

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING  
AND  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 8, 2025

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:10 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the employment history of particular persons at 6:10 p.m.

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

Present at Executive Session were: Deborah Weiss, Walter Edwards, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui, Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Sonia Hood, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman.

2. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

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

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:37 p.m.**

1. Mr. Edwards moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Auditorium at 7:37 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. Sonia Hood          | 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. April 10, 2025 and April 22, 2025 Regular Business Meetings and April 24, 2025 Special Business Meeting

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meetings of April 10, 2025 and April 22, 2025 and the Special Business Meeting of April 24, 2025, as presented.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**F. STUDENT LIAISON REPORT – Caroline Weiss, Student Liaison to the Board**

**G. BUDGET HEARING**

1. Open the Budget Hearing

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to open the Budget Hearing at 7:43 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

2. Residents Remarks Regarding the Budget for 2025-2026

3. Close the Budget Hearing

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to close the Budget Hearing at 7:50 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote 5-yes, 0-no.

4. Reopen the Budget Hearing

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to open the Budget Hearing at 7:52 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote 5-yes, 0-no.

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

6. Close the Budget Hearing

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to close the Budget Hearing at 8:34 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote 5-yes, 0-no.

**H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele**

**I. 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

**J. 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 following donation, with gratitude:
  - 1) Two items, with a total value of \$597.65, from the Home Depot which will assist the building of the Wall of Heroes area at John Glenn High School.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to approve Item J.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

## **K. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items L.1-L.16, M.1-M.9, N.1-N.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

## **L. 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     |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Corey McNamara    | Secondary Principal  | September 12, 2025 |
| Julie Bilello     | Assistant Principal  | June 27, 2025      |
| Lauren Baker      | Elementary Education | September 1, 2025  |
| Catherine Carbone | Speech               | October 28, 2025   |
| Matthew Carrino   | Business             | September 1, 2025  |
| William Cordts    | Special Education    | September 1, 2025  |
| Amanda Culbertson | Elementary Education | September 1, 2025  |
| Meagan Dolan      | Elementary Education | September 1, 2025  |
| Lauren Levine     | Elementary Education | September 1, 2025  |
| Joanna Maricondo  | Speech               | September 1, 2025  |
| Jesse Marroquin   | Social Worker        | September 1, 2025  |
| Domenica Piccoli  | Special Education    | September 1, 2025  |
| Amelia Profaci    | Music                | September 1, 2025  |
| Jon Rowland       | Special Education    | September 1, 2025  |
| Susan Triolo      | TA                   | September 1, 2025  |
| Delia Donohue     | TA                   | November 15, 2025  |

2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Dr. Amy Meyer, who possesses a School District Leader Professional Certificate, as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction of the Elwood Union Free School District, in the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction tenure area, to a three-year probationary term effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028, with annual compensation of \$178,000 for the 2025-2026 school year, and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President is hereby authorized to execute an agreement setting forth the terms and conditions of her employment as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction effective July 1, 2025, a copy of which agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.  
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 three year probationary term and may not receive an ineffective rating in the final year of probation.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Julie Bilello, from her position as Assistant Principal, effective June 30, 2025, contingent of her subsequent appointment as Elementary Principal.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Julie Bilello, who possesses School Building Leader and School District Leader Certificates, to a three-year probationary term as Principal of Harley Avenue Primary School, commencing on July 1, 2025 and terminating on June 30, 2028, in the tenure

area of Elementary Principal, at a salary of \$156,958 (Step 2), for the 2025-2026 school 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 three year probationary term and may not receive an ineffective rating in the final year of probation.

5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Carolina Addeo, as a Payroll Supervisor (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twenty-six week probationary term, effective May 9, 2025, at a salary of \$68,000 (pro-rated).
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of David Shanahan for the purpose of retirement, from his position as Physical Education Teacher and Athletic Director, effective June 30, 2025.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Virginia Rouse for the purpose of retirement, from her position as a Principal Office Assistant, effective June 27, 2025.
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Kirk Kreitmayr, from his position as a Custodial Worker II, effective May 2, 2025.
9. 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 20, 2025; 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 - \$16.50/hour  
Patricia Grasso  
Election Inspectors: Rate of pay - \$16.50/hour  
Veronica Bohrer, Hilda Schulkind, Sam Batanchiev, Audrey Boodie, David Rigo, Michelle Lavitt, Ira Anekstein, Nancy Dunn, Rita Anilionis, Reba Voyages, Loretta Wilson  
Election Inspectors: Rate of pay-Employee Hourly Rate  
Nancy Mancini, Judith Tessitore, Medeline Palencia-Cordero, Maryanne Martello
10. BE IT RESOLVED, 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 May 9, 2025 through September 2, 2025, with compensation of \$16.50/hour:  
Justin Vega  
James Froh  
Mikayla Piersa
11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves 2025 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 - 42 hours  
Susan Triolo - 42 hours

Aeriell Clem - 42 hours  
 Frank Benavides - 42 hours

12. 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           |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cheri Murcott    | Harley Sweets & Treats | 5             | \$80             | April-May, 2025  |
| Devon Dickens    | Boyd Sweets & Treats   | 6             | \$80             | April-June, 2025 |
| Marley Herbert   | Boyd Coding Club       | 6             | \$80             | April-June, 2025 |
| Joanna Maricondo | Boyd Dance Club        | 6             | \$80             | May-June, 2025   |
| Adam Goudreau    | Boyd Video Gaming Club | 6             | \$80             | May-June, 2025   |

13. 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, 2025, with compensation at the hourly rate of \$66.00 per hour:

| Name                  | Subject Area                                   | # of Sessions (1 session=1.5 hours) |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Meagan Malone         | Global History                                 | 3                                   |
| Richard Rose          | US History                                     | 3                                   |
| Brittany Chalmers     | Algebra II                                     | 2                                   |
| Matthew Carrino       | Algebra II                                     | 1                                   |
| Gianna Tufano         | Algebra I                                      | 3                                   |
| Samantha Abruscatti   | Geometry                                       | 2                                   |
| Kim Barnes            | Geometry                                       | 2                                   |
| Solomon Buchman       | Physics  | 3                                   |
| Jennifer Champouillan | Chemistry                                      | 2                                   |
| Patricia Iadarola     | Chemistry                                      | 1                                   |
| Jonathan Mead         | Earth Science                                  | 3                                   |
| Garrett Chesnoff      | ELA  | 3                                   |
| Diane Warren          | Flacs B-Spanish                                | 3                                   |
| Elizabeth Musi        | Flacs B-Italian                                | 3                                   |
| Shannon Rooney        | Living Environment                             | 3                                   |
| Laura Raimondi        | ENL Support                                    | 6                                   |
| Kevin Teixeira        | ENL Support                                    | 6                                   |
| Marisa Jensen         | Special Education<br>Support Global<br>History | 3                                   |

|                 |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Jamie Hermann   | Special Education<br>US/ELA                        | 6 |
| Samantha Heuer  | Special Education<br>Support Algebra               | 3 |
| Shannon Chetuck | Special Education<br>Support Living<br>Environment | 3 |
| Sima Lis        | Special Education<br>Support/Earth<br>Science      | 3 |

14. 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 2024-2025 school year, with compensation at the hourly rate of \$66.00 per hour:

| Name               | Subject Area  | School | Hours              |
|--------------------|---------------|--------|--------------------|
| Alessia Franco     | Italian       | EMS    | 4 hours            |
| Christina Kerensky | Algebra I     | EMS    | 2 hours 15 minutes |
| Jessica Guercio    | Algebra I     | EMS    | 2 hours 15 minutes |
| Jon Mead           | Earth Science | EMS    | 4 hours 30 minutes |
| Valentina Parisi   | Spanish       | EMS    | 1 hour             |
| Kristen Devine     | Spanish       | EMS    | 1 hour             |

15. 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 27, 2025, at their Board approved daily rates of pay:

|                    |                  |                  |                 |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Francesca Ciriello | Daniel Corazzata | Donna Dorsam     | Matthew Cerrato |
| Anne Marie Crisci  | Kathleen Maguire | Peter Flanagan   | Ann Gill        |
| Susanne Woods      | Brett Kelly      | Lori Mariniello  | Lisa Fusaro     |
|                    | Tara Ryder       | Danielle Pineyro | James Walker    |
|                    |                  | Sarah Daly       |                 |

16. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitutes, for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

#### **M. 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 2024-2025 end-of-year book closings.
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 Elwood Care and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing pre-

kindergarten program services to the District, effective September 1, 2025 through and including June 30, 2026, 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 Board of Education President is hereby authorized to sign and execute an Agreement with The Learning Experience and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing pre-kindergarten program services to the District, effective September 1, 2025 through and including June 30, 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, 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 South Huntington 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 South Huntington Union Free School District, in the amount of \$921.89 per eligible child for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 inclusive, 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 and the Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Elwood Union Free School District and the Hauppauge 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 Hauppauge Union Free School District, in the amount of \$1,348.00 per eligible child for the 2024-2025 school year, and said agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
6. 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, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, 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.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:  
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District solicited proposals for Board Counsel and Labor Counsel services pursuant to a request for proposals ("RFP");  
WHEREAS, on or about February 6, 2025, the School District received four sealed proposals in response to the RFP;  
WHEREAS, said proposals were reviewed and evaluated by the School District in accordance with the RFP;  
WHEREAS, upon said review, the Administration recommends that Ingerman Smith, LLP be awarded a contract for the provision of Board Counsel and Labor Counsel services as the proposal was best meeting the criteria in the RFP;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards the contract for the 2025-2026 Board Counsel and Labor Counsel services to Ingerman Smith, LLP.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:  
WHEREAS, the Elwood Union Free School District solicited proposals for School Physician services pursuant to a request for proposals ("RFP");  
WHEREAS, on or about February 6, 2025, the School District received two sealed proposals in response to the RFP;  
WHEREAS, said proposals were reviewed and evaluated by the School District in accordance with the RFP;  
WHEREAS, upon said review, the Administration recommends that Dr. Scott Gross from Northwell, Inc. Huntington Hospital be awarded a contract for the provision of School Physician services as the proposal was best meeting the criteria in the RFP;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards the contract for the 2025-2026 School Physician services to Dr. Scott Gross from Northwell, Inc. Huntington Hospital.
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby declares the following items as surplus and obsolete as they are beyond repair or outdated and allow for their appropriate removal:



- 1) EMS Uneven bars
- 2) JGHS Dance Revolution Machine

**N. 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 2025-2026 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 2/13/25, 2/27/25, 3/4/25, 3/5/25, 3/6/25, 3/10/25, 3/13/25, 3/17/25, 3/18/25, 3/19/25, 3/24/25, 3/26/25, 3/27/25, 4/2/25, 4/8/25, 4/10/25, 4/22/25, 4/23/25, 4/24/25, 4/28/25 and 4/29/25 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 4/9/24, 1/22/25, 3/21/25, 3/26/25, 4/2/25, 4/4/25, 4/9/25, 4/11/25 and 4/23/25 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.

**O. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA**

**P. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT**

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**Q. ADJOURNMENT – 9:00 p.m.**

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk