

**ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELMIRA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK**

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on March 4, 2026, by President Joseph Sullivan followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present: Christopher Callas, Terry Day, Michael Lepak, Dominic Lucarelli, Joseph Sullivan, Mikki Yesesky

Member Absent: Jordan Elliott (Student)

Others Present: Michael Gill, Martha Clark, Brandon Foley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Agenda – A motion was made by Dominic Lucareli, seconded by Chris Callas, and carried 6-0 to approve the agenda of the March 4, 2026 Board of Education Regular meeting.

Minutes – A motion was made by Terry Day, seconded Chris Callas, and carried 6-0 to approve the minutes of the following Board of Education

Meetings: February 4, 2026 Board of Education Regular Meeting

February 25, 2026 Board of Education Regular Meeting

Order of Business

A motion was made by Dominic Lucarelli, seconded by Mikki Yesesky, and carried 6-0 to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate guests, special discussion topics and presentations in an order of business as deemed appropriate.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

Mike Gill - Superintendent ♦ Board Tour of the new Transportation Facility, thanks to HUNT helping to facilitate that to see the progress. ♦ Last weekend—congrats to wrestlers, Mason Vanderhoff and Greg Golden, making it to States! ♦ NYCOS Winter Institute early this week, best one yet! Hot topics – negotiations, AI, cultural struggles. Some highlights include presenting on the Heights journey with Professional Learning Communities and how that translates to the classrooms. ♦ Reviewed report from Naples school district experience after purchasing an electric bus regarding pros and cons. ♦ Athletic Committee – hot topic was discussing allowing private schools participate in public school sectionals. Not one public school was interested. ♦ Disney’s CAMP Rock this weekend!! Friday 7pm and 2pm on Saturday! ♦ CDC Aviation Day tomorrow.

Brandon Foley – Administrator ♦ Shared pictures from South Regional Bowling extension of Special Olympics for our Special Education students ♦ Shared discoveries from the Science of Reading committee research, working on exposing students to more robust language through Word of the Week, post the word throughout the building. “I Get to Read” promotion ♦ Junior Rotarians running a Book Drive, currently in the collection process. ♦ Statewide BOCES competition with SORA on March 2, GST BOCES got 2nd place in the state. ♦ Half Day tomorrow.

Martha Clark – Business Manager ♦ Save comments for budget presentation.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Terry Day, seconded by Chris Callas, and carried 6-0 to approve the following recommended personnel items F-1 through F-2, and being further resolved that upon receipt of final clearance from the State Education Department, any conditional appointments shall be changed to regular appointments, reflecting the effective date of said Board meeting.

F-1 Resignation/Retirement/Termination:

a. Resignation:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE	notes
1. Bobby Roe	Art Teacher	04/12/26	

b. Retirement:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE	notes
1. Patricia Berman	Elementary Teacher	06/26/26	24 years of service, thanks and best wishes
2. Nancy Monks	Special Ed. Teacher	06/26/26	25 years of service, thanks and best wishes

F-2 Appointments:

a. Probationary Non-Instructional Civil Service Appointment:

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE	SALARY
1. Priscilla Barron	Food Service Helper	03/05/2026	\$16.32/hr (step 1)

b. Coaching:

NAME	POSITION	LEVEL	YEAR	STIPEND
1. Aleksandr Brown	JV Baseball	1	1	\$3196.10

c. 25-26 Athletic Volunteers:

NAME	POSITION:
1. Nicholas Hart	JV Softball

FINANCIAL

G-1 Reports - acknowledged

A motion was made by Dominic Lucarelli, seconded by Mikki Yesesky, and carried 6-0 to acknowledge the following consent financial reports G1a thru G1f.

- a. Budget Status Report as of February 25, 2026
- b. Revenue Status Report as of February 25, 2026
- c. Budget Transfer Report as of February 25, 2026
- d. Treasurer's Report for January 2026
- e. Claims Auditor Report for January 2026
- f. Extra Classroom Report for January 2026

G-2 Uniform Guidance Audit - accepted

A motion was made by Terry Day, seconded by Chris Callas, and carried 6-0 to accept the Uniform Guidance Audit Report on compliance for each major program and on internal control over compliance required by Uniform Guidance for the year ending on June 30, 2025, presented by Insero & Co.

G-3 Correction Action Plan (Uniform Guidance Audit) – accepted

A motion was made by Dominic Lucarelli, seconded by Chris Callas, and carried 6-0 to accept the Corrective Action Plan for the Uniform Guidance Audit Report.

FACILITIES

The updates below were reviewed by Superintendent Gill and Business Manager Martha Clark.

H-1 Capital Project 2025 – Transportation Facility Update – The masonry sub contractor has completed concrete masonry blocks and is now beginning on split face and precast masonry work. Exterior vapor barrier work has been completed with the exception of the exterior soffits. All roofing at the building has been completed with the exception of the bus wash canopies. Work to close the office area walls has begun. In ground bus lift work has been completed and the final slab pour will be completed this week. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing rough in work, in the large work bay and bus wash area, will continue until completion. The next major milestones are completing the mezzanine floor and wall finishes to allow Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing work to continue in these areas. At the Cohen Elementary building elevator work has been completed, inspected and the elevator is currently operational. At the latest final painting on the elevator corridor door frames will be completed over the April recess. Work on the Edison aluminum windows will continue around the building until completion. At this time it is anticipated that window shades arrive for install over the April break for windows that have been replaced. The library has been completed and turned back over to the District for use. The kiln and art storage room will be completed by the end of the month. With the cooperation of the weather site work will begin once again at the garage and continue until all work is completed. Paving operations will not begin until the asphalt plants open in May.

H-2 Capital Outlay 2026 – TAE Classroom renovation – Demolition operations have been completed. New casework and countertops are currently being put into production. It is anticipated that casework is available at the beginning of May for install. Work is continuing on the washer and dryer and oven ventilation. This additional work will be completed under the main capital project.

NEW BUSINESS

J-1 Bus Proposition - approved

A motion was made by Mike Lepak, seconded by Dominic Lucarelli, and carried 6-0 to approve the below resolution calling for a public vote for bus financing to purchase two buses..

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. *The following notice shall be added to the notice of annual meeting and election:*

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following proposition will be submitted for voter approval at such time:

PROPOSITION #2

Shall the following resolution be adopted to wit:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Elmira Heights Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of school buses, including, without limitation, one (1) diesel Type C 65-passenger school bus, at an estimated maximum cost of \$193,275 and one (1) diesel Type C 65-passenger school bus, at an estimated maximum cost of \$187,875, all at an estimated aggregate cost of \$381,150, less trade-in value, if any, and that such cost, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$381,150 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method.

2. *At such meeting taxes to be levied by installments will be proposed for authorized indebtedness providing for payment of the acquisition of school buses at an estimated aggregate maximum cost of not to exceed \$381,150. Such taxes shall be levied upon all the taxable property of the District, shall be levied in annual installments and shall be of such amounts and levied in such years as may be determined by the Board of Education.*

3. *The District Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby directed to add the above to the notice of the annual meeting of the School District.*
4. *This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.*

J-2 CBO Staff Updates

A motion was made by Mikki Yesesky, seconded by Terry Day, and carried 6-0 to update the following Central Business Office (CBO) employees (BOCES) from the Reorganizational Meeting:

School District:	Elmira Heights	<i>Effective: March 1, 2026</i>
<u>Function</u>	<u>CBO Staff Member</u>	<u>Email</u>
Treasurer	Jennifer Morris	JMORRIS@gstboces.org
Dep Treasurer	Mat Bombarger	MBOMBARGER@gstboces.org
Claims Auditor	Laurie Spencer	LASPENCER@gstboces.org
Purchasing Agent	Amy Lorenz	AMLLORENZ@gstboces.org

J-3 Cost Allocation Methodology

A motion was made by Terry Day, seconded by Joe Sullivan, and carried 6-0 approve the Cost Allocation Methodology for COSERS to be offered by the GST BOCES for the 2026-27 school year.

J-4 Superintendent Agreement Amendment

A motion was made by Chris Callas, seconded by Terry Day, and carried 6-0 to approve the 6th amendment to the contract between the Elmira Heights Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, effective March 4, 2026.

J-5 SEQRA

A motion was made by Dominic Lucarelli, seconded by Mike Lepak, and carried 6-0 to approve the resolution designating the Elmira Heights Central School District Board of Education as lead agency for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and Regulations hereby determines that the 2026-27 Capital Outlay Project is a Type II action and not subject to further review under SEQRA.

CONSENT

A motion was made by Chris Callas, seconded by Terry Day, and carried 6-0 to approve the following consent agenda items K-1 through K-6.

K-1 CSE Recommendations – approved

The Board approved the student placement determinations from the of February 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 24, 2026, CSE/504 meeting(s) and the funds to support such recommendations.

K-2 CPSE Recommendations – approved

The Board approved the student placement determinations from the February 12, 2026, CPSE/504 meeting(s) and the funds to support such recommendations.

K-3 Joint Bidding Café Supplies – accepted

The Board approve the attached resolution for participation in the 2026-27 joint bidding of commodities for cafeteria supplies as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, with the Greater Southern Tier BOCES as the lead agency representing us in these matters:

FOR ALL CAFETERIA SUPPLY BIDS

SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027including Milk, Ice Cream and Bread for following year

WHEREAS,

It is a plan of a number of public school districts associated with the Greater Southern Tier (GST) BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly, cafeteria supplies including the following items on or about the following dates:

Meat and Grocery (NOI/FFS*) – May 20, 2026,

Commodity addendum items quarterly- September 9, 2026, November 18, 2026, February 24, 2027

Equipment – February 10, 2027

Produce – Weekly throughout the year

Paper – July 8, 2026, January 13, 2027

Ice Cream – April 28, 2027

Milk – April 28, 2027

Bread – May 26, 2027

WHEREAS,

The School District named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the GST BOCES area in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and outlined in the accompanying memo.

WHEREAS,

The School District named below wishes to appoint a committee made up of participating schools to assume responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding bids to the lowest bidder who meets the specifications, reporting the results to the schools, and where applicable providing the procurement plan for the School Food Authority; therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Board of Education of the School District listed below hereby appoints the GST BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Board of Education of the School District listed below authorizes the above committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Board of Education of the School District listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (3) that it will award contracts according to the recommendation of the committee.

K-4 Health & Welfare/Elmira City- approved

The Board approved the health and welfare services contract with the Elmira City School District, having provided services for twenty-four (24) Elmira Heights students, attending non-public schools located in the Elmira City School District, during the 2025-26 school year, at a rate of \$979.55 per student for a total cost for twenty-four (24) students of \$ 23,509.20.

K-5 Disposition of Asset

The Board approved the disposition of the following asset through Auctions International: Groen Steamer ID tag #20150525 Model # SSB-5G

K-6 Donation – Sports Booster - \$1300

The Board accepted the donation of up to \$1,300.00 from the Elmira Heights All Sports Booster Club to offset the purchase of a new pitching machine for the softball program.

DISCUSSION:

N-1 Polling Hours – District Clerk shared data from local districts polling hours and historical voter numbers by hour for last year and after a brief discussion on the difficulty of finding volunteers and lack of early bird voters, the board agreed that shortening the polling hours makes the most sense, polling hours will be 11am-8pm.

N-2 BOCES Board Member Nominees – District Clerk shared data on qualifications for board members to be nominated for BOCES Board will need nominations at next meeting.

N-3 Proposed 2026-27 School Calendar - Superintendent Gill reviewed the proposed school calendar, noting that conference days will need to be scheduled before Labor Day next year.

N-4 Board Member Yearbook Photo – March 11, 2026 - Going to take group photo for yearbook of the Board at the next meeting.

N-5 2026-27 Preliminary Budget Presentation - Business Manager Martha Clark reviewed preliminary budget projections with questions and answers. Board wants to see what a comparison and gap closure plan between a 2.69% vs 2.0% tax increase.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday	March 11, 2026	Regular BOE Mtg 7:00 pm	Comm Rm
Wednesday	March 25, 2026	Regular BOE Mtg 7:00 pm	Comm Rm

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:51pm a motion was made by Chris Callas, seconded by Terry Day, and carried 6-0 to enter executive session discuss/review individual employment history and evaluations.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:50pm a motion was made by Chris Callas, seconded by Mikki Yesesky, and carried 6-0 to adjourn executive session.

ADJOURNMENT – At 9:51pm motion was made by Dominic Lucarelli, seconded by Terry Day, and carried 6-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk