

**FINAL MINUTES  
ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MARCH 26, 2024  
SPECIAL MEETING**

The Special Meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, and began at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the High School/Middle School Media Center.

Present were: Mrs. Dorin Aspras, Mr. Keith Cannizzo, Mr. Douglas DeMatteo, Mr. Chakib Fakhoury, Mrs. Louise Gerardi, Mrs. Elizabeth Mierzejewski, Ms. Carrie Paretti, Mrs. Karen Pena and Mr. Daniel Zoltek. Also present were, Dr. Anthony Iachetti, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jillian Torrento, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Mark S. Jacobus, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Ms. Frances Febrese, board attorney, and Mrs. Darla Palmesino for the taking of minutes and members of the public.

Roll call was taken. The Statement of Compliance, is hereby incorporated: In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, known as the “Open Public Meetings Act,” this is to confirm that we are in compliance with the Sunshine Law and all appropriate postings and notices have been made. The following information is Board of Education Policy: “1) Any individual addressing the board of education is to state his/her name and address and sign the register at the podium. 2) No verbal accusation against any employee or member of the board of education shall be permitted. Such accusations may be presented in writing and will be given full consideration by the board of education. 3) No action will be taken by the board of education at the same meeting on requests from the public, which may necessitate either a new policy or a change in existing policy.”

At 5:32 p.m. a Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss a legal matter was made by Mr. Cannizzo and Seconded by Mr. Fakhoury and unanimously approved by voice vote of the members present.

*Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and Whereas, the Board is of the opinion that such circumstances exist. Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Elmwood Park Board of Education will meet in closed session to discuss a legal matter and will disclose to the public the subject matter listed when circumstances dictate the need for confidentiality no longer exists.*

At 5:51 p.m. a Motion to adjourn the Closed Session was made by Mr. Cannizzo and Seconded by Mrs. Mierzejewski and unanimously approved by voice vote of the members present.

At 5:52 p.m. Mrs. Gerardi opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Frank Bennett - Bennett Construction

- Questions about the bid award

Ms. Frances Febrese, board attorney, stated that the attorneys have been in contact with one another.

At 5:54 p.m. votes were taken on the agenda item.

At 5:58 p.m. a Motion to adjourn the Special Meeting was made by Mr. Fakhoury and Seconded by Mrs. Mierzejewski and unanimously approved by voice vote of the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark S. Jacobus', written in a cursive style.

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Mark S. Jacobus  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary



**Elmwood Park Board of Education  
ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY  
AGENDA  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2024**

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION IS BEING HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M., IN THE MEDIA CENTER AT MEMORIAL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 375 RIVER DRIVE, ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY.**

**A. OPENING: ROLL CALL, SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

**B. CLOSED SESSION-AS NEEDED**

*Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and Whereas, the Board is of the opinion that such circumstances exist. Now therefore, be it resolved that the Elmwood Park Board of Education will meet in closed session to discuss \_\_\_\_\_ will disclose to the public the subject matter listed when circumstances dictate the need for confidentiality no longer exists.*

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS –General and Agenda Item**

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

**L. LEGAL**

L1. APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS & INTERIOR RENOVATIONS AT GANTNER AVENUE, GILBERT AVENUE AND 16TH AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

WHEREAS: the Elmwood Park Board of Education (the “Board”) advertised for bids for the Additions and Interior Renovations at Gantner Avenue, Gilbert Avenue and 16th Avenue Elementary schools pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS: on March 19, 2024, the Elmwood Park Board of Education (“Board”) held a public bid opening for the Additions and Interior Renovations at the Gantner Avenue, Gilbert Avenue and 16th Avenue Elementary Schools; and

WHEREAS: the Board received five (5) bids at the public bid opening; and

WHEREAS: the lowest numerical bid was submitted by The Bennett Company, Inc., with a total base bid of \$13,150,000.00 with alternate deductions of (\$160,000.00) alternate 3, (\$30,000.00) alternate 4, and (\$50,000.00) alternate 5 for a total amount of \$12,910,000.

WHEREAS: the Board, upon consultation with its attorney, has determined the bid from The Bennett Company, Inc., be *rejected* due to material defect; and

NOW, THEREFORE: the second lowest numerical bid was submitted by Grove Contracting, LLC, with a total base bid of \$13,247,000.00 with alternate deductions of (\$200,000.00) alternate 3, (\$30,000.00) alternate 4, and (\$25,000.00) alternate 5 for a total amount of \$12,992,000.

WHEREAS: the Board, upon consultation with its attorney, has determined Grove Contracting, LLC to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

that in accordance with the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq, the Board hereby approves to contract for the Additions and Interior Renovations at Gantner Avenue, Gilbert Avenue and 16th Avenue Elementary Schools with GROVE CONTRACTING LLC, for the amounts listed above.

Motion of: Mr. Cannizzo  
 Seconded by: Mr. Fakhoury  
 Consent Vote on items: L1

	KC	DD	CF	EM	CP	KP	DZ	DA	LG
<b>AYE</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>NAY</b>									
<b>ABSENT</b>									
<b>ABSTAINED</b>									
<b>RECUSED</b>									

Certified to be true copies of resolutions adopted by the Elmwood Park Board of Education at its special meeting held on March 26, 2024.




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Mark S. Jacobus, Business Administrator/Board Secretary