

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
June 27, 2025

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**A. CALL TO ORDER – 4:20 p.m.**

**B. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential discussions related to a particular employee at 8:12 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

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

2. Mrs. Weiss moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 4:40 p.m.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 4:41 p.m.**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood-John H. Glenn High School at 4:41 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
Eileen Kelly Gorman	Assistant Superintendent/Special Education

Absent: Dr. Sonia Hood	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk

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

**E. 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

**F. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

1. Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items G.1-G.9) , as presented to the Board at this meeting.  
Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

**G. ACTION ITEMS - PERSONNEL**

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a Settlement Agreement and General Release, dated June 27, 2025, with a certain professional staff member employed by the Elwood Union Free School District whose identity is known to the Board of Education.
2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a motion to approve the following resolution:  
WHEREAS, the Board of Education for reasons of economy and efficiency, has determined that it is appropriate to abolish a pedagogical position in the District; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby abolishes the following position, effective close of business on June 30, 2025;  
1.0 FTE Social Studies position  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Clerk is hereby directed to provide written notice to the least senior employee in the tenure area, who is being laid off due to the abolition of the above-referenced position, effective close of business on June 30, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3013 of the Education Law; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employee who is entitled to Part 30 bumping rights shall be notified, in writing, of their right to a position in a previous tenure area of service and of their placement on a preferred eligibility list in the tenure area of their employment regarding their statutory recall rights; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said employee who is not entitled to Part 30 bumping rights shall be notified, in writing, of their placement of a preferred eligibility list in the tenure area of their employment regarding their statutory recall rights.
3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Patricia Sihksnel, from her position as Assistant Principal, effective June 30, 2025; and,  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an additional ten (10) days of service to the District for transitional purposes, during the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation at her 2024-2025 hourly/daily rate of pay.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Angela Shanerman, from her position as a Senior Office Assistant/Secretary to the Director of Human Resources effective June 30, 2025, contingent on her subsequent appointment as Principal Office Assistant/Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Angela Shanerman as Principal Office Assistant/Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twenty-six week probationary term, effective July 1, 2025, at a salary of \$62,938 (Step 8, as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement).

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Dawn Valle, Director of Math, Science and Technology and Federal Grants K-12, effective the close of business on June 30, 2025; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby abolishes the position of Director of Math, Science and Technology and Federal Grants K-12, effective July 1, 2025.
7. 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 an Employment Agreement with Irene McLaughlin and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing a part-time Interim Director of Human Resources services to the District, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, 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, the Board of Education President and Superintendent of Schools are hereby authorized to sign and execute an Employment Agreement with Irene McLaughlin and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions as the Interim High School Principal for the District, effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
9. 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, 2025 through September 2, 2025, with compensation of \$16.50/hour:  
Jonah Magnus  
Shay Daly  
Liam Ondrovic

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

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**I. ADJOURNMENT – 4:45 p.m.**

Mr. Edwards moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Motion carried. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Dunkel  
Alternate District Clerk