

**FINAL MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION  
JULY 2, 2014**

There was a Special Meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, at 6 p.m. in the Memorial Middle School gymnasium.

Present were: Keith Cannizzo, Douglas DeMatteo, Jeanne Freitag, Louise Gerardi, Kathleen Policano, Arlene Rudmann, Peter Scolaro and Stephen Zaccone. Daniel Golabek arrived and was seated at 6:05 p.m. Also present were Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Superintendent of Schools, Thomas Egan, State Monitor, Wayne Demikoff, Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator, Darla Palmesino, Confidential Executive Secretary, for the taking of minutes, and members of the public.

After the flag salute there was a moment of silence. A copy of the Meeting Notice is hereby incorporated: There will be a Special Meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education on Wednesday, July 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial High School Auditorium or the Middle School Gym depending on the weather conditions.

The State of Compliance is hereby incorporated: In accordance with 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."

Superintendent, Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Ph.D., welcomed the public to the Special Meeting. He explained the agenda for the evening, which included a discussion on use of capital reserve.

The meeting was opened to the public at 6:04 p.m. on agenda items and closed to the public at 6:09 p.m. The following individuals addressed the board.

Name	Address	Topic
Gladys Gryskiewicz	256 Fencsak Avenue	Special Education Evaluations
Jeffrey Freitag	35 Hillman Drive	Inquired whether Bergen County offered similar special education programs.

Superintendent Richard D. Tomko, discussed capital reserve funds and afterward turned the meeting over to Thomas Egan, State Monitor who explained that at the June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting the surplus of \$1.9 million was discussed. Under State law, the board can choose not to touch the surplus and the money would be returned to the State to pay back the loan; or the funds can be put into the capital reserve to be used to upgrade the facilities and/or for projects that were related to the recent referendum or the district's fields and sports complex. Mr. Egan introduced Jillian Torrento, Athletic Director to comment on the condition of the athletic fields.

Ms. Torrento commented on the poor condition of the fields. She stated that Pascack Valley refused to play on the soccer fields due to their condition. Phone calls from other assignors and coaches have been received expressing their concerns about injuries that may be sustained due to the condition of the fields. Ms. Torrento stated that the condition of the fields affects the students ability due to the dusty and muddy conditions. Ms. Torrento also commented that the track is unusable and that there has never been a home track meet at our school. Students cannot use the tennis courts. The softball fields all slope down at least 6' and they pose a potential danger to the student athletes.

Board Comments

Daniel Golabeck – Inquired about using funds for referendum projects vs. fields.

Jeffrey Freitag – Inquired if the decision would be made tonight, and how it would be made. Would it be made by resolution?

Dr. Richard Tomko – Yes, the decision would be reached by resolution.

Keith Cannizzo – Stated that this is a very important meeting for the board and the town. The town will benefit from either referendum items or repair of the fields. The budget has never passed in 10 years and the fields have suffered. The decision will not cost taxpayers anything. He was leaning toward the fields being fixed.

Arlene Rudman – Stated that she is embarrassed by the condition of the fields and that other schools mock us.

Jeanne Freitag – Stated that the money “is coming from taxpayers.”

Kathleen Policano – Any money spent is taxation money, and its time the town spent a little money.

After board comments, the meeting was opened to the public at 6:33 p.m. and closed to the public at 8:12 p.m. The following individuals addressed the board during open session.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Carmelina Martina	210 Orchard Street	Spoke in support of fixing the athletic fields.
Jeff Freitag	35 Hillman Drive	Was hoping that the decision would be based on good research and inquired as to when board had knowledge of surplus.
Kevin Tuohey	E.P. Coach	Thanked the board for the new gym floor.
Elke Voight	Volleybal coach	Thanked everyone for the new gym floor, and thanked Ms. Torrento for all her hard work as the Athletic Director.

Mike Bufis	14 Philip Avenue	Did not support spending money on athletic fields at this time.
Bertha Campo	5 Kipp Avenue	Spoke in support of using money for soccer fields.
Noel Ulitoski	Cheer Coach	Spoke in support of fixing fields for safety reasons.
Gladys Gryskiewicz	256 Fencsak	Inquired as to when the surplus was made public.
Julianna Cabellas	Student	Spoke in support of fixing fields.
Kaitlyn L.	Student	Spoke in favor of fixing fields.
Stephanie Gumman	Student	Spoke in favor of fixing fields.
George Kayal	95 Rosemont Avenue	Stated that this is what our kids need. We should bring back spirit to this town, and education and sports go hand in hand.
Will Meneely	221 Washington Avenue	Stated upgrades need to be made to the fields. Inquired if we could pay loan back and get grant money.
Nolan VanRye	Student	Spoke in support of fixing the fields.
Arthur Alfieri	113 Washington Avenue	Spoke in support of fixing the fields.
Karen Varrechia	156 Lee Street	Class of '72 – Very proud to be a resident. Spoke in support of spending money to fix fields.
Dolores Wechtler	124 Philip Avenue	1964 graduate, feels the money should be split equally between education and fixing the fields.
Eugene Pinkney	Teacher/Coach	Thanked the Board for their support. Concerned about student injuries due to the poor condition of fields.
Richard Mola	Borough Mayor	Stated that he thought this was a tough decision.
Luz Molina	34 Rudolph Avenue	Spoke in support of fixing the fields, and that the taxes she pays have never gone toward the athletic fields.

Jeff Freitag

35 Hillman Drive

Inquired whether the windows were supposed to be replaced in the last referendum.

After public comments, Dr. Richard Tomko stated that it was "his job as Superintendent to bring the best recommendations to the board for both extra curricular and curricular needs. The Mayor said it best, 'it is a difficult decision.' Most of your life is about perception. The perception of this town is not good. This money is marked to help this district. The I-pads were cutting edge, the scores have gone up, we're getting more special education students back, we have had the highest graduation rate increase in the state, our track team won without a track. The gym is important and fields are important. We should all be here for the kids, not our own political agendas. I have bit my tongue too long. There is nothing better than when our stands are full of fans at games. We may never get this money or chance again."

After the Superintendent's statement, resolution F1 was read to the public, and before it was presented to the board for vote, the meeting was again opened for board comments.

Board Comments:

Trustee, Daniel Golabek stated he had no prior information on resolution F1. Mr. Golabek stated he had no problem with getting engineers to figure out costs, and spent 7 years in the buildings and has seen a lot of other schools. He is not against the concept, but going forward he hopes that we "go at it" in a responsible way. Mr. Golabek stated he would support the resolution.

Trustee Jeanne Freitag stated that the board shouldn't rush into anything. She felt both things are very important. Referendum bids are coming in high. This should be a long-range plan. The fields are not perfect, but the building repairs need to be done. Anything that is not safe needs to be fixed for the children. She said she wanted to address all issues before voting, and needed to consider all things first.

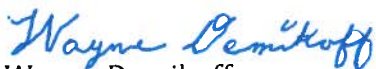
Trustee Arlene Rudmann stated that she supported Resolution F1 and cares about our kids, wanting the best for them athletically and academically.

Trustee Keith Cannizzo stated that education and sports go hand-in-hand.

Trustee Louise stated, "This is for our community as a whole. A track with lights to walk at night is for everyone."

I hereby certify these final summary minutes of the meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education in session on July 2, 2014, to be true and correct and in complete agreement with the official Minute Book of the Board of Education.

Respectfully,



Wayne Demikoff,

Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator



**Elmwood Park Board of Education  
ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY**

**AGENDA**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**July 2, 2014**

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

- A. OPENING: ROLL CALL, SUNSHINE STATEMENT
- B. OPEN SESSION: REVIEW OF MEETING AGENDA
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- D. ADJOURNMENT

## 1. PERSONNEL

### A. EMPLOYMENT

- 1) Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education confirm/approve the **appointments** of the following school administrators, principals, teachers, custodians and other officers and employees pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:16-1, N.J.A.C. 23A-6.8, and Board Policies 3141 and 4125, effective through for the 2014/2015 School year, pending the results of a fingerprint check\*:

NAME	POSITION	UPC#	SALARY	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Mary Angelino Murray	Elementary School Teacher	TCH.KIND.KD.01 11-110-100-101-03-000-00	Step 1 MA \$49,860	Gilbert Avenue	September 1, 2014
Michael Calissi	Elementary School Teacher	TCH.03.SPEC.EL.02 11-000-240-105-03-000-00	Step 1 BA \$46,360	Gilbert Avenue	September 1, 2014
Maria McIvor	Elementary School Teacher	TCH.03.ELEM.EL.12 11-120-100-101-03-000-00	Step 1 BA \$46,360	Gilbert Avenue	September 1, 2014
Colleen Scurman	Elementary Special Education Teacher	TCH.02.SPEC.EL.01 11-204-100-101-02-000-00	Step 1 BA \$46,360	Gantner Avenue	September 1, 2014
Steven Serra	Special Education History Teacher	TCH.01.SPEC.HS.06 11-213-100-101-01-000-00	Step 1 BA \$46,360	Memorial High School	September 1, 2014
Kara Peters	Autistic Teacher	TCH.04.AUS.EL.02 11-214-100-101-04-000-00	Step 1 MA \$49,860	Sixteenth Avenue School	September 1, 2014

\*Pending Negotiations

- 2) Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education confirm/approve the **appointments** of the following school administrators, principals, teachers, custodians and other officers and employees pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:16-1, N.J.A.C. 23A-6.8, and Board Policies 3141 and 4125, effective through for the 2014/2015 School year, pending the results of a fingerprint check:

NAME	POSITION	UPC#	SALARY	LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jonna Caramico	Instructional Consultant	SPEC.11.INTR.MS.01 20-231-100-101-08-000-00	\$400.00 Per Day/2 Days Per Week Paid Through Middle School S.I.P. Grant	Memorial Middle School	September 1, 2014

### D. COACHES/STIPEND

- 1) Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education confirm/approve the extra-curricular activity, student activity position for the 2014/2015 school year, as listed in the categories below:

Name	Position	Salary	UPC #	Location	Effective Date
Thomas Mulligan	Head Football Coach	Step 1 \$8,082	034-01 11-402-100-100-01-034-00	Memorial High School	July 3, 2014

E. APPOINTMENT of AIDES

1) Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education confirm/approve the **appointment** of the following aides pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:16-1 and Board Policy 4125, effective For the 2014/2015 school year, pending the results of a fingerprint check:

AIDES NAME	POSITION	UPC NUMBER	SCHOOL	SALARY
Patricia DeFedele	Breakfast Aide	N/A	Gantner Avenue	\$12.50 (Per Hour)

Motion of: Mr. DeMatteo  
 Seconded by: Mrs. Policano

Consent Vote on items: PA1 – PE1

	DD	JF	DG	KP	AR	PS	SZ	KC	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 meeting held on July 2, 2014.



Wayne Demikoff, Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator

STUDENTS:

1) BE IT RESOLVED: that, upon recommendation of the superintendent and Board secretary/business administrator, the board hereby approves the submission of the I.D.E.A. application (Basic and Pre-school) and the board hereby approves retaining Bergen County Special Services School District to provide supplemental instruction, speech, and occupational therapy services non-public school students for the school year 2014-2015. The application is for the following amounts: Basic (Public and Nonpublic) \$613,692 and Preschool (Public and Nonpublic) \$21,293. The total amount of \$634,985.

- 2) Dr. Richard D. Tomko Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the board of education confirm/approve the following *professional service providers* for the delivery of special education services to district students for the school year 2014/2015 school year:

PROVIDER NAME	SERVICE/EVALUTION	COST	DATES
Morris-Union Jointure Commission	Transition Coordinator to review the student records and skills. Obtain appropriate instruction site for students. CBI sessions led by a coach with district teachers and students.	\$17,500.00	9/3/14 to 6/18/15

NOTE: ALL COSTS ARE ESTIMATES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND VERIFICATION.

Motion of: Mrs. Policano

Second by: Mrs. Rudmann

Consent Vote on items: S1 to S2

	DD	JF	DG	KP	AR	PS	SZ	KC	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>									

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Wayne Demikoff, Interim Board Secretary

(seal)



**F. Finance**

**F1. Approval to Prepare and Submit Plant to Department of Education**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Elmwood Park Board of Education authorizes Boswell Engineering Inc., 330 Phillips Avenue, South Hackensack, New Jersey 07606, to prepare and submit the necessary documentation to prepare and submit the required schematic plans, including educational specifications, drawings, and forms, for a new athletic complex for the Elmwood Park Middle/High School to the Department of Education with this project to be funded with the local district's capital reserve funds.

Motion of: Mrs. Policano  
Seconded by: Mrs. DeMatteo

Consent Vote on item:

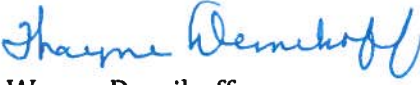
	DD	JF	DG	KP	AR	PS	SZ	KK	LG
<b>AYE</b>	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<b>NAY</b>		x							
<b>ABSENT</b>									
<b>ABSTAINED</b>									
<b>RECUSED</b>									

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Wayne Demikoff, Interim Board Secretary

By motion of Mrs. Policano, which was seconded by Mr. DeMatteo, and unanimously approved by those present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

I hereby certify these final summary minutes of the meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education in session on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, to be true and correct and in complete agreement with the official Minute Book of the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Wayne Demikoff  
Interim Board Secretary



**ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY

**AGENDA**  
**ADDENDUM 1**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**JULY 2, 2014**

<b>GENERAL</b>
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1. Dr. Richard D. Tomko, Superintendent of Schools, recommends that the Board of Education confirm/approve the CSA Professional Development Plan (PDP) for the Contract Term of July 1, 2014 – July 1, 2015.

Motion of: Mrs. Policano  
Seconded by: Mr. DeMatteo

Consent Vote on item(s) G1:

	DD	JF	DG	KP	AR	PS	SZ	KC	LG
<b>AYE</b>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>NAY</b>		X							
<b>ABSENT</b>									
<b>ABSTAINED</b>									
<b>RECUSED</b>									

For the record, Mrs. Freitag stated: "I did not receive information until late today, and did not have enough time to review it."

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**Wayne Demikoff,**  
**Interim Board Secretary**