

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
June 2, 2025

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:06 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding the future employment of particular employees at 6:06 p.m.

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

Present at Executive Session were: James Tomeo, Deborah Weiss, Walter Edwards, Thomas Scarola, Dr. Sara Siddiqui (arrived at 6:26 p.m.), Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Sonia Hood, Lorraine Dunkel and Eileen Kelly Gorman.

2. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:43 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 7:43 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. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Gayle Steele**

**F. 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

**G. PRESENTATION**

1. Budget Re-Vote on June 17, 2025 – Lorraine Dunkel, Assistant Superintendent of Business

**H. RESIDENTS REMARKS – 8:10 p.m.**

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to extend the Residents Remarks, which began at 8:10 p.m., to an additional thirty minutes, at 8:40 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**I. ACTION ITEMS-BUSINESS**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby adopts the expenditure appropriation of \$78,566,259 to operate the schools for the 2025- 2026 fiscal year, which requires a tax levy increase of 2.64% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 1.29% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following proposition shall be presented to the voters at the Budget Re-Vote to be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025:  
Shall the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York be authorized to expend the sum of \$78,566,259 in accordance with the budget submitted for the school year 2025-2026 and to levy the necessary tax therefor. Adoption of the budget requires a tax levy increase of 2.64% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 1.29% for this school fiscal year and therefore exceeds the state tax cap and must be approved by sixty percent of the qualified voters present and voting; and  
BE IT FURTHER, that the Board of Education hereby approves the 2025-2026 Property Tax Report Card related to the Budget Re-Vote as adopted by the Board at this meeting, and; 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.

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

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

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

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**K. RECONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:39 p.m.**

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions regarding a personnel matter at 9:30 p.m.

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

**L. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 10:20 p.m.**

Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 10:20 p.m.

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

**M. ADJOURNMENT – 10:21 p.m.**

Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx  
District Clerk