

1. OPENING.

- 1.01 The President called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 1.02 Recording of Attendance: Board Present: D. Reiser, A. Laput, L. Bohs, C. Bliefertich, B. Siegel.
Others Present: R. Dufour, S. Krebs, V. Keegan, R. Luis, B. Robertson, and approximately 40 citizens.
- 1.03 Sports Presentation – G. Gass gave a power point presentation briefly describing his duties as the Athletic Coordinator for the District.

Budget Presentation – R. Luis presented the Board with a preliminary expense budget for the 2016-2017 school year that the administration and business office have been working on since December. Preparing to present to the Board a balanced budget, with the final revenue projections after April 1st.

2. REPORTS TO BOARD.

- 2.01 Elementary Principal Report (V. Keegan)
- Reported on the Superintendent Conference Days of Jan. 15th and the upcoming Feb. 12th day
 - Thanked the PTA for their many activities sponsored at GRM
 - Reported on Safety Team meeting with Sgt. Crumley and staff
 - Thanked local historian John Conway for the excellent presentation to 3rd and 4th graders
 - Informed the Board of D.A.R.E. Graduation Ceremony scheduled for Feb. 19th
- 2.02 Secondary Principal Report (S. Krebs)
- Sports report by G. Gass: all teams doing very well; sectional play for several teams. Youth basketball and youth wrestling programs underway. Reported on the huge success of the Courage for Carter Event and the half time presentations to Veterans at basketball games. Girls basketball team had a field trip to Syracuse to watch past graduate Tammi Reiss coach and enjoy the game.
 - Student Council Report by G. Major: Reported Student Council initiating various awards for 7-12 graders, focusing on student achievement in many areas.
 - JSHS Report: SAT Prep Class will have approximately 36 participants, slated to begin Feb. 20th and PSAT10 test to be administered on Feb. 23rd.
 - SADD Group has been active during the month of February sponsoring a movie night and fostering friendship and the commitment to engage friends and others when struggling to make good choices.
 - Showed Board new course catalog available in the Guidance Office and on-line for helping students prepare their 2016-2017 schedule.
 - Reminded public of upcoming events: PBIS sponsored Yankee Doodle Circus on Feb. 29th; Annual Global Fair on March 1st; All County Music Festival on March 5th.
- 2.03 Business Office Report (R. Luis)
- Reported on the progress of the point-of-sale system for the cafeterias, scheduled for implementation at the JSHS in April and GRM in May. Clarified the information on Free and Reduced Price Lunch – District is currently at 38.8% participation rate in F & RP Lunch, but District's Direct Certification through SNAP and Medicare is the 40% threshold that must be met to have the District offer F & RP Lunch to all students. The District is currently at 25% for SNAP and Medicare participation. Continued work for improved quality and selection, maintaining the adherence to all applicable guidelines

- Firmly stated the District has no plans for privatizing the Transportation Department and informed the Board meetings were held with transportation employees. Weekly meetings scheduled to coordinate transportation with sporting events, regular runs, etc.
- Reported to the Board meetings have been ongoing with Buildings and Grounds to discuss the possibility of changing the scheduling of staff to include Saturday coverage, thus reducing overtime required for building checks and providing coverage for many scheduled weekend activities.
- Will institute a stronger focus on recycling, both with staff and students
- Reported electric in modular unit has been removed and roof repaired and two additional substitute cleaners have been hired
- Work continues on budget preparation through expense and revenue projections. Reported to the Board of the formulation of a Budget Committee, consisting of two faculty members, two community members and a member of the Board of Education.
- Veterans Exemption information has been distributed to the Board

2.04 District Report (R. Dufour)

- Reported on the ongoing Budget preparations, final revenue figures not available until April 1st when the legislature should release figures.
- Presently projections are under the tax levy limit with minimal use of reserves. Hope to present a very balanced budget
- Anticipating bullet aid through Assemblywoman Gunther's Office

2.05 Board President Report (D. Reiser)

- Reported the receipt of an email asking for information on Board procedures; explained consent agenda, public comment periods, new business, old business.
- Complimented all who were involved in the "Courage for Carter" event – outstanding evening and overwhelming support from community.
- Stated he was nothing but pleased with Transportation Department, and Board is not looking to privatize the bus transportation for the District
- Presented Board Member Carol Bliefernich with a certificate from NYSSBA for Board Excellence
- Discussed the Veterans Exemption motion passed by the Board in February, 2013, and asked Board to revisit the motion and the limits set. After lengthy discussion, the following motion was put to the Board:

Approval, regarding the Veterans Tax Exemption in Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a, the Board of Education of the Eldred Central School District hereby adopts the Veterans Tax Exemption at the state basis maximum as follows: Wartime \$12,000, Combat Zone \$8,000, and Disability \$40,000, and any statutory changes in value in the future. The exemption will include the Gold Star Parents of Veterans Exemption for \$12,000. This motion is effective immediately.

Made on motion by D. Reiser and seconded by A. Laput.

**Voting: D. Resier – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT. (Limited to consent agenda items only – 4.01 through 7.05)

A. CARMECI: Thanked the Board on behalf of all the area veterans, the local VFW and the local American Legion on passing the motion bringing Eldred in line with other school districts and towns. Thanked Mr. Gass for the current presentations to veterans at basketball games. Willing to provide names of area veterans.

G. MAJOR: Stated he agreed with content of social media code revision to the Code of Conduct, but disagreed with the vague language and the ability to enforce. Suggested that the revision needed more work before approval.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND WARRANTS.

Consent Agenda: Recommended Action – Items 4.01 through 7.05

Made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by A. Laput

Prior to voting, B. Siegel asked for the removal of Motion 7.04 from the Consent Agenda and having it voted on separately from the consent agenda.

Made on motion by B. Siegel and seconded by A. Laput to vote on Consent Agenda, with the exception of Motion #7.04, to be voted separately.

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

Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

- 4.01 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Eldred Board of Education held on January 14, 2016.
- 4.02 Approval of the District Treasurer’s Report for month ending December, 2015.
- 4.03 Approval of the Central Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January, 2016.
- 4.04 Approval of the Payment of Bills appearing on Multi-Fund Warrant #14 (Checks #59032-59092) and Multi-Fund Warrant #15 (Checks # 59093-59153).
- 4.05 Approval of the Claims Auditor Report appearing on Multi-Fund Warrant #14 (Checks #59032-59092 and Multi-Fund Warrant #15 (Checks #59093-59153).

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

- 5.01 D.A.R.E. Invitation

6. APPOINTMENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS.

- 6.01 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the following Sports Coaches for the spring season, 2015-2016 school year:

Varsity Softball	Ryan Jasper
JV Softball	Sonia Kidney
Modified Softball	John Simonsen, conditional on fingerprinting/certification
Varsity Baseball	Joshua Santoro
Modified Baseball	Edward Kasche
Varsity Golf	Jason Jennings
Varsity Track	Donald Drewett
Modified Track	Matthew Campanella
Assistant Track	LisaMarie Drewett

- 6.02 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to add Jenna Potter to the substitute bus monitor list for the 2015-2016 school year.

7. OTHER.

- 7.01 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the special education reports submitted.

- 7.02 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar.
- 7.03 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to set the date of the Reorganization Meeting/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education as July 14, 2016.

7.04 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the following revisions to NYSSBA Policies:

SECOND READING

5300 Code of Conduct (2 pages: 10 & 17)

**** After a Board discussion regarding whether or not the policy revision addressed previous public commentary, it was the consensus of the Board that this was a NYSSBA modeled revision and that educational guidance on social media is offered in the JSHS student handbook.**

Made on motion by L. Bohs and seconded by C. Bliefernich to approve motion 7.04:

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

Votes: 4 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

- 7.05 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the attached awarded bid for fuel for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

8. OLD 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 – should be submitted as soon as possible
- 8.02 Veterans Exemption – addressed at beginning of meeting with motion

9. NEW BUSINESS.

- 9.01 Board of Education – Seat Vacancy – Expired term of Amador Laput. New 5 year term 7/1/16 through 6/30/21. Petitions available from District Clerk and must be filed with the office by April 18, 2016.
- 9.02 District Budget Vote – May 17, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at JSHS.
- 9.03 Optical Scanner Machine – Budget Vote – District Clerk Bonnie Robertson presented the Board with a cost breakdown of lever machines vs. optical scanner use for the upcoming budget vote. The county District Clerks met with representatives from the SC Board of Elections regarding procedures. The Board agreed to use the optical scanner for the upcoming vote.

****Made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by A. Laput to approve the use of the optical scanner machine for Eldred Central School voting purposes and to allow the Superintendent to sign the corresponding MOU with the Sullivan County Board of Elections.**

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

Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

- 9.04 Gas Compressor Station – Millennium Pipeline
Community member and President of the Excelsior Hunting Club Allan Schadt referenced a letter presented to the Board asking for support in the opposition to the proposed compressor station in the Town of Highland. He informed the Board that all area towns have proposed resolutions in opposition

and asked the Board of Education to join in proposing a resolution as well. After much discussion, it was agreed that the District would support the following motion:

****Made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by A. Laput authorizing the Superintendent to direct the District's attorney to contact the attorney for the Town of Highland, to prepare a Resolution for the Board in support of the opposition to the Millennium Pipeline Gas Compressor proposed for construction in the Town of Highland.**

**Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.**

9.05 B. Siegel requested the Board of Education to speak to the issue of Board of Education communications done in private vs. public. This discussion was directed to be done in Executive Session by the Board President on recommendation of the District's attorney.

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. to discuss a specific legal matter was made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by Siegel.

**Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.**

Motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:03 p.m. was made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by B. Siegel.

**Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.**

B. Siegel requested that the Board arrange for a workshop for the Board to establish goals, define roles and responsibilities, define Open Meeting Law, and how the Board should handle individual views vs. collective views to the public.

**** Made on motion by B. Siegel and seconded by C. Bliefernich for approval to arrange a Board of Education Workshop to define goals, perspectives, parliamentary procedure, and roles and responsibilities.**

**Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.**

10. PUBLIC COMMENT.

A. CARMECI: Thanked the Board again for the support of the local Veterans.

B. DEYERMOND: Stated she had done much research on the need for more exercise during the school day for students and wanted to be sure that an adequate amount was incorporated into the daily routine in the District. Stated there are many ways to incorporate movement into the day – exercise bikes, physio-balls, and standing desks.

R. DUFOUR: Stated he had read many of the same research articles and has shared this information with the scheduling committee at GRM. Have OT room at GRM available for student use.

B. SIEGEL: Agreed with Ms. Deyermond and stated that our Wellness Policy should reflect this thought process. The upcoming meeting of the Wellness Committee should focus on policy revision.

C. BLIEFERNICH: Stated there has been much research on staff development concerning active learning “on your feet” for some students who cannot remain at a desk for an extended period of time.

J. DUTCHER: Believes active movement incorporated into a student’s day could increase test scores, self-esteem, and creativity. Incorporates movement into her classroom with amazing results.

B. SIEGEL: Disagreed with C. Bliefernich comment on active learning only during academics – should be incorporated into entire day – much use of unobstructed play.

G. MAJOR: Asked if the District could provide students with more information on the AP Courses vs. College Courses. Suggested bi-weekly assemblies with students to discuss important issues and information incorporated into newsletters for parents.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

11.01 Approval to enter into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. **to discuss a specific personnel matter** was made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by A. Laput.

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

Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

11.02 Approval to adjourn Executive Session at 10:14 p.m. was made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by B. Siegel.

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

Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

12.01 Approval to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. was made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by A. Laput.

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

Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.