

FINAL MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 2, 2024

The Reorganization meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:02 p.m. in the High School/Middle School Media Center.

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.” Everyone stood for the flag salute and a moment of silence.

Mr. Jacobus, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, read the election results for the School Boards Election held on November 7, 2023:

THREE 3-YEAR TERMS:

Douglas DeMatteo	1,376
Elizabeth Mierzejewski	957
Dorin Aspras	816

Mrs. Gerardi introduced the Honorable Mayor of Elmwood Park, Robert Colletti.

Mayor Colletti simultaneously swore in re-elected members of the Elmwood Park Board of Education, Mr. Douglas DeMatteo, Mrs. Elizabeth Mierzejewski, and Mrs. Dorin Aspras.

The meeting was called to order and roll call was taken.

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

Mr. Jacobus, Board Secretary, called for nominations for President.

Mrs. Louise Gerardi was nominated as President by Motion of Mr. DeMatteo and Seconded by Mrs. Mierzejewski. There were no other nominations for President. Mrs. Gerardi was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the members present.

Mr. Jacobus, Board Secretary, yielded to Mrs. Gerardi, the Board President, who called for nominations for Vice-President.

Mrs. Dorin Aspras was nominated as Vice-President by Motion of Ms. Paretti and Seconded by Mr. DeMatteo. There were no other nominations for Vice-President. Mrs. Aspras was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the members present.

Item #9 Designation of Board Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations was voted on and approved.

Item #10 Annual Code of Ethics Presentation and Review was voted on and approved.

At 6:15 p.m. the meeting was opened to the public. No one from the public spoke, so the meeting was opened for board comments.

Mr. Fakhoury

Happy New Year to all
Congratulations to the re-elected board members

Mr. Cannizzo

Happy New Year to all
Congratulations to the re-elected board members
Happy that the district is moving forward in the right direction

Mrs. Mierzejewski

Thanked Mayor Colletti for administering the Oaths of Service
Congratulated the board members

Happy New Year to everyone

Mr. DeMatteo

Thanked the residents of Elmwood Park for voting him on the board

Thanked the Mayor and council for attending the meeting

Thanked his wife and family for their support

Congratulated the board members

Ms. Paretto

Nice to see the council members at the meeting

Congratulations to the re-elected board members

Ms. Pena

Congratulations to the board members

Thanked the Mayor and Council members for attending the meeting

Happy New Year

Mrs. Aspras

Thanked the Mayor and council members for attending the meeting

Thanked her family for their support

Happy New Year

Mrs. Gerardi

Happy New Year to all

Thanked the Mayor and council and residents for attending the meeting

Thanked her family for their support

January 23rd is the next board meeting

At 6:19 p.m. a Motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting was made by Mrs. Aspras and Seconded by Mr. Cannizzo and unanimously approved by voice vote of the members present.

I hereby certify these final summary minutes of the meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education in session on January 2, 2024, to be true and correct and in complete agreement with the official Minute Book of the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mark S. Jacobus
Business Administrator/Board Secretary



Elmwood Park Board of Education
ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY

AGENDA

REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 2, 2024

THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION IS BEING HELD THIS EVENING AT **6:00 P.M. IN THE MEDIA CENTER AT MEMORIAL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, 375 RIVER DRIVE, ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY.**

1. SUNSHINE STATEMENT, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

November 7, 2023

THREE 3-YEAR TERMS:

Douglas DeMatteo	1,376
Elizabeth Mierzejewski	95
Dorin Aspras	816

3. ADMINISTERING OF OATHS OF OFFICE

- Elected Board Members
Dorin Aspras
Douglas DeMatteo
Elizabeth Mierzejewski

4. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD SECRETARY

5. ROLL CALL

Dorin Aspras
 Keith Cannizzo
 Douglas DeMatteo
 Chakib Fakhoury
 Louise Gerardi
 Elizabeth Mierzejewski
 Carrie Parette
 Karen Pena
 Daniel Zoltek

6. BOARD SECRETARY ENTERTAINS MOTION TO ELECT PRESIDENT

NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that **LOUISE GERARDI** be elected to serve as **PRESIDENT** of the Elmwood Park Board of Education commencing January 2, 2024 until the Reorganization Meeting of 2025, pursuant to 18A:15-1.

Motion of: Mrs. Mierzejewski

Seconded By: Mr. DeMatteo

Vote on item #6 President:

	DA	KC	DD	CF	LG	EM	CP	KP	DZ
AYE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NAY									
ABSENT									X
ABSTAINED									
RECUSED									

7. BOARD SECRETARY YIELDS CHAIR TO NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

8. PRESIDENT CALLS FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

NOMINATION OF VICE PRESIDENT

BE IT RESOLVED,

that **DORIN ASPRAS** be elected to serve as **VICE-PRESIDENT** of the Elmwood Park Board of Education commencing January 2, 2024 until the Reorganization Meeting of 2025, pursuant to 18A:15-1.

Motion of: Ms. Paretti

Seconded By: Mr. DeMatteo

Vote on item #8 Vice President:

	DA	KC	DD	CF	LG	EM	CP	KP	DZ
AYE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NAY									
ABSENT									X
ABSTAINED									
RECUSED									

9. DESIGNATION OF BOARD MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED: The Elmwood Park Board of Education designates the fourth Tuesday of each month as its Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Hearings, as necessary, its Work Meeting and Regular Meeting day. **All HIB Hearings shall be held at 5:30 p.m.** in the Memorial High School Student Cafeteria. **The Work Meetings are to be held at 6:00 p.m.** in the Memorial High School Student Cafeteria, and **all Regular Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m.** in the Memorial High School Media Center, on the dates listed below, or in other locations as announced and posted.

January 23, 2024	August 27, 2024
February 27, 2024	September 24, 2024
*March 19, 2024	*October 15, 2024
April 23, 2024	November 26, 2024
May 21, 2024	*December 17, 2024
June 25, 2024	

* Third Tuesday of the Month

Note: *There will be no board meetings in July, unless necessary.*

Motion of: Mr. Cannizzo

Seconded By: Mr. Fakhoury

Vote on item #9 Meeting Dates:

	DA	KC	DD	CF	LG	EM	CP	KP	DZ
AYE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NAY									
ABSENT									X
ABSTAINED									
RECUSED									

10. ANNUAL CODE OF ETHICS PRESENTATION AND REVIEW

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elmwood Park Board of Education hereby adopts the Code of Ethics for School Board Members and authorizes the Board Secretary/Business Administrator to reflect in the minutes that a discussion transpired in regard to the school Ethics Act as required.

Motion of: Mrs. Aspras

Seconded By: Mr. DeMatteo

Vote on item #10 Code of Ethics:

	DA	KC	DD	CF	LG	EM	CP	KP	DZ
AYE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
NAY									
ABSENT									X
ABSTAINED									
RECUSED									

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS- GENERAL

12. BOARD COMMENTS

13. CLOSED SESSION-AS MAY BE REQUIRED

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.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Certified to be true copies of resolutions adopted by the Elmwood Park Board of Education at its meeting held on January 2, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. S. Jacobus', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mark S. Jacobus, Business Administrator/Board Secretary