dr. Koenig is also a resident of the Elwood School District. Dr. Swart appreciates his guidance and expertise. Dr. Swart, the Board and the audience members welcomed him.

Dr. Swart has worked on and adjusted the proposed 2006-2007 budget some 200 times. The projected average tax increase is 3.94%. It is the lowest in the region and well below the Island average and well below the state average. It is a 57% reduction over last year's tax increase. The average tax rate has been cut by ½ in 1 year, largely due to a \$1,246,000 increase in State Aid. Dr. Swart has spent a significant amount of time lobbying Senator Carl Marcellino, Assemblyman James Conte, and Assemblyman Andrew Raia.

Dr. Swart spent time in Albany in the Legislative Chambers and worked with Mr. Peter Appleby and Mr. Jeff Lovell, liaisons to the Governor and the Assembly. Elwood's wealth ratio has been inaccurate and we have not gotten our fair share. Dr. Swart, members of the Board, and our local politicians have worked tirelessly to correct it. Their efforts have gained an additional \$634,000 in school aid. The State Assembly and the Senate have increased our Aid an additional \$612,000, making the total Aid package \$1,246,000. He thanked all of our representatives for their assistance.

Dr. Swart then reviewed everything in the Budget:

- It continues to add funds for NY State-mandated student testing, data analysis and reporting
- Provides for increased costs for health insurance programs, social security payments, teacher and staff retirement programs, and workman's compensation
- It contains funding for principal and interests payments on bonds and TANs
- Provides funding for Phase 2 of the district-wide technology upgrades, hardware and networking for students
- Provides for additional costs for fuel oil, gas and electricity
- Includes significant reduction in BOCES expenditures
- Includes staff reductions of 2 full-time teachers
- Contains a full-time Special Educator at the District Offices on special assignment
- It does include funds for all curricular and co-curricular activities
- It provides for the first time a full-time Science Independent Teacher Program at Glenn
- It restores an Assistant Principal position and also a 6th grade teacher position that he had previously recommended for reduction
- The proposed budget for Physical Education & Athletics is the same amount as the current budget.

In summary:

There are no increases in Physical Education & Athletics. For the past 2 months they have worked on the PE & Athletics budget and reduced it by \$55,000.

The proposed budget does not adversely affect class size in any grade level. Class sizes are stable and compare typically with regional districts. Class size projections for next year are very similar to this year's class sizes.

The notion that Elwood is overspending is not true. They have carefully dialogued and discussed almost every aspect of this budget. It is the most time he has ever spent on the development of a school budget. He realizes it is a critical year, and we needed to have a significant reduction in the average tax increase but at the same time maintain the integrity of our instructional programs.

All of the staff development initiatives that were funded this year by Senator Marcellino, Assemblymen Conte and Raia will continue next year. He believes we will get funding for teacher development activities, such as the teacher academy, that was founded this year for staff development for our teachers from our teachers.

He is proud to present this budget to the community. He asked to please help him separate the Budget vote from the Board Elections. He is here to pass this budget only, because he believes it is in the best interest of our children and the community.

Mr. Kaszubski thanked Dr. Swart for his efforts and our Legislators.

E. COMMENDATIONS (Prior to the Board meeting a reception was held for our champion athletes)
Tonight we honored and presented Certificates of Achievement to:

Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame Inductee: Mr. Anthony Cerullo

Mr. Lou Tuorto read a Proclamation to Mr. Cerullo from the Town of Huntington and also presented Mr. Cerullo with a Certificate of Achievement from the Elwood School District. Mr. Cerullo was our former Director of Athletics, and after his retirement his former players started the John Glenn Football Alumni Association in his honor.

Mr. Cerullo thanked the Board for the Proclamation and Certificate and said he would accept the Sports Hall of Fame Award in the name of the Elwood School District.

County Wrestling Champions: Michael Carlucci, Michael Castellano

The boys were coached by Mike Marino and were Suffolk County Champs and went on to State.

NYS Track Champions, Boys 4x400 Relay: Emile Barnett, Clifford Faulkner, William Miltenberg, Carlton Wildman

Winter Track was coached by Lou Hanner and the boys won the silver in the 4x400 Millrose Games, and NY State Champs.

This Spring Track season, Carlton Wildman broke the school record for 100 meters.

Girls' Varsity Basketball Team (Long Island Class A Champions, NYS Semi-Finalists):

Tomi, Adeleke, Ashley Albin, Jacquelyn Ammirato, Victoria Canger, Caila

Desroches, Maria Feehan, Anne Feldman, Emily Feldman, Katherine Feldman,

Shannon Gazes, Geena Giamita, Jaclyn McKenna, Melissa Rossi, Stephanie Geng.

The girls were coached by Andy Athanas. He presented Caila Desroches with a basketball marked with the number 1,062, which is the number of points she scored for Elwood. Caila is the 3rd girl to reach that number.

Mr. Kaszubski pointed out that our students are fine athletes and also good students. Emily Feldman was named Scholar Athlete by News 12 and Mike Carlucci is in the top 10 of his class.

A standing ovation was given to all.

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:44-9:00 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- No Recommended Items

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(TAB O)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended February 28, 2006.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended March 31, 2006.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Budget Status Report for the period ended March 31, 2006.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS -- No Recommended Items

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board **TABLE** Personnel item P-1, Abolition of position. **(TAB P)**
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve Personnel items P-2-P-8.

<u>Resignations:</u>	Carolyn Greco	Teaching Assistant
	Maria Santomauro	Elementary Teacher
	Doreen Bellino	Food Service Worker
<u>Appointments:</u>	Jan Fairchild	Clerk Typist

Other:

- Emergency appointments and reappointments
 - Approve extra .2 FTE for a teacher at the High School for the spring semester
 - Interscholastic Coaching changes for the spring season for Middle School Girls' Track and Middle School Boys' Tennis
 - Addendum to Schedule of Approved Substitute Teachers/Nurses for 2005/2006
- The motion carried 4 ayes and 0 nays and 1 abstention (Mr. Kaszubski).

- b. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the Committee on Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services for meetings held on February 7, 8, 16, March 7, 8, 9 (2 meetings), 10, 13 (2 meetings), 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28 (2 meetings), 29, 30, 31 (2 meetings) and April 4, 2006.

- c. **and** that the Board approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services for meetings held on February 28, March 1, 2, 3, 6, and 23, 2006.

- d. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the health service contracts for students attending private/parochial schools: **(TAB Q)**

<i>South Huntington</i>	<i>37 students</i>	<i>\$ 21,618.73</i>
<i>Westbury</i>	<i>1 student</i>	<i>539.07</i>

The motion carried unanimously.

(Prior to the budget vote a lengthy discussion ensued)

Mr. Ciccone stated for the record re transportation that only voters can change to either eliminate or increase transportation.

- e. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board adopt the following proposed Resolution to submit the 2006-2007 budget to the district voters:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elwood Board of Education submit the proposed 2006/2007 budget to the district voters on May 16, 2006 in the amount of \$43,590,191 and **(TAB R)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education submit the proposed tax report card as required by Sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3) of the Education Law.

The motion failed 2 ayes (Mrs. Annunziata and Mrs. Badlato) and 3 nays.

- e.(2) Mrs. Badlato moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board adopt the following proposed Resolution to submit the 2006-2007 budget to the district voters:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elwood Board of Education submit the proposed 2006/2007 budget to the district voters on May 16, 2006 in the amount of \$43,552,788 and **(TAB R)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education submit the proposed tax report card as required by Sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3) of the Education Law.

The motion failed 2 ayes Mrs. Annunziata and Mrs. Badlato and 3 nays.

- e.(3) Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board adopt the following proposed Resolution to submit the 2006-2007 budget to the district voters:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elwood Board of Education submit the proposed 2006/2007 budget to the district voters on May 16, 2006 in the amount of \$43,490,191 and **(TAB R)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education submit the proposed tax report card as required by Sections 1608, 1716(7) and 2601-a(3) of the Education Law.

The motion carried 4 ayes and 1 nay (Mrs. Badlato).

(Mrs. Badlato stated for the record that she is opposed to this budget for the potential impact on the Fund Balance).

- f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board accept the donation of \$219.90 from Gerard K. Hannon to fund a two year subscription to the *Financial Times* for Elwood-John Glenn High School. **(TAB S)**
The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the following policies (*first reading*): **(TAB T)**

<i>JEFA</i>	<i>Open Campus</i>
<i>JEFA-R</i>	<i>Senior Privilege.</i>

 The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve the addition of Fontini Argyros and Joanne Sherman-Hessel as parent members of the Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education.
The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the 2006-2007 Administrative Budget and two (2) trustees for the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Second Supervisory District of Suffolk (Western Suffolk BOCES). **(TAB U)**
The motion carried unanimously.

- j. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board accept the donation of \$6,180 worth of \$20 gift certificates to the Oriental Trading Company from HeartLinks as follows:
- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| <i>High School</i> | <i>100 x 20</i> | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 2,000.</i> |
| <i>Middle School</i> | <i>80 x 20</i> | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 1,600.</i> |
| <i>Boyd</i> | <i>64 x 20</i> | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 1,280.</i> |
| <i>Harley</i> | <i>65 x 20</i> | <i>=</i> | <i>\$ 1,300.</i> |

The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Leah Holbrook a representative from Heartlinks was present.

(Mr. Ciccone thanked Heartlinks, the Health & Nutrition Committee, and our Food Service Director, Mrs. Delia Neitzel for doing an amazing job of phasing in the changes.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

Mr. Fusaro thanked Dr. Swart for his efforts in getting additional state aid. He also encouraged all to attend the Spring Community Gathering and the Boys & Girls Lacrosse doubleheader on May 10.

The Board discussed re-issuing the letter sent to the Town of Huntington re the Orchard Park, Mediavilla Project. They will send that letter along with a new cover letter addressed to the new Planning Director for the Town. Dr. Swart will send the Board a copy of the letter and cover letter tomorrow.

K. COMMUNICATIONS

(TAB V)

1. Correspondence from Ms. Susan Katz 4/6/06
2. Correspondence from Ms. Caryl T. Abrams 3/16/06
3. Correspondence from Mr. Randy Koster and Ms. Marla Grosman of Elwood Public Library 3/2/06 and Dr. Swart's response 4/7/06.

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 11:10 – 11:13 p.m.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Recommended Items

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting at 11:14 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk