

**MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINEOLA, NY**

**Workshop Meeting Minutes**

*The Mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is to inspire each student to be a life-long learner, pursue excellence, exhibit strength of character and contribute positively to a global society.*

**Board Goals - 2011-2012**

- ***Educational***
  - *To increase the use of assessment data (NWEA) to inform differentiated instruction thereby increasing individual student achievement*
  - *To continue our growth as professional learning communities focusing on common formative assessments to demonstrate individual student growth*
  - *Re-engage the community in the District's Strategic Plan with a specific focus on the quality indicators that define Mineola's expectations of academic excellence*
  - *Increase opportunities for participation in science and math research at the elementary and middle school levels*
  
- ***Facilities***
  - *Continue projects that incorporate "green" technologies that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels*
  
- ***Finance***
  - *To continue the district initiative to actualize a five year plan to maintain a stable tax levy while minimizing loss of program*

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**DATE: January 5, 2012**

**LOCATION: Willis Ave. School**

**OPEN WORK SESSION      7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Board Room**

**Board of Education**

Christine Napolitano, President  
William Hornberger, Vice President  
John McGrath, Trustee  
Irene Parrino, Trustee  
Terence Hale, Trustee

**Central Office**

Dr. Michael Nagler, Superintendent of Schools  
Jack Waters, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Operations  
Patricia Burns, Asst. Supt. of Curr., Instr., and Assessment  
Andrea Paggi, District Clerk

- A. Call to Order- 7pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reading of Mission- Irene Parrino**
- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**

### **E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

Also in Attendance- Dr. Fleischmann, principal of Willis Avenue; Spanish teachers- Ms. Klein and Mrs. Coppi; Mrs. Levi's Kindergarten class.

### **F. High School Student Organization Report**

There was no high school report this evening.

Ms. Napolitano invited the Superintendent to introduce tonight's special presentation. Dr. Nagler stated that he wanted to give the Board an update on the Spanish program. He felt the best way for this to be done was to invite the teachers and a class to demonstrate what is actually taking place. Dr. Nagler introduced Ms. Klein and Mrs. Coppi. He stated that they were given the task of developing this program to be implemented in kindergarten and first grade. Ms. Klein stated that in the kindergarten the children have Spanish two times per week for forty minute sessions. Ms. Klein explained that the children are being taught basic vocabulary and how to follow directions. Ms. Klein introduced Mrs. Coppi and the students from Mrs. Levi's class. Mrs. Coppi demonstrated how a typical class is conducted; she worked on vocabulary including colors, animals, numbers and shapes. The class also answered questions in Spanish as well as sang songs.

After the demonstration was complete, Ms. Napolitano asked if there is any reinforcement at home. Mrs. Coppi stated that she sends home little books that the children make in class and Ms. Klein stated that there is information on the website. Mr. McGrath asked how long the children have been doing this and he was told since September. Ms. Napolitano gave the public an opportunity to comment. One parent stated that her child does come home and use the vocabulary, but she was very impressed to see how well the children follow directions given to them in Spanish. Another parent commented on how impressed she is that the children are not self-conscious at all when communicating.

The Superintendent congratulated Ms. Klein and Mrs. Coppi on the program that they have put together. Ms. Napolitano thanked the parents for bringing their children for tonight's presentation.

### **G. Old Business**

Ms. Napolitano polled the Board members to ask if there was any old business. Mr. Hale, Ms. Parrino, and Mr. McGrath had no old business. Mr. Hornberger asked the Superintendent for an update on the RFP's for Willis Avenue. The Superintendent stated that an extension was given to three interested parties until January 13th due to the holidays. Hopefully, there will be some preliminary information for the next meeting. Mr. Hornberger asked if the state had issued the regents schedule yet for next year. The Superintendent stated that that information has not yet been given, but the calendar could be voted on at the next meeting and amended as necessary. Mr. Hornberger asked if the Superintendent had received an update from Senator Martins on the reimbursement of \$150,000. The Superintendent stated that the district had submitted all of the necessary documentation and were still awaiting the funds. Mr. Hornberger asked for an update on the Middle School clubs. The Superintendent stated that an advertisement went out district wide and the deadline for interested parties is this Friday. After that if no interest, then they will go out to parents. Mr. Hornberger asked for an update on the teachers' usage of the website; how many have operational pages and have parents voiced any concerns. The Superintendent stated that parents should let building administrators know if there are any problems. Dr. Nagler stated that over the break he checked the website and for the most part the pages were current and there were not many glaring problems. The Superintendent stated that he contacted one teacher over the break to update the page.

### **H. New Business**

There was no new business.

**I. Consensus Agenda**

**RESOLUTION #49a -BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items I.1.a. through I.3.a., as presented.

**Motion:** Terence Hale  
**Second:** John McGrath

**Yes:** Terence Hale  
Irene Parrino  
John McGrath  
William Hornberger  
Christine Napolitano

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

1. **Instruction**

- a. Appointment(S) Sub Teacher per diem  
The Board of Education approves the addition of the following candidates to the Per Diem Substitute Teacher List at a daily rate of pay, \$90.00:

|    | <u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u> | <u>EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION</u> |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Joan M. Carlucci     | Nursery/K/Grades 1-6          |

2. **Civil Service**

- a. Leave(s) of Absence
1. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence for Janette Stoner, Teacher Aide at the High School, effective January 11, 2012 through March 12, 2012, due to surgery.

3. **Business/Finance: Contract Approvals**

Budget Appropriation Adjustment

- a. That the Board of Education approves the acceptance of revenue in the amount of \$2040.00 generated from Instrument Rental receipts and makes appropriation adjustments to the following Budget Code: 2110.416.00.2330.

## **J. Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent presented "Curricula and Scheduling Ideas for 2012- 2013", first draft (the presentation can be found on the website in the Board of Education section). The Superintendent presented the goals for the 2012/13 school year: Maximize instructional time, reduce/eliminate pull outs, increase rigor and exposure to science for all students, strengthen Academically Gifted Program, and continue to bolster technology initiatives. The Superintendent asked why focus on Science? He stated that there is a big push in both national and state agendas for strengthening science. The Superintendent these agendas emphasize STEM- Science Technology Engineering Math and MST- Math Science and Technology. The Superintendent stated that science and math are not given the time that is needed. He stated that according to Commissioner John King, "it is critical for our state's long-term economic success that we have more students prepared to succeed in the STEM subjects".

The Superintendent presented the scheduling ideas for the district. For Pre-K - Grade 2, there will be an hour block for lunch which will incorporate lunch, recess and PE. The Superintendent stated that there will be a five day special rotation( 40 minute period), which will include: Spanish 2times per week, library 1time per week, music 1 time and art 1 time per week. The Superintendent stated that an additional librarian will be hired, so each building will have their own. The librarian will also serve as the media specialist as well. Also, the pilot program "Knowing Science- Kid Knowledge" would be adopted. This is a K- 2 science curriculum that stresses the use of scientific language as children explore content. For Jackson Avenue School, MST- a new "science special" for all students would be created. This would include a science lab experience 1 time per week and we would utilize the reinstated grant money to build a new lab. Specials at Jackson will be on a six day cycle (3x PE, 1x music, 1x art, 1x MST). In Music, the plan would be to expand instrumental instruction for all 3rd graders. Continue the "mass prep" PLC's by grade level with students divided into one of the following: orchestra, band, art and or computers. Also, the lesson rotation will be built into lunch and recess periods (1time per 6 day cycle).

Mr. McGrath asked the Superintendent if instrument study will still be voluntary. The Superintendent stated that the hope is that all children will have an instrument. Mr. McGrath asked why the Superintendent feels that this is important. The Superintendent stated that there are many studies that support the idea that playing instruments increases learning in children. Ms. Parrino asked where library would fall at Jackson. The Superintendent stated that library would take place during the literacy block.

The Superintendent discussed the Middle School schedule. He stated at the middle school they would return to a secondary schedule (10 minute longer day). The day would be divided into an 8 period day with 51 minute periods. There would also be a return of lunch lab duty periods. The Superintendent stated that for the 5th and 6th grades, all classes would have a three period block before lunch and a two period block after lunch. According to the Superintendent, there would be a new method of delivery for the "specials "rotation, which would include PE, music, FCS, art, library and science. There would be an emphasis on science at the middle school. For 5th and 6th grade, each grade will have a science lab experience two times per cycle. In the 7th grade, the plan is to add a lab period attached to science class every other day (similar to the high school). AIS and On-Target would be eliminated. The Superintendent stated that he would like to try to put speech during lunch, in order to eliminate pull-outs. Ms. Napolitano asked about the PE schedule. The Superintendent stated that PE would take place 3 times per cycle( 51 minutes each) which meets the current mandate.

The Superintendent discussed the Academically Gifted Program. He stated that we need to look at what is the purpose of this program, is it an acceleration or an enrichment program. The Superintendent stated that no

school district has a lot of truly AG students. He stated that our current program is really an enrichment program. The Superintendent asked how do you define a gifted child. We use the COGAT score of greater than 130. He stated based on this criteria, we have 24 gifted children. The Superintendent stated that we need to look at why we have an AGP program and how we are running it. We then need to decide is this what we want the program to be.

The Superintendent presented a proposal for a new AGP to be in line with the new configuration. The Superintendent stated that the first step would be to modify the AGP program. We need to establish a new entrance criteria based on the COGAT composite scores. The Superintendent stated that at the Middle School, there would be big changes. The plan would involve accelerating students in science and math. In addition to the current AGP program, the plan would be to create a multigrade class (5,6, and 7) of the top 8 students per grade based on the COGAT scores. The students would have the same teacher for three years. This would be a voluntary program and parents and students must commit for all three years. The Superintendent presented a possible middle school AGP schedule. The Superintendent continued his proposal by presenting the plan for Jackson Avenue. Dr. Nagler stated that the future 4th grade (22 students) would experience a 1/2 day program 1 day per cycle in science lab. The new 3rd grade (to be identified in January) would also have 1/2 day experience in science lab.

The Board asked the Superintendent questions about these proposals. Mr. McGrath asked if students of different grades are merged in the program, will there be a disconnect between the age group? The Superintendent the teacher for this class will have to be very gifted. They must be assessing constantly to test what the children know and what is missing. Mr. McGrath stated that he is curious what teacher can do this. The Superintendent stated that this proposed class is similar to a Montessori model where the teacher designs the work plan and the children do individual work. The teacher must then monitor progress. Mr. McGrath asked how the teacher would monitor for gaps in learning. The Superintendent stated through formal testing, NWEA and Everyday Math year end assessment. Mr. Hale asked for clarification if it is the 5th graders who will be asked to make a three year commitment. The Superintendent stated that would be the plan. Mr. Hale stated that he is very excited about the proposed science program. The Superintendent stated that these proposals will be very messy when they are first rolled out. Ms. Napolitano asked that when a child is tested for AGP with the COGATS in 3rd and 6th grade, would it be possible to test a second time if the child has an off day. The Superintendent stated that in the COGAT testing there is not a lot of wiggle room. Mr. Hornberger asked the Superintendent about the proposed hiring of a librarian. The Superintendent stated that the plan is deliver a budget below the 2% levy cap and maintain all current programs. The board will need to decide if they want to enrich and add a FTE if within the 2%. Mr. Hornberger asked about the type of labs that the younger grades will be exposed to. The Superintendent stated that many will be technology driven, including 3D programs. Some might involve reading in a book followed by a tech piece, which could be done in a technology room. Ms. Napolitano asked if this is similar to other districts. The Superintendent stated that it is done in Syosset and Jericho, but not done in a lot of other districts. Mr. McGrath stated that he would like to know if this proposed program would continue if the budget cannot be kept under the 2% gap. The Superintendent stated that he needs to finalize the schedules and he is looking for feedback from teachers and parents. Mr. Hornberger asked if the bells will be used at the middle school with the proposed eight periods. The Superintendent stated that that decision would be up to the building administrator. Mr. Hornberger stated that he is glad to see art is back in the schedule for all grades. He stated that many parents were upset when art was dropped. Mr. Hornberger stated that he is interested to see how the AGP program will work with three grades together. The Superintendent stated that we need to stop think about "grades", so that we do not stigmatize the children. Ms. Napolitano stated that she is very excited about these ideas and feels that the focus is finally about education. She stated that she understands that there will be kinks that need to be worked out. Ms. Napolitano stated that she wants to be sure that this information gets out to parents. The

Superintendent stated that feels that children will meet any challenge given to them and he also believes that science labs will be mandatory in a few years. He wants to try to keep Mineola ahead of the curve.

The Superintendent stated that he just had a few issues left to mention. Dr. Nagler stated that the Groundbreaking at Hampton took place. In the next week, they will dig, form and pour concrete. This will be monitored by the architect and contractor. The Softball field at the high school is currently at a stand still because there are materials on order. The high school art room plans are finalized and the p.o.'s have been submitted. The Superintendent stated that the strategic planning committee has updated a survey to be sent out. The Superintendent stated that he had an update on the Salvatore case against the Board and the District won in the Appellate court. At the next meeting, the Superintendent stated that there will be a presentation of the concept drawings for Meadow Drive. The Superintendent stated that he was in need of an executive session.

**K. Executive Session Time: 8:35 p.m.**

At 8:35pm, a motion was made for the Board of Education to go into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

**Motion:** John McGrath

**Second:** Terence Hale

**Yes:** Terence Hale

Irene Parrino

John McGrath

William Hornberger

Christine Napolitano

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**L. Adjournment**      **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **p.m.**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**No:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Passed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Paggi