

**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: March 29, 2012**

**LOCATION: Mineola High School**

**OPEN WORK SESSION      7:00 p.m. Multipurpose 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- 7:05pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reading of Mission- Mr. Hale**
- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

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

There was no report tonight.

## **G. Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

## **H. New Business**

Ms. Napolitano asked if there is any new business. Mr. McGrath made an announcement that he has decided to run for re-election as Board Trustee. Mr. McGrath gave a short speech on his record as trustee and stated that this last year has been exciting and looks forward to next year. There was no other new business from the Board.

**RESOLUTION#62** - WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District desires to enter into a lease-purchase agreement for instructional equipment with Apple Inc. for the acquisition of some 500 iPads, in accordance with section 1725-a of the Education Law; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District hereby authorizes and approves the Master Lease Purchase Agreement with Apple Inc. and all Exhibits, Schedules and Addenda thereto ("Agreement"), pursuant to section 1725-a of the Education Law; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon receipt of the Commissioner of Education's written approval of the said lease-purchase agreement, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board and to execute such additional documents required to be delivered in connection with said Agreement.

**Motion:** Terence Hale

**Second:** John McGrath

Discussion: The Superintendent stated that this was discussed at the last meeting and he has received confirmation from Senator Martins that the district will receive a \$50,000 grant to cover this cost. The Superintendent stated that he is very happy to enter this lease now. Ms Parrino asked if this is for iPad or iPad2 and Dr. Nagler responded- iPad 2.

**Yes:** Terence Hale                      **No:** None

Irene Parrino

John McGrath

William Hornberger

Christine Napolitano

**Passed:** Yes

## **I. Consensus Agenda**

**RESOLUTION #63-BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items I.1.a.. through I.2.b.3, as presented.

**Motion:** John McGrath

**Second:** Terence Hale

Discussion: Mr. McGrath stated that he had a question regarding item 2b1 and made a motion at 7:15pm for a very brief executive session to discuss this personnel issue. This motion was second by William Hornberger; all were in agreement. The Board returned at 7:18pm and resumed the meeting. There were no further discussions.

**Yes:** Terence Hale                      **No:** None

Irene Parrino

John McGrath

William Hornberger

Christine Napolitano

**Passed:** Yes

1. **Instruction**

a. Appointments 45 Day Subs

1. The Board of Education approves the appointment of Michelle Topel, to the position of 45 Day Substitute Teacher for Lisa Fiocco, starting approximately 3/30/2012 to on or before June 30, 2012. Salary: \$100 per day for 45 days, Day 46 contract salary BA, Step 1, \$58,123 pro rated.

2. **Civil Service**

a. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Shannon Bradley, to the position of Nurse Sub effective April 2, 2012. Salary will be at a daily rate of \$125.
2. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Karen Obidienzo to the position of Nurse Sub, effective April 2, 2012. Salary will be at a daily rate of \$125.

b. Leave(s) of Absence

1. That the Board of Education approve the paid Medical Leave of Absence to Stephen Graf, 10 Month Bus Driver, effective February 27, 2012. Mr. Graf has not yet been able to return to his position and is under his doctor's care.
2. That the Board of Education approve the paid Medical Leave of Absence for Francisco Espinal, Custodian at the Willis Avenue School, effective March 23, 2012. His return date will be determined by his doctor after his surgery.
3. That the Board of Education approve the paid Medical Leave of Absence due to family illness to Ronald Pierrot, Bus Driver, effective April 16, 2012 through April 27, 2012.

## J. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent stated that at the beginning of the year the Building Principals reported on NWEA and are back tonight to give their follow-up reports. The first speaker is Ms. Molloy, Jackson Avenue, who will discuss NWEA winter scores in reading. Ms. Molloy reported that there was progress made in children's scores who were above the norm. She also reported that after the fall testing, there were several improvement strategies that were put in place at Jackson Ave.: Focus on ELA/Literacy Common Core Shifts; before and after school program for "cusp" students; and professional development. Ms. Molloy stated that there was also a shared leadership, in which strong teachers helped her to move other teachers forward. Ms. Molloy discussed the effectiveness of these strategies, focusing on the before and after school program. In the 2nd grade, struggling students showed progress; in the 3rd grade students almost caught up to the norm; and in the 4th grade, they need to continue to work on growth of the students. Ms. Napolitano asked who these programs were extended to and Ms. Molloy replied students who were -10 below the norm and by teacher recommendation. Ms. Napolitano asked if the program was voluntary and Ms. Molloy stated that it was voluntary, parents were asked and attendance was excellent. Mr. McGrath asked how ESL students perform. Ms. Molloy stated that the teachers looked at all the kids as the same. Mr. McGrath and Mr. Hornberger would like to see the ELA and math breakout of ESL students. Ms. Molloy reported that the Spring Action Plan for Jackson Ave. is as follows: ELA Common Core Shifts; Math Common Core Shifts; Compass Learning and Building Capacity. She added that the teachers want to continue the before/after school programs.

The next presenter was Mrs. Shaw, principal of Meadow Drive School. Mrs. Shaw reported that it was found that students who had really high scores did not show a lot of growth and students with really low scores showed growth but were still below the norm. They had to look at each child and determine what realistic growth for each child is. Mr. McGrath asked why the growth of very high children is small. Mrs. Shaw stated chances are that questions that came up are well above their level. The Superintendent stated that NWEA sets a start point for each child and differentiates for each child. Mrs. Shaw discussed the Action Plan for reading at Meadow Drive. For grades 1 & 2: differentiate classwork and homework, reassess children regularly, for higher level children- literary circles, create assessments and purchase more non-fiction materials. For grade 4: team meetings; more writing assessments by students for non-fiction; Wilson program (AIS). There was an afterschool program which children were invited to attend and approximately 2/3 accepted. The attendance was sporadic. Mrs. Shaw stated that all grades have double reading groups. She stated that the goal is for all children to show growth and they are looking at why progress wasn't made and what can be done about it. Mr. Hornberger asked if grades 1 & 2 were offered the after school program and Mrs. Shaw responded that they were not due to lack of response.

The next presenter was Devra Smalls, principal of Hampton Street. Ms. Smalls presented the numbers for the students and stated that for the spring target scores- 1/4 of the students have already met their target. Ms. Smalls stated that the staff will continue on engaging students in their learning. She stated that some of the most dramatic growth was with the students who were struggling. According to Ms. Smalls group reading has made a difference in the students' performance; 85 children were seen in more than 1 group- 1 guided reading group and /or a small reading group. Ms. Small discussed Hampton's plans for adjusting. She stated the plans include the following: regrouping the children; re-assess the use of the literacy coach; new after-school groups; IST/CSE to discuss students' individual action plans.

The final presenter was Mr. Barth, Middle School principal. According to Mr. Barth, the 5th grade showed and increase in reading scores; the 6th grade showed good growth; but the 7th grade did not perform as well as the other groups. The students were offered extra learning programs- after school learning. Mr. Barth reported the results of the students that attended this program for each grade level. Also, it was reported by Mr. Barth that for on-target and AIS class skills, the students were group according to RIT bands. Mr. Barth stated that NWEA helps staff keep their eye on the prize and helps them to decide how can they change/regroup in order to provide the students with what they need to focus on in order to show growth. Mr. Hornberger asked when are the extra learning classes offered. Mr. Barth stated that the classes are 2 days per

week after school and they have also added Saturday sessions. Mr. Barth stated that they do not want the classes to be too big. Ms. Hochhauser added that there are 65 children on Saturday mornings. Mr. Barth stated that the following action steps are being taken at the middle school: focus on what needs to be done to help each child be successful and stressed the importance of the relationship with the parents, in making this successful. Mr. Hornberger expressed his concern with the lack of growth in Math for students in 5th and 7th grades. Mr. Barth stated that he is not sure why there is a decrease for these children. He added that some children have trouble with math facts. But he assured Mr. Hornberger that the Middle School staff is working diligently to help the children succeed.

In Dr. Fleishmann's absence, the Superintendent presented the kindergarten scores and reported that the children's scores appeared to clump around the norm RIT scores. He also added that April 17 is the start of the State Exams and the children will be asked to sit for 90 minutes and 1/2 of the questions will not count. The Superintendent stated that he does not think this is fair to the children and he stated that we need to decide where we are focusing- on the NWEA or the state exams.

The next presentation this evening is "Building Addition to Hampton Street School- Construction Progress". The Superintendent showed pictures of the construction that has been completed at Hampton until this point. According to the Superintendent, the project is progressing very nicely and the steel is ahead of schedule. He hopes that all of the roofs will be completed by the April break and he is very happy with the progress.

The Superintendent's next presentation is "Site Work and New Bus Loop at Jackson Avenue. The Superintendent reported that after the last meeting the following concerns regarding the bus loop were raised: price, blacktop space, Barnett scenario and the loss of green space. Dr. Nagler stated that we must look at the needs of the building. The dismissing of student needs to be safe and quick. He added that what is currently being done is not good. According to the Superintendent, next year- 75% of children will be eligible for the bus and this year- 90% of the children eligible, ride the bus daily. Dr. Nagler went through the different scenarios for Jackson Avenue. Option 1A- Dr. Nagler stated people questioned why bring the buses around the back. He explained that this provides us with 3 access points to dismiss, which cannot be mimicked on the street. There would be a minimal distance to the buses. The arrival would remain the same. The loop would cost \$25,578. Option 1B would address the problem of the walkers in front of Jackson. Buses would exit onto Marcellus, they would lose the garage structure and it preserves the corner where the crossing guard is stationed. The loop would cost \$48,012. Option 2 is the Barnett option and the final option involves the change of parking spots and the cost is \$77,000. The Superintendent stated that it doesn't need to be decided tonight, but if it is a possibility that the work will take place then money needs to be moved into the budget. If the money is not used then it can be rolled back into undesignated funds. Dr. Nagler stated that another concern is the windows at Jackson Avenue and added that we have started to save the money in capitol reserves and it will take 2-3 years. The Superintendent stated that he believes the bus loop is a safety issue. He feels that right now there is a lot of traffic at Chaminade and to change the street direction will cause more problems. He does not feel that this will solve the problem and added that the Village will take into account Chaminade parking if changing the direction of the street. Ms. Napolitano added that changing the direction would be forcing all of the traffic into an already saturated area. Ms. Napolitano opened the floor to public comments.

Public Comments: Ms. Ramos, parent- thanked the board for listening to community concerns and for presenting alternate options. She stated that she has many concerns with bringing the buses through the back of the school. Dawn Cox, Jackson parent, stated that by 3:20, the Chaminade traffic is gone and thinks that changing directions of the street is the best idea. She also is afraid of the loss of green space if these projects are done. Ms. Connelly, parent, asked for clarification of where walkers would come out and also how long buses can idle. It was stated that there is a law that buses can only idle for 3 minutes. Nicole Metzler asked if the school hours will be changing and was told that they would be. Another parent asked if the flag pole at Jackson remains as is in all scenarios and was told it would not move. Ms. Napolitano stated that the district tries to keep green space whenever possible but safety is always the priority. The Superintendent asked Bill

Gilberg, transportation, to give us an idea of how long dismissal takes at the schools. Mr. Gilberg stated that Jackson currently takes 7-10 minutes to load and dismiss, the high school takes 4-5 minutes to dismiss and at the middle school, 7 buses on Garfield, takes approximately 2 minutes because the buses are waiting.

Dr. Nagler stated that the starting times will change next year and he spoke with Mr. Gilberg for his recommendations. The times will be as follows: high school remains the same 7:26, middle school - 7:49am, Meadow Drive- 8:12am, Hampton Street- 8:42 am and Jackson Avenue- 8:50 am. Dr. Nagler stated that this will be done more formally at the next meeting. The Superintendent stated that he totally enjoyed "13" the kids and the production was great. He stated that Compass Learning is rolling out at Jackson and believes that this is the wave of the future. It is better for kids and it differentiates their homework. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and Passover. He stated that he was in need of an executive session.

**K. Executive Session Time: 10:25 p.m.**

At 10:25 pm, 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:** William Hornberger  
**Second:** Terence Hale

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** None

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

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

**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**No:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Passed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi