

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:04 p.m.

Present: James Tomeo
Deborah Weiss
Thomas Scarola
Dr. Sara Siddiqui

President
Vice President
Member
Member

Absent: Walter Edwards

Member

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

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

C. 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

D. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items E.1-E.10, F.1-F.4, G.1, H.1-H.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

E. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Jill Campbell as a Contingent Permanent Senior Office Assistant (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twenty-six week probationary term, effective August 4, 2025, at a salary of \$52,175 (Step 3, pro-rated, as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement).
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the appointment of Kristine Warren from a Senior Office Assistant (11 month) to a Senior Office Assistant (10 month), in the competitive class of the

civil service, effective July 14, 2025, at a salary of \$43,063 (Step 3, pro-rated as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement).

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby amends the appointment of Susan Coppola from a Senior Office Assistant (11 month) to a Senior Office Assistant (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, effective August 4, 2025, at a salary of \$65,640 (Step 13, pro-rated as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement).
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints James Knapp, possessing a Music Certificate, to a four-year probationary term as a Music Teacher, in the Music tenure area, effective September 2, 2025 through September 1, 2029 at a salary of \$56,300 (BA Step 1). In order to be eligible for appointment to tenure, said teacher must have at least three years of effective or highly effective APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law Section 3012-d during the four year period prior to the proposed effective date of tenure and may not receive a rating of ineffective during the final year of probation.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as AIS Tutors at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School, to serve at the pleasure of the Board for the 2025-2026 school year, at a rate of \$41.67 per class period, effective September 2, 2025:
Linda Doyle - AIS Science
Danielle Scarola - AIS English
Meagan Malone - AIS Social Studies

6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following overages for the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 2, 2025:

Name	School	Class	Additional
Matthew Carrino	JGHS	Algebra 2 Ext	0.2FTE
Matthew McGuire	JGHS	Construction Tech	0.1FTE

7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following as Permanent Substitutes, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, at a rate of \$150.00 per day worked, effective September 2, 2025 through June 5, 2026:

Name	Initial School Assignment
Ann Gill	John H. Glenn High School
James Walker	John H. Glenn High School
Lisa Fusaro	John H. Glenn High School
Cole Grecki	John H. Glenn High School
Alexandra Schelin	Harley Avenue Primary School

8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following mentor for the 2025-2026 school year:

Mentor	Period	Compensation
Lori Fornaro	2 Semesters	\$1,000

9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves up to an additional five (5) days of service to the District for Patricia Sihksnel for transitional purposes, during the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation at her 2024-2025 hourly/daily rate of pay.
10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Brittany Wheeler, from her position as the Chorus and Music Theory Teacher, effective August 22, 2025.

F. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following transfers of funds:
 - 1) The transfer of funds, not to exceed \$550,000 from the EBALR Reserve to the General Fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with 2024-2025 retirements, and;
 - 2) The transfer of funds, not to exceed \$500,000 from the Retirement Contribution Reserve (TRS) to the General Fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with 2024-2025 Teachers' Retirement System expenditures, and;
 - 3) The transfer of funds, not to exceed \$800,000 from the Retirement Contribution Reserve (ERS) to the General Fund for the purpose of funding costs associated with 2024-2025 Employees' Retirement System expenditures.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the funding of the following reserves:
 - 1) Retirement Contribution Reserve (ERS) in the amount not to exceed \$500,000. Said amount will be funded from the General Fund's unassigned fund balance into the previously established Retirement Reserve Fund, and;
 - 2) Capital Reserve (Capital) in the amount not to exceed \$100,000. Said amount will be funded from the General Fund's unassigned fund balance into the previously established Capital Reserve Fund.
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 Consultant Service Contracts with Clara Nam and Maxwell Gazes and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing JGHS Marching Band services to the District, effective July 22, 2025, and said Contracts 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 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:
Obsolete Technology Equipment attached

G. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the overnight field trip for the Elwood-John H. Glenn High School Kickline to Orlando, Florida for the period February 13-16, 2026.

H. 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 policy, as presented to the Board at this meeting:
5695 - Students and Electronic Devices
2. WHEREAS, it is the customary practice of the Board of Education to have two readings of a policy prior to its adoption; and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to adopt the policy, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and mandated by the State of New York, to wit, 2245 Ex Officio Student Member of the Board, on an expedited basis so that such policy will be effective immediately;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby waives the Board's customary practice of two readings prior to the adoption of policies, and adopts the following policy, incorporated by reference in the minutes of this meeting:
2245 Ex Officio Student Member of the Board
3. Draft Policy Reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools and the Policy Committee and Submitted for a First Reading:
Policy 8113 Extreme Heat Conditions

I. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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J. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:07 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion for the purpose of confidential discussion regarding the potential employment of a particular person at 7:07 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

K. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION– 7:27 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 7:27 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

L. ACTION ITEM – WALK IN

1. 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 Wayne Ebanks and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for employment as an Interim John Glenn High School Assistant Principal, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective August 4, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded the motion for Item L.1, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

M. RECONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION– 7:34 p.m.

Mrs. Weiss moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of collective negotiations at 7:34 p.m.

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

N. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION– 8:13 p.m.

Dr. Siddiqui Mrs. Weiss moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 8:13 p.m.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT – 8:14 p.m.

Mr. Scarola moved and Mrs. Weiss seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk