

ELWOOD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2025

A. CALL TO ORDER – 6:03 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 regarding the employment history of particular certificated persons at 6:03 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

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

2. Mr. Scarola moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to end Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

C. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION – 7:33 p.m.

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Edwards seconded a motion to reconvene in to Open Session in the Elwood Middle School Library at 7:33 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

Present:	James Tomeo	President
	Walter Edwards (excused at 8:03 p.m.)	Member
	Thomas Scarola	Member
	Dr. Sara Siddiqui	Member

Absent:	Deborah Weiss	Vice President
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Staff:	Dr. Gayle Steele	Superintendent of Schools
	Lorraine Dunkel	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Dr. Amy Meyer	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	Eileen Kelly Gorman	Assistant Superintendent/Special Education
	Mary Lou Marx	District Clerk

Absent:	None
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D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Board President

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

1. August 27, 2025 Special Meeting, August 28, 2025 Regular Business Meeting
Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings of August 27, 2025, and August 28, 2025, as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 4-yes, 0-no.

F. COMMENDATIONS

This section of the agenda gives the Board of Education an opportunity to publicly recognize and commend individuals for outstanding accomplishments or contributions made to Elwood Schools. Tonight we honored the following:

- 1) Elwood Middle School to be honored as a School of Distinction 2025
- 2) Middle School Highlights - Dr. Christina Moran, Principal and Mrs. Erica Cuomo, Assistant Principal

G. EX OFFICIO STUDENT BOARD MEMBER REPORT – Peter Bell

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. DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

K. CONSENT AGENDA VOTE

1. Dr. Siddiqui moved and Mr. Scarola seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items L.1, M.1-M.20, N.1-N.3, O.1-O.2), as presented to the Board at this meeting.
Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

L. FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt for audit of the following reports:
 - a) Treasurer's Report for June, 2025
 - b) Revenue Status Report through June, 2025
 - c) Cash Flow Report for June, 2025
 - d) Budget Status Report through June, 2025
 - e) Trial Balance Report through June, 2025
 - f) Executive Summary for June, 2025
 - g) Budget Transfer Report through June, 2025
 - h) School Lunch Fund Report through June, 2025
 - i) ExtraClassroom Activity Fund Reports for JGHS & EMS through June, 2025

M. ACTION ITEMS PERSONNEL

1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Kristine Josiah, from her position as a Paraprofessional, effective September 3, 2025.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of Christian Haack, from his position as a Custodial Worker, effective September 19, 2025.

3. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Catalina Rincon as a part-time Paraprofessional (2.5 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary term commencing September 3, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$17.89 per hour (Step 1), for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Paola Mandelbaum as a part-time Paraprofessional (2.5 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary term commencing September 3, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$17.89 per hour (Step 1), for the 2025-2026 school year.
5. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Chimene Frascino as a part-time Paraprofessional (5.75 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary term commencing September 19, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$17.89 per hour (Step 1), for the 2025-2026 school year.
6. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Maureen Meehan as a part-time Paraprofessional (5.75 hours/day), in the non-competitive class of the civil service, to serve a sixty (60) month probationary term commencing September 3, 2025 at an hourly rate of \$17.89 per hour (Step 1), for the 2025-2026 school year.
7. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Courtney Meis as a Contingent Permanent Office Assistant (12 month), in the competitive class of the civil service, to serve a twenty-six week probationary term, effective October 3, 2025, at a salary of \$41,549 (Step 1, pro-rated, as per the terms of the collective bargaining agreement).
8. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves an aggregate total of fifty (50) 2025 summer hours for the following teachers, for the purpose of administering screening protocols for new ENL entrants and summer outreach for ENL families, with a compensation of \$50 per hour:
Monika Chopay
Elle Chan
Laura Raimondi
Danielle Sullivan
Alex Itzler
Kimberly Pelkonen
Kevin Teixeira
9. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves additional 2025 summer hours for each of the following teachers, for the purpose of assisting students in the college application and essay writing process, with compensation of \$66 per hour:
Jessica Kennedy-up to an additional 3 hours
Cassandra Teevan-up to an additional 1 hour

10. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves after-school hours for the following teachers, to participate in curriculum writing projects during the 2025-2026 school year, effective September 19, 2025 through June 30, 2026, with compensation of \$66 per hour:

<u>School</u>	<u>Teacher Participants</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Maximum Hours per Teacher</u>
JGHS Boyd	Paul Lasurdo Samantha McDermott	Band Skills Continuum	2.5 Hours
JGHS JGHS Harley Harley	Susan Campo Ilene Fucci Shanna LaBarbera Amy Schombs	Child Development Class	2.5 hours
Boyd	Rachel Nagle	Choral Skill Continuum	5 Hours
JGHS EMS JGHS	Louis Hanner Marianne Klein Vincent Wilson	Digital Wellness Curriculum for Health and PE	3 Hours
Harley Harley Harley Harley Harley Boyd Boyd Boyd Boyd	Deanna Cammarata Danielle Palma Leslie Seilback Bari Shapiro Alice Wolcott Amy Chiarello Devon Dickens Elizabeth Held Loren Levine	Elementary School Parent Guides	2 Hours
JGHS	Ilene Fucci	Huntington Hospital Internships	5 Hours
EMS EMS EMS	Elle Chan Jenine Harris Danielle Whitcomb	Middle School Parent Guides	10 Hours
Boyd Boyd	Emily Dana Diana Gotzen-Berg	Orchestra Skills Continuum	2.5 Hours
Boyd Boyd Boyd Harley Harley	Devon Dickens Elizabeth Held Loren Levine Leslie Seilback Alice Wolcott	STEM Makerspace	4 Hours

11. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the adjustment of hours for the following paraprofessionals, for the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation at their 2025-2026 hourly rate, as listed, effective September 3, 2025:

Name	Previous Hours/Day	New Hours/Day
Gina Antoniak	5.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Rose Capalbo	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours

Norma Corrao	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Melissa Ford	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Karen Kember	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Maria Gransasso	6.5 Hours	7.0 Hours
Rose Viteretti	4.0 Hours	5.75 Hours
Ann Selleck	6.5 Hours	7.0 Hours

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

Mentor	Period	Compensation
Jon Mead	2 Semesters	\$1,000
Paul Lasurdo	2 Semesters	\$1,000
Jenine Harris	2 Semesters	\$1,000
Nicole Litterello	2 Semesters	\$1,000
Emily Dana	2 Semesters	\$1,000
Allen Epstein	2 Semesters	\$1,000

13. BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Angela Bella, who possesses a English Language Arts Certificate, to a leave replacement substitute position for the duration of the leave of Employee #3192, as a English Teacher, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, effective on or about October 1, 2025 at a per diem rate of \$150.00 per day worked.
14. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby rescinds the August 28, 2025 approved adjustment of hours for Jennifer Chillemi-Junge, paraprofessional.
15. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the extension of hours for Karen Rinaldi, from a classroom paraprofessional at 5.75 hours per day, to a 1:1 paraprofessional (School Monitor) with an increase to 6.5 hours per day, with compensation at her 2025-2026 hourly rate, effective September 19, 2025.
16. 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:

Name	Position	Effective Date
Danielle Goerler	AIS Social Studies	September 2, 2025 – June 30, 2026
Alexandria Szewczuk	AIS Mathematics	September 22, 2025 – June 30, 2026

17. WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Education Law Section 3012-d and Part 30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the individuals named below have completed all the necessary training to be recertified as lead evaluators of building principals;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby recertifies the following individuals as lead evaluators of building principals for the 2025-2026 school year:
Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Amy Meyer, Eileen Kelly-Gorman

18. WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirement of Education Law Section 3012-d and Part 30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, the individuals named below have completed all the necessary training to be recertified as lead evaluators of classroom teachers;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby recertifies the following individuals as lead evaluators of classroom teachers for the 2025-2026 school year: Dr. Gayle Steele, Dr. Amy Meyer, Eileen Kelly-Gorman, Irene McLaughlin, Wayne Ebanks, Lindsay Fritch, Christina Moran, Erica Cuomo, Julie Bilello, Elissa Millan, Pamela Fine, David Shanahan, Christopher Onorato
19. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints James Mauro to the position of Weight Room Supervisor for the 2025-2026 school year, with compensation of \$25 per hour.
20. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the additional Substitutes, for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented to the Board at this meeting.

N. ACTION ITEMS - BUSINESS

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 a Consent and Assignment in addition to an Agreement with Kindercare and the District, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing pre-kindergarten program services to the District, effective September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Agreements will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Affiliation Agreement with the State University of New York at Binghamton, setting forth the terms and conditions for providing fieldwork experience for students preparing to become NYS Certified Teachers, effective September 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, and said Agreement will be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.
3. WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Elwood Union Free School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement at the District's facilities: Roof replacement at James H. Boyd Intermediate School (hereinafter the "Project"); and
WHEREAS, said capital improvement is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and
WHEREAS, maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(1)); and
WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c)(2)); and
WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(10));

WHEREAS, the SEQR Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQR; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement project and has determined that the Project is classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(1), (2), and (10) of the SEQR Regulations; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares that the Project is a Type II Action, which requires no further review under SEQR; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed project from the New York State Education Department.

O. ACTION ITEMS – OTHER

1. BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby appoints Deborah Weiss as the Voting Delegate for the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting to be held virtually on October 16, 2025.
2. BE IT RESOLVED, that 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 4/24/25, 7/24/25 and 8/12/25 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for meetings held on 7/7/25 and 9/4/25 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.

P. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA - None

Q. RESIDENTS' REMARKS REGARDING MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE DISTRICT

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R. ADJOURNMENT – 8:16 p.m.

Mr. Scarola moved and Dr. Siddiqui seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.
Motion carried. Vote: 3-yes, 0-no.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Marx
District Clerk