

ELWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Elwood, New York

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 10, 2003
Elwood Middle School

A. CALL TO ORDER – District Clerk 8:07 p.m.

Present	John Santomauro	President
	Michael Kaszubski	Vice President
	Dina Annunziata	Member
	Bill Cameron	Member
	Brian Madden	Member (arrived 8:14)
Staff	Michael A. Maina	Superintendent
	Carl Fraser	Assistant Superintendent/Business
	Robert Annucci	Assistant Superintendent/Personnel
	Kathleen Semergieff	Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
	David Cenerelli	Director/Special Education
	Nancy Raguzin	Treasurer
	Carlene Granieri	District Clerk

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Board President

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (TAB J)

1. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of March 13, 2003.
The motion carried unanimously.

D. REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS – Michael A. Maina
Newsday reported the pension compensation rate was 11%. The Administration received clarification from State Comptroller Hevesi stating that he has devised a new plan, which would make the contribution rate 4.5%. This plan would help to level out our contribution rate if and when the stock market spikes.

The Governor's proposed budget will cut school aid by 1.2 billion dollars across the state. A survey from NY State School Boards indicates that would translate to a 4% school tax increase.

The state annually awards scholarships of \$500 - \$1,500 to graduating seniors; however, the Governor has sadly made no provisions to fund them this year.

The four PTA's and the PTA Council and Civic Associations were thanked for their letter-writing campaign for State Aid restoration. Mr. Maina also thanked the Elwood Teachers Alliance for their financial support in subsidizing the cost of mailings to District residents. All residents are urged to continue to contact Mr. Silver and Mr. Bruno to ask for restoration of school aid.

May 3rd is Lobby Day in Albany. If you are interested in going to Albany, you can contact Mr. Rick Friend at the high school.

The Governor is also cutting The Ladder Program, which covers over 60,000 Pre-K students. Consequently, this will also eliminate jobs for people who service the program.

Mr. Carl Fraser and Mr. Annucci will attend a special Legislators' breakfast in Ronkonkoma this weekend to address the budget cuts.

Thanks were given to Mrs. Janine Seifert and Mr. Pat Scarola for their assistance in celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the town of Huntington with the Middle School students.

The Commissioner's School Report Card results will be on the website.

Mr. Fraser gave a construction update which the Board had requested. Questions were directed to construction manager Tom Slattery (Sullivan & Nickel), Marty DePasquale (Baldassano Architectural firm), and Kevin McAndrews (Cameron Engineering).

A discussion of lighting of the athletic fields, parking island and reusing light poles ensued.

Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve spending \$41,800 for the installation of 5 drinking fountains on the athletic fields (2 at Glenn and 3 at EMS).

The motion failed. 2 ayes and 3 nays (Mr. Santomauro, Mr. Madden, and Mrs. Annunziata).

A lengthy discussion to seed or to sod the athletic fields took place.

E. COMMENDATIONS – None

F. RESIDENTS' REMARKS – 9:20 –9:35 p.m.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- None

H. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(TAB K)

1. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Treasurer's Report for the month ended February 28, 2003.
2. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit of the Revenue Report for the month ended March 31, 2003.
3. The Board acknowledged receipt for audit the Budget Status Report for the period ended March 31, 2003.

I. NEW BUSINESS

(TAB L)

1. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Cameron seconded that the Board approve Personnel items.

<u>Resignation:</u>	<i>Beth Wagner</i>	<i>Elementary Teacher</i>
<u>Retirement:</u>	<i>Assunta Mariniello</i>	<i>Food Service Worker</i>

- *Emergency Appointments and Reappointments*
- *Resignation of Middle School Girls' Track Coach*
- *Appointment of Middle School Coaches*
- *Appointment of Roberta Bart, Middle School Girls' Intramural Lacrosse*
- *Staff for after-school extra help at Elwood-John Glenn High School*

The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Mr. Madden moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the Committee on Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications placements and/or discontinuance of services:

<u>Submitted to the Board</u>	<u>Meeting Dates</u>
<i>March 21, 2003</i>	<i>February 26</i>
<i>March 28, 2003</i>	<i>March 5; March 24</i>

The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Mr. Kaszubski moved and Mr. Madden seconded that the Board approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education's recommendations for students' classifications/placements and/or discontinuance of services:

<u>Submitted to the Board</u>	<u>Meeting Dates</u>
<i>March 21, 2003</i>	<i>February 26; February 27; March 12</i>

The motion carried unanimously.

- d. Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the addition of the following parent members of the Committees on Special Education and Preschool Special Education for the 2002/03 school year:

Rosemary Dantone; Kathy McElroy; Maria Samet; Denise Sanginario.

The motion carried unanimously.

- e. Mr. Santomauro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve the following health service contract for students attending private/parochial schools:

Westbury UFSD	2 students	\$965.90
---------------	------------	----------

The motion carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Santomauro moved and Mr. Kaszubski seconded that the Board approve drafting a letter to Legislator Allan Binder in support of the D.A.R.E. program.
The motion carried unanimously.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS -- (No Recommended Items)

Mr. Santomauro thanked the Board for nominating him for the SCOPE award and for recognizing his 13 years of service. The Board will continue to work on reforming the Wicks Law.

Mrs. Annunziata noted the letter sent by the Huntington Coach Corp. which commended the District's safe changeover to the temporary School Bus loading area. Mr. Denis Burke and Mr. Chris Feustel were also recognized for an outstanding job.

Mrs. Annunziata commented on a letter the District received from the Fairport School

District (near Rochester) regarding their refusal to establish their own school budget until our legislators approve the State Budget. The letter noted the late budget (18 straight years), unfunded mandates, and their bold step to return grades 4,5, and 8 assessment tests uncorrected to the State Education Department.

Mr. Kaszubski asked the residents to keep the pressure on our legislators. He asked to keep our troops in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Madden thanked the Administration for creating the Technology committee and wishes to be invited when they meet. He also commented on realtors not knowing much about the Elwood School District and suggested having an open house for realtors.

Mr. Madden commented on our student community service programs and the social benefits of volunteerism, and also how volunteerism can be a vehicle for scholarships.

Mr. Cameron commented on the importance of putting pressure on the State to fund scholarships and said he was a recipient of a funded New York State scholarship.

J. ITEMS NOT LISTED ON AGENDA

K. COMMUNICATIONS

(TAB M)

1. Letter from Huntington Coach Corp. regarding planning for school bus loading areas.
2. Letter from Lawrence Ancewicz, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Greenlawn Fire District, thanking the school board and residents for passage of the exemption for volunteer firefighters.
3. Letters from Senators Joseph Bruno, Elizabeth O’C. Little and Carl Marcellino and Assemblymen Charles H. Nesbitt, Steven Sanders and Sheldon Silver regarding the Wicks Law.
4. Letter from Fairport Central School District regarding state budget.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION -- None

M. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Annunziata moved and Mr. Madden seconded that the Board adjourn at 9:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Granieri
District Clerk