

1. OPENING.

- 1.01 Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 1.02 Recording of Attendance: Board Members Present: D. Reiser, L. Bohs, C. Bliefernich, B. Siegel. Absent: A. Laput. Others Present: R. Dufour, S. Krebs, V. Keegan, R. Luis, B. Robertson and approximately 20 citizens.
- 1.03 Presentation
- Hour of Code – Linda Lee and Lori Bizjak gave a brief description of the program the two of them offered to GRM students which was received with much enthusiasm.
 - Overview of Departments (Food Service, Building & Grounds, Transportation) – R. Luis gave a comprehensive description of each department, their functions, and proposed goals.

2. REPORTS TO BOARD

- 2.01 Elementary Principal Report (V. Keegan)
- Reported on December activities at the elementary school
 - Stated Teq representative will be in attendance at the Jan. 15th conference day
 - Reported Town Historian John Conway will join our 3rd and 4th grades for a local history presentation
 - Complimented the music department on successful winter concerts
 - Thanked PBIS and the PTA for the fine programs they hold at the elementary school
- 2.02 Secondary Principal Report (S. Krebs)
- Student Council President Griffin Major reported on the council's trip to Port Jervis, stated some of the initiatives the council would like to bring to Eldred, and stated the council was working on a priority list of activities and programs.
 - G. Gass reported all of our winter teams have a strong possibility of making post-season play. Stated the local papers coverage of the presentations to our area veterans is most appreciated, especially the coverage given recently to JJ Hanson's ceremony. Reported football numbers are very discouraging for next year, with the result of the possibility of not fielding a team.
 - S. Krebs reported on the offering of SAT Prep and PSAT10 tests to our students.
 - Reported scheduling for next year's classes is in the preliminary stage with the help of the scheduling committee and the curriculum coordinators.
 - Reported mid-year Regents testing starts January 26th
- 2.03 Business Office Report (R. Luis)
- Reported 2016-2017 budget preparations are in progress with the projection of revenues and expenditures
 - Gathering information from faculty and staff for the Affordable Care Act for the mandated reporting requirements
 - Installation of point of sale system for the cafeteria is in progress
 - Meeting with Transportation Department to address our driver shortage
- 2.04 District Report (R. Dufour)
- Reported a scheduling committee of teachers has been established in both the elementary school and the junior/senior high school which will be student centered and student focused.

- Reported that preliminary Executive Budget State Aid figures have been released, with the District seeing a modest 3.4% increase over all. Ms. Luis anticipates several pre-budget community workshops as well as our first formal budget presentation at the February board meeting.
- Lever voting machine use extension has not been officially approved by New York State. Contacting our area representatives to lobby for small districts as the cost of the electronic voting machine rental as well as certified county election staff would increase our voting day budget significantly.
- Explained the proposed modifications of the Code of Conduct regarding the insertion of a social media policy for students

2.05 Board of Education President Report (D. Reiser)

- Reported he had attended the SC School Board Association meeting and presented the Board with all upcoming event dates
- Thanked everyone for last month's meeting and thanked Superintendent Dufour for his excellent presentation. As a result of that meeting, a Resolution will be presented to the Board for approval under New Business

3. PUBLIC COMMENT. (Limited to consent agenda items only – items 4.01 through 7.03)

G. MAJOR: Stated he disagreed with the revisions for the social media policy in the Code of Conduct – believes it is too vague and should be revisited.

A. GINGOLD: Does not agree with the changes to the social media addition as they are open for interpretation and too vague. Need examples. Also questioned the declining numbers for the football program and asked if the football situation from last year would be discussed again.

D. REISER: Stated that as this issue concerned individual students, nothing would be discussed further.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND WARRANTS.

**** Consent Agenda – Recommended Action 4.01 through 7.03)**

Made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by B. Siegel.

Prior to voting, B. Siegel requested 7.02 be removed from the consent agenda to be voted on separately and asked to discuss 5.01 the letter from the town of Tusten regarding veterans' exemptions. A discussion followed regarding the proposed policy revisions and the Board moved the veterans' exemption to be discussed as Old Business.

Vote on motions 4.01 through 7.03, minus 7.02, made on motion by B. Siegel and seconded by C. Bliefernich.

Voting: D. Reiser - yes; A. Laput - absent; L. Bohs - yes; C. Bliefernich - yes; B. Siegel – yes.

Votes: 4 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

- 4.01 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Eldred Board of Education held on December 17, 2015.
- 4.02 Approval of the District Treasurer's Report for month ending November, 2015.
- 4.03 Approval of the Central Treasurer's Report for the month ending December, 2015.
- 4.04 Approval of the Payment of Bills appearing on Multi-Fund Warrant #12 (Checks #58871-58944) and Multi-Fund Warrant # 13 (Checks #58945-59031).
- 4.05 Approval of the Claims Auditor Report appearing on Multi-Fund Warrant #12 (Checks #58871-58944) and Multi-Fund Warrant #13 (Checks #58945-59031).

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

- 5.01 Town of Tusten
- 5.02 SCBOCES Notice of Annual meeting
- 5.03 L. Conway
- 5.04 K. Gottlieb

6. APPOINTMENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS.

- 6.01 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the following Performing Arts Department appointments for the Spring Musical, payment as per contract:

Director	Justin Glodich
Assistant Director	Kristina Martorano
Technical Director	Tyler Laput
Lead Set Designer	TBD
Lead Choreographer	TBD

- 6.02 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to add Heather Tice to the substitute teacher aide list for the 2014-2015 school year.
- 6.03 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to amend the FMLA leave for Justin Glodich to be March 1 through March 4, 2016.
- 6.04 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Patricia Gersten as Club Advisor to the Ceramics/Fine Arts Club for the 2015-2016 school year, payment as per contract.
- 6.05 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept with regret the resignation of Bus Driver Lorraine Conway, effective January 14, 2016.
- 6.06 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the extension of the FMLA unpaid medical leave for Kathryn Gottlieb, for the 2015-2016 school year.

7. OTHER.

- 7.01 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the special education placements as submitted.
- 7.02 **Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the following revisions to NYSSBA Policies:**

1st Reading

5300 Code of Conduct (page 10 - network & social media and page 17 - suspension appeals)

2nd Reading

- 5405 Wellness Policy**
- 5405R Wellness Policy Regulations**
- 5420 Student Health Services**
- 5420R Student Health Services Regulation**
- 6410 Authorized Signatures**

Voting on 7.02 was done as a separate motion – made on motion by C. Bliefenich and seconded by L. Bohs.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – absent; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefertich – yes; B. Siegel – no.

Votes: 3 yes, 1 no, 1 absent. Motion carried.

7.03 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Budget Calendar for the preparation of the 2016-2017 Budget.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

8.01 Hall of Fame – seeking candidates for induction at June, 2016 graduation; nomination forms are available on the website and in the District Clerk’s office.

8.02 Resolution by Town of Highland Town Board regarding property taxes base funded sales tax – B. Siegel reported this was tabled for a vote by the Highland Town Board. Wanted the Board to be aware of this issue.

8.03 Resolution – Common Core/Standardized Testing – B. Siegel reported that as a result of last month’s Board meeting, the Board was presenting a Resolution for adoption as follows:

Resolution of the Eldred Central School District Board of Education regarding the Common Core state standards and high stakes standardized testing, and in support of local control of public education:

WHEREAS, the purpose of education is not solely to prepare students for college and career success, but to educate a populace of creative and critical thinkers who are capable of shaping a just and equitable society and leading good and purpose-filled lives; and

WHEREAS, our nation’s school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized testing, in which test scores are used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS, the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity by hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the over-emphasis on standardized testing has caused considerable collateral damage in too many schools, including narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning, pushing students out of school, driving excellent teachers out of the profession and undermining school climate; and

WHEREAS, standardized tests fail to measure the most important qualities schools should seek to develop in students, such as relationships, character, ethical development, critical thinking, persistence, imagination, insight and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of substantial resources to testing diverts those same resources from the educational needs of students, including the arts, music, other non-tested subjects, the challenges of special needs students and English language learners, moral and ethical development, social and emotional development, practical and workplace skills, project-based, authentic learning opportunities,

attention to contemporary cultural and social concerns and deep exploration of subject matters; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District will emphasize District measures of teacher effectiveness over State measures and standardized test scores, to the degree allowed by law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District will emphasize District measures of authentic student progress and engagement over State measures and standardized test scores, and will not use state assessment scores beyond what state and federal law requires; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District will evaluate the Common Core curriculum standards to determine which are not developmentally appropriate for our students and minimize their impact on our teaching and learning; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District will emphasize a curriculum rich in all areas of education including but not limited to music, art, science, social studies and foreign languages, and will actively work to prevent a narrowing of our educational standards to match those of the Common Core; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District will align all student, teacher and classroom schedules to our core values, as described above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District Board of Education calls on Governor Andrew Cuomo, Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, the State Legislature and the Board of Regents to re-examine public school accountability systems in New York State, and to develop a system which uses multiple measures and does not require extensive standardized testing, more accurately reflects the broad range of student learning, and is used to support students and improve schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District Board of Education calls on President Barack Obama, Acting Secretary of Education John King and the United States Congress to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Every Student Succeeds Act), eliminate testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability systems and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Eldred Central School District Board of Education shall promulgate any necessary policies, procedures and guidelines to implement this resolution.

Made on motion by L. Bohs and seconded by C. Bliefernich.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – absent; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.

Votes: 4 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

9. OLD BUSINESS.

9.01 Veterans' Exemption: B. Siegel asked to have the Board vote to increase the previously approved veterans' tax exemption limits to be on par with other districts and local townships. The Board agreed to request data from the Business Office to ascertain how this would affect other constituents in the town.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT.

P. CLARK: Commented on Town of Highland proposed resolution. Cited article he wrote several years ago for the NYS School Boards publication about alternative tax methods to fund education. Stated he believed school boards have become inefficient and unions controlling. Board needs to be frugal in budget preparation.

C. NICHOLSON: Commented on lunch program choices – requested salads return with some vegetarian choices. Questioned the college classes vs. AP classes. Suggested a survey of students for their feedback.

G. MAJOR: Agreed with the suggestion of a student survey. Requested a presentation to students to explain the differences between what would be a college class or an AP class.

S. KREBS: Stated that as a result of the Board's request for more rigor in classes, the AP classes are being explored, with our music teacher Mr. Nivison offering a Music Theory AP class for next year.

B. DEYERMOND: Suggested the cafeteria take advantage of local resources – farm to table program or the construction of a District greenhouse project/class. Also suggested the use of the GRM community garden to incorporate vegetables to be grown by the students to be used in the cafeterias.

More discussion followed of the revisions to the social media Code of Conduct addition, the football program, the District's Facebook page, the need to recruit bus drivers, and the recreational basketball program held at the elementary gym.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

11.01 Approval to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. **to discuss contract negotiations and a specific personnel issue** was made on motion by L. Bohs and seconded by C. Bliefertich.

Voting: D. Reiser - yes; A. Laput - absent; L. Bohs - yes; C. Bliefertich - yes; B. Siegel - yes.
Votes: 4 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

11.02 Approval to adjourn Executive Session at 10:45 p.m. was made on motion by B. Siegel and seconded by L. Bohs.

Voting: D. Reiser - yes; A. Laput - absent; L. Bohs - yes; C. Bliefertich - yes; B. Siegel - yes.
Votes: 4 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

12.01 Approval to adjourn the meeting at ___p.m. was made on motion by ___ and seconded by ___.

Voting: D. Reiser - yes; A. Laput - absent; L. Bohs - yes; C. Bliefertich - yes; B. Siegel - yes.
Votes: 4 yes, 1 absent. Motion carried.