

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

MINUTES

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING -- BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 5, 2005
Elwood-John Glenn High School

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:05 p.m.

Present	Michael Kaszubski	President
	Joseph Fusaro	Vice President
	Dina Annunziata	Member
	Julie Badlato	Member
	Dan Ciccone	Member
Staff	Dr. William J. Swart	Superintendent
	Carl Fraser	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Robert Annucci	Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources
	John Hogan	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	David Cenerelli	Director/Special Education
	Carlene Granieri	District Clerk

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Board President

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (TAB L)

Mrs. Badlato moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the amended minutes (page 5 delete Mr. Fusaro recommended....the weekends) of the Regular Business Meeting of April 14, 2005.

The motion carried unanimously.

**D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Dr. William J. Swart
“PRESENTATION OF 2005/2006 BUDGET”**

The budget increase will be 6.99% and the tax rate increase will be 8.49%. Our tax rate increase is very low for our region. The capital project accounts for 1.75% of the tax increase. If not for the capital project, the tax increase would be 6.76%.

Elwood spends close to \$3,000 less per student than the average in Suffolk County. In fact, Elwood's per student expenditure is almost the lowest in all of Suffolk County.

We have a modest increase in staffing (due to our growing enrollment), and no cuts in programs or class size, unlike our counterparts in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The budget includes funding for principal and interest payments on bonds.

Elwood spends its dollars well. Last year 84% graduated with a Regents diploma (12th highest out of 57 Suffolk County High Schools), we have a county leading music program, 95% of the class of 2004 went on to college, our students received a number of scholastic and athletic achievements, 95% of our 5th graders exceeded the NYS standard in Social Studies, 96% of our 4th graders exceeded the standard in Math on the NYS Assessment. Our two elementary schools have been

recognized as Honor Schools by the Suffolk County Reading Council and the Middle School was recognized as a School of Excellence.

Over the last 5 years Elwood has had the lowest unadjusted tax rate increase of the 8 surrounding Huntington school districts.

If the Budget fails, we will have to reduce spending by \$1.2 million. This translates to cuts in staffing (both instructional and support staff), elimination of athletic and co-curricular programs, limited appropriations in textbooks, supplies and equipment and cutbacks in other student offerings. In addition, we would need to cut 4 teachers per school, thereby increasing class size. Over 80% of the budget is spent on personnel, and the only area to find an additional \$1 million is in staffing.

Self-funded programs and activities have been added without expense to the taxpayers.

He thanked the PTA's for funding (\$100,000) and supporting our Cultural Arts programs. We are in the process of expanding the PM Program and organizing Summer Academic Camps and offering a few on-line programs at the High School. All of these programs are self-funded and not part of the budget.

He also thanked the Board for their vigilance, fiscal integrity, and appropriate management of District funds throughout the year. They have implemented safeguards, namely the Financial Oversight Committee, and appointed a new external auditor and a new external claims auditor, independent of BOCES.

He stated that the Board approved and new and revised Board policies regarding cell phones, credit cards, travel expenses, use of district equipment and materials, depository of funds/authorized signatures. There is careful monitoring in these areas, and all expenses are scrutinized and expenditures are well documented.

Taxpayers can be reassured that there is no misappropriation of funds in our District. Their money is spent well.

He reiterated that the Board will establish independent internal auditor services, and they will report their findings directly to the School Board Trustees, not to the Superintendent or to the head of the Division of Business.

Dr. Swart asked the audience members for their support and reminded those present to please vote on Tuesday, May 17.

E. COMMENDATIONS

The four officers of the Habitat for Humanity Club from Elwood-John Glenn High School, Tula Batanchiev, Katie Broderick, Brittney Hellinger and Laura Schebler were honored for their fundraising efforts. The students raised \$45,000 and the club helped to build 2 homes in Mastic Beach. Mr. Mulieri, along with Mr. Ramonetti, attended a ceremony where the club was awarded Suffolk County Chapter of the Year. Mr. Mulieri presented the 4 officers with certificates of achievement for their outstanding contribution. He also thanked the entire club for their participation throughout the year. The audience gave the students a standing ovation.

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 8:37 – 8:41 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- (No Recommended Items)

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(TAB M)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended March 31, 2005.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Extraclassroom Fund Reports (High School and Middle School) for the quarter ended March 31, 2005.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. New York State Report Card – Mr. Hogan Assistant Superintendent for Instruction K-12.

Mr. Hogan stated that the overall message of the Report Card is a good one. It speaks well of the students, teachers, administrators and parents and the level of success achieved over the last few years.

Mr. Hogan gave a summary of:

4th grade testing at Boyd - English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science, 8th grade testing at the Middle School - ELA, Social Studies, Math, and Science and at the High School - English and Math.

ELA at the Middle School is an area of concern. For reasons yet unknown, the levels have dropped. This seems to be a state-wide pattern.

The ultimate goal is to have all students performing at levels 3 and 4 and for all students to graduate with a Regents Diploma (there will be a safety net for Special Education students). All of our schools are in good standing and measure well above NY State standards.

The entire comprehensive Report Card is on our website. Go to the Curriculum page or the State Education site.

The Board asked Mr. Hogan:

Can he draw a conclusion as to why there is a drop in 8th grade ELA scores, yet Science scores at the Middle School have risen and reading comprehension and writing are a critical part of that test. Why does it not translate over to ELA?

Mr. Hogan does not know why or where the drop-off occurred and cannot draw any conclusions at this time. They will be doing grade 3-8 testing. Lower ELA scores are a state-wide frustration. Mr. Scarola, Mr. Brown and the English teachers are not happy with the scores, and they are looking into what they need to provide their students.

With the initial work being done with Curriculum Alignment and state mandated testing, will it take 2 years to see if 4th and 8th grade math results have improved?

It would be a guess, however, even without the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to look at what more we need to provide, possibly a Homework Club. The SPC is looking at assessments and longitudinal studies to see what's going on with our students. It could be a by-product of what is going on in 8th grade.

Mr. Hogan and Technology Director, Mr. Gene Tranchino, are looking at a new computer program called "Data Mentor" which links all the computers, thereby creating the opportunity to look at all classes. It can see how the students performed on each question. With this new tool the teachers can discover what is missing and can implement changes daily. A comparison can then be formed with how our students are doing relative to other students throughout the state and each county. Better results are expected next year.

How do the services in our proposed budget address your concerns on improving scores?

We are trying to use the best resources we have at this time. We would like to get more help in reading, but due to the budget constraints this year, we know that won't happen. He is hoping for more reading assistance for students at EMS and Glenn. He intends to try again next year for more help in ELA.

Has anything been added to the curriculum?

We've added a piece of music at EMS and Math at Boyd.

b. Summer Academic Camps

Information about the camps will be distributed by May 22nd. Registration will take place the first week of June. Information will be distributed in all of our schools and is also posted on the District web-site.

It is no cost to the taxpayers. The camps are self-funding and have been coordinated by resident Gabrielle Binler and teacher Lorelei Stephens. The Board expressed thanks to everyone who worked on the camp program.

c. District Transportation Committee

Mr. Fraser reported that he met with the newly formed transportation committee 4 times this year. They discussed, reviewed, and researched transportation issues and ways to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. They came up with a few issues they felt the Board needed to address and wanted the Board to provide the committee with direction.

On 4/29 they discussed their findings and concluded the need for transportation to be discussed in more detail in a Work Session rather than as a Discussion Item at tonight's meeting.

They specifically wanted direction on Child Safety Zones. If there is research or analysis done to determine what areas are safety hazards to our students, how do they proceed with their proposal?

2. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve personnel items

(TAB N)

<u>Resignations:</u>	<i>Leroy Cole</i>	<i>Social Worker</i>
	<i>Eileen Maiori</i>	<i>English Teacher</i>
	<i>Angela Leggio</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
	<i>Eva Uhriniak</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>
<u>Retirements:</u>	<i>John Kelly</i>	<i>Custodial Worker I</i>

The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve

<u>Tenure:</u>	<i>Louis Tuorto</i>	<i>Annemarie Chalao</i>
	<i>David Anzalone</i>	<i>Vincenzo Berto</i>
	<i>Patrick Burke</i>	<i>Deanna Cammarata</i>
	<i>Lisa Gorman</i>	<i>Martha Hanley</i>
	<i>Laura Irace</i>	<i>Irene Kossowsky</i>
	<i>Paul Lasurdo</i>	<i>Kevin Lavey</i>
	<i>Karen Maggio</i>	<i>Linda Scotto</i>
	<i>Melissa Sheahan</i>	

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve
Appointments: *Julie Cohen* *Teaching Assistant*
 Leroy Cole *Assistant Principal – HS*
 Eileen Maiori *Assistant Principal – HS*

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve
P-8 Other -- Emergency appointments Linda Braverman, Eileen Bailey.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve
emergency reappointments.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board approve
Staff for Summer Skills Program effective June 28 through July 22, 2005.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve
Summer employment for guidance counselors.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr., Fusaro seconded that the Board approve
Increase .5 elementary teacher Jessica Gates to full time probationary.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve the
Memorandum of Agreement with Association of Paraprofessionals.
The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the Committee on Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/ placements and/or discontinuance of services for meetings held on March 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 30, April 6.
- c. **and** that the Board approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services for meetings held on March 14.
The motion carried unanimously.
- d. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the proposed resolution for issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes for the 2005/2006 school year in an amount not to exceed \$9,000,000. **(TAB O)**
The motion carried unanimously.
- e. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the following change order: **(TAB P)**

<i>Palace Electric</i>	<i>No. EL-004</i>	<i>\$13,853.13</i>
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The motion carried unanimously.
- f. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Badlato seconded that the Board approve the disposal of obsolete ovens in the home economics area in the Middle School. **(TAB Q)**
The motion carried unanimously.

- g. Mrs. Badlato moved and Mr. Ciccone seconded that the Board award the bid for the new serving line for Elwood Middle School to Bar Boy in the amount of \$18,449.00. (TAB R)
The motion carried unanimously.

- h. Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board approve the following policies (*second reading*): (TAB S)
 - DG/DGA Depository of Funds/Authorized Signatures for Cash Disbursements and Wire Transfers
 - DLD Expense Reimbursement for Business Meals
 - DLDA In-District Meals and Refreshments
 - DLE Expense Reimbursement
 - DO Cell Phones
 - DQ Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment
 - DR Use of Credit Cards

The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Mr. Fusaro moved and Mrs. Annunziata seconded that the Board approve a contract with Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the appointment of Michael DeMais as Interim Director of Transportation.
The motion carried unanimously.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

The Board expressed their concerns for the need of 2 additional automated external defibrillators (AED) and training of all supervisors in their use by the fall.

At present all coaches have walky-talkies, but the supervisors have none.

Do we have enough AEDs and are we in compliance? The Board would like a follow through.

At a PTA Roundtable, AEDs were discussed not only for athletic events, but also all events in all of our buildings. What is the minimum number of AEDs needed for adequate coverage?

At a Healthy and Safety Committee meeting, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Tuorto were asked do we drill or time in our buildings or on campus and can we test the need for 4-6 AED? Safety is a paramount concern.

The Board also would like to see not only supervisors trained but also staff. Perhaps courses could be offered through the PTA's or other volunteer groups to those interested in AED training.

Girls PE teacher at Glenn, Mrs. Byers, has trained her classes in CPR.
Next year all students in PE classes (both girls & boys) and Health classes will be trained in CPR/AED.

More basic safety items should be adequately stocked, such as ice packs, band-aids, bandages and other supplies.

K. COMMUNICATIONS -- None

L. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 9:40 – 9:50 p.m.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board go into Executive Session at 9:51 p.m. to discuss legal matters and personnel issues.
The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaszubski congratulated all who received tenure and Mr. Annucci announced their names to the audience.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ciccone moved and Mr. Fusaro seconded that the Board end Executive Session and to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 p.m.
The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk