

FINAL MINUTES
REORGANIZATION MEETING
ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 6, 2022

The Reorganization meeting of the Elmwood Park Board of Education was held on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 5:03 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. DiPaola, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, read the election results for the School Boards Election held on November 2, 2021.

THREE 3-YEAR TERMS:

Karen Pena	1,616
Keith Cannizzo	1,086
George Luke	1,018
Brian Knobloch	996

Mr. DiPaola introduced the Honorable Mayor of Elmwood Park, Robert Colletti.

Mayor Colletti swore in re-elected member of the Elmwood Park Board of Education, Mr. Keith Cannizzo. He spoke of knowing Mr. Cannizzo for over 25 years and thanked him for still serving the town.

The mayor then swore in re-elected member of the Elmwood Park Board of Education, Mr. George Luke. The mayor spoke of knowing Mr. Luke for over 43 years.

Mr. DiPaola introduced Ms. Germaine Ortiz, Bergen County Commissioner to swear in re-elected member of the Elmwood Park Board of Education, Ms. Karen Pena.

Ms. Ortiz spoke of knowing Ms. Pena for over 4 years and how she swore her in for her first term on the Elmwood Park Board of Education. She then congratulated Mr. Cannizzo and Mr. Luke on being re-elected to the board and presented all three re-elected members with accommodation certificates.

Mr. DiPaola congratulated everyone and the meeting was called to order and roll call was taken.

Present were: Mr. Keith Cannizzo, Mr. Douglas DeMatteo, Mrs. Louise Gerardi, Mr. George Luke, Mrs. Elizabeth Mierzejewski, Ms. Carrie Paretto, Ms. Karen Pena and Mr. Daniel Zoltek. Also present were Mr. Anthony Iachetti, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. John DiPaola, Business Administrator / Board Secretary, and Darla Palmesino for the taking of minutes and members of the public..

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

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

Mr. DiPaola, 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. Paretto 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 and Item #10 Annual Code of Ethics presentation and review, were voted on and approved.

At 5:23 the meeting was open for Public Comments.

Ms. Kittaneh and Ms. Dombrowski, EPEA President and Vice-President discussed the following:

- Obstacles teaching during Covid and winter weather
- Climate and morale of the teaching staff

At 5:27 p.m. the meeting was closed to the public and opened for board comments.

Mr. DeMatteo

- Congratulated Mr. Luke, Mr. Cannizzo and Ms. Pena on their re-election to the board.
- Congratulated Mrs. Gerardi and Mrs. Aspras on being voted as the new president and vice-president of the board.

Ms. Paretti

- Congratulated Mr. Luke, Mr. Cannizzo and Ms. Pena on their re-election to the board.
- Congratulated Mrs. Gerardi and Mrs. Aspras on being voted as the new president and vice-president of the board.
- Looking forward to a great year
- Thanked the union members for speaking

Ms. Pena

- Congratulated Mr. Cannizzo and Mr. Luke
- Thanked Ms. Germaine Ortiz, the Bergen County Commissioner for swearing her in
- Looking forward to a great year

Mr. Luke

- Congratulated Mr. Cannizzo and Ms. Pena
- Looking forward to working together to achieve goals

Mr. Zoltek

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting
- Congratulated the re-elected board members
- Looking forward to a successful year

Mrs. Mierzejewski

- Congratulated Mr. Luke, Mr. Cannizzo and Ms. Pena on their re-election to the board.
- Congratulated Mrs. Gerardi and Mrs. Aspras on being voted as the new president and vice-president of the board.
- Looking forward to a great year

Mr. Cannizzo

- Thanked his family for all their support
- Thanked the community for voting him for another term on the board of education
- Progress

Mrs. Gerardi

- Thanked everyone for voting her as President
- Congratulated Mr. Cannizzo, Mr. Luke and Ms. Pena on their re-election
- Thanked the union members for speaking
- Spoke of the great staff
- Progress

At 5:31 p.m. a Motion to adjourn the Reorganization Meeting was made by Mr. Luke 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 6, 2022, 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, appearing to read "John DiPaola", written in a cursive style.

John DiPaola
Business Administrator/Board Secretary



Elmwood Park Board of Education
ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY

AGENDA

REORGANIZATION MEETING

January 6, 2022

THE REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE ELMWOOD PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION IS BEING HELD THIS EVENING AT **5:00 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 2, 2021

THREE 3-YEAR TERMS:

Karen Pena	1,616
Keith Cannizzo	1,086
George Luke	1,018
Brian Knobloch	996

3. ADMINISTERING OF OATHS OF OFFICE

- Elected Board Members - Three 3-year terms
 - Karen Pena
 - Keith Cannizzo
 - George Luke

4. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY BOARD SECRETARY
5. ROLL CALL

Dorin Aspras

Keith Cannizzo
 Douglas DeMatteo
 Louise Gerardi
 George Luke
 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 6, 2022, until the Reorganization Meeting of 2023, pursuant to 18A:15-1.

Motion of: Mr. Cannizzo
 Seconded By: Mr. DeMatteo
 Vote on item #6 President:

	DA	KC	DD	LG	GL	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 6, 2022 until the Reorganization Meeting of 2023, pursuant to 18A:15-1.

Motion of: Ms. Paretti

Seconded By: Mr. DeMatteo

Vote on item #8 Vice President:

	DA	KC	DD	LG	GL	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 7:00 p.m.** in the Memorial High School Media Center, on the dates listed below, or in other locations as announced and posted. ***Due to health and safety issues these meetings may also be held remotely and will be noticed as being remote meetings if need be.***

January 25, 2022	August 23, 2022
February 22, 2022	September 27, 2022
* March 15, 2022	*October 18, 2022
April 26, 2022	November 22, 2022
May 24, 2022	*December 20, 2022
June 28, 2022	

* Third Tuesday of the Month

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

Motion of: Mr. Cannizzo

Seconded By: Ms. Pena

Vote on item #9 Meeting Dates:

	DA	KC	DD	LG	GL	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: Mr. Luke
 Seconded By: Ms. Pena
 Vote on item #10 Code of Ethics:

	DA	KC	DD	LG	GL	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
- 14. ADJOURNMENT

Certified to be true copies of resolutions adopted by the Elmwood Park Board of Education at its meeting held on January 6, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John DiPaola", written in a cursive style.

John DiPaola, Business Administrator/Board Secretary