

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

Business 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 – 2009-2010

- **Educational**
 - *To further expand the district initiative of differentiated instruction specifically denoting how schools plan to move student achievement from level to level as well as preventing student regression within and between levels.*
 - *To continue to develop our relationship with Winthrop Hospital to develop a career academy at the HS for students pursuing potential post HS opportunities.*
 - *To establish guidelines for the health and wellness of our children that encompasses curriculum, food program(s) and safety policies.*
- **Facilities**
 - *To investigate and embrace projects that incorporate ‘green’ technologies that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels.*
- **Finance**
 - *To create a five year financial landscape that captures status quo and tax levy projections. Those projections will then be articulated to the community in order to open a dialogue about the future of Mineola.*

DATE: May 20, 2010

LOCATION: Willis Avenue School

EXECUTIVE SESSION
OPEN BUSINESS MEETING

6:00 p.m. – Board Room
7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Staff Lounge

Board of Education

William Hornberger, President
Terence Hale, Vice President
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Christine Napolitano

Central Office

Dr. Michael Nagler, Superintendent of Schools
Sherri Goffman, Deputy Superintendent
John Waters, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Oper.
Janice Patterson, Asst. Supt. for Pupil Pers. Services
Donna Martillo, District Clerk

A. Call to Order

At 7:03 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Hornberger.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission – Michael Nagler

- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

Also present: Jacob S. Feldman, Esq., District's Legal Counsel; and newly elected Board Member, Irene Parrino replacing Ms. Salvatore.

- F. High School Student Organization Report**

The High School Student Organization representatives reported on the following: AP weeks are over; review sessions for Regents; High School picnic; Senior Boat Trip, Prom, Spring sports season is ending; and presented next year's slate of High School Officers.

- G. Old Business**

Mr. Hornberger inquired about the Internal Auditors furnishing the district with payroll procedures. The Superintendent of Schools asked Mr. Waters to respond. Mr. Waters stated that he was expecting to meet with them sometime next week and receive the follow-up procedures to resolve issues.

- H. New Business**

- 1. Tax Anticipation Note (TANS)**

RESOLUTION #74 - BE IT RESOLVED that the Mineola Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York as follows:

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION OF MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED MAY 20, 2010, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$17,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF TAXES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011 RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called "Notes") of Mineola Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York (herein called "District"), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$17,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law").

Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

- (a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, and the

proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.

- (b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.
- (c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.
- (d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute arbitrage certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: Terence Hale

Discussion: None

Yes: Christine Napolitano
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Terence Hale
William Hornberger

No: None

Passed: Yes

2. MSG Varsity Network Outreach Agreement

RESOLUTION #75 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education believes it to be in the best interest of the District and the school community to participate in the MSG Varsity Network Outreach program and to enter into an agreement with MSG Varsity for the production and broadcasting of high school activities and achievements on the MSG Varsity Network, it hereby approves and authorizes the annexed School Registration and Participation Agreement Form between the District and MSG Varsity Network LLC, dated as of May 20, 2010, in connection therewith; and be it further **RESOLVED** that the Board hereby authorizes William Hornberger to execute said Agreement on behalf of the District.

Motion: Laraine Salvatore
Second: Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Mr. McGrath inquired if the contract has been reviewed by District’s Counsel. The Superintendent of Schools responded, yes. The Superintendent of Schools stated that it will be overseen by Mr. Amitrano and Mr. Maurer. He also stated that as a result of the agreement two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Mr. Hale inquired about taking students pictures without consent. The Superintendent of Schools responded that there is an option for parents to opt out. Ms. Napolitano inquired who would be liable if the equipment were damaged. The Superintendent of Schools responded that MSG will replace it. Funds will be given to the district to purchase equipment. Mr. Hornberger inquired if the district would still be eligible to receive the extra funds for approving the contract. The Superintendent of Schools responded he thinks they will honor it.

Yes: Christine Napolitano
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Terence Hale
William Hornberger
No: None

Passed: Yes

3. Appointment of Legal Counsel

RESOLUTION #76 - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District hereby appoints the law firm of Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP, to serve as special counsel in defending the Board and the District’s interests in the matter of Salvatore v. Mineola, index number 10-008368, and that the firm take such steps as are necessary to represent the district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Shaw, Perelson is retained for this matter at the hourly rate of \$190.00.

Motion: Terence Hale
Second: John McGrath

Discussion: The Superintendent of Schools stated that the district has already appointed this firm, the resolution is being revised.

Ms. Salvatore interjected that her name was misspelled on the April 22nd Agenda regarding Resolution #71. It was noted and will be corrected.

Yes: Christine Napolitano
John McGrath
Terence Hale
William Hornberger

No: None

Abstain: Laraine Salvatore

Passed: Yes

I. Consensus Agenda

1. Accepting of Minutes

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of April 8, 2010 (Workshop); April 20, 2010 (BOCES/Business); April 22, 2010 (Special Meetings, as presented.

2. Instruction

a. Resignation(s)/Leave of Absence(s)

1. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Anastasia Panouis, Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective April 22, 2010.
2. That the Board of Education grants a request to Elizabeth Turner, for an extension to her unpaid leave of absence, starting September 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011.

b. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Meredith Coman, to the position of Permanent Substitute Teacher, effective May 1, 2010 to May 28, 2010; salary, \$100.00 per diem.

2.1. Instruction: Committee on Special Education Actions

a. Instruction: Committee on Special Education Actions

1. That the Board of Education approves the CSE/CPSE/SCSE recommendations for programs and services for students with IEPs for the time period from March 11, 2010 to April 16, 2010 as set forth in Confidential Attachment "A".

2.2. Instruction: Contracted Instructional Services

2.3. Instruction: Student Actions

a. Field Trip(s)

1. That the Board of Education approves the following overnight field trips to:
 - Marching Band Championships, Syracuse, NY, Saturday, October 30-31, 2010. No school missed;
 - Meadow Drive 5th graders to Taconic Outdoor Education Center, Cold Spring, NY October 27-29, 2010.

2.4. Instruction: Other

3. Civil Service

a. Resignation(s)/Leave of Absence(s)

None

b. Appointments

None

4. Business/Finance

a. Treasurer's Report

1. That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2010 and directed that it be placed on file.

b. Approval of Invoices and Payroll

1. That the Board of Education approves the Invoices and Payroll for the period ending April 30, 2010.

Warrant #19	\$1,396,963.08
Warrant #20	\$ 313,779.75
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,710,742.83

PAYROLL #19 & #20

General	\$4,074,749.14
Fund F	\$ 76,148.29
TOTAL PAYROLL	\$4,150,897.43

c. Budget Transfer

1. That the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Terence Hale
William Hornberger

Passed: Yes

J. Public Comments

Mr. Hornberger requested that the public use the podium, state their name and address, and limit their questions to one so everyone has an opportunity. The public comments were as follows:

- ❖ A resident inquired as to the results of the exit poll taken at the May 18th Annual Election and Budget Vote. The Superintendent of Schools stated that an analysis will be presented during the Superintendent's Report. The resident inquired if the public will have an opportunity to address it later and was the Board reconsidering only closing one school. Mr. Hornberger responded that the Board has not had any internal discussions yet.

K. Board of Education Reports

- Comments from Board President

Mr. Hornberger thanked everyone who came out and voted on the budget and other propositions. The Board appreciates the support. He also thanked the High School students who participated in the exit poll survey.

The Superintendent of Schools requested a resolution regarding re-numerating the volunteers. Mr. Hornberger inquired of legal counsel if this was appropriate. Legal Counsel suggested a thank you letter from the Board. Anything further needs discussion.

- Board Committee Report
- Superintendent of Schools' Reports & Comments

The Superintendent of Schools explained student volunteers from the High School conducting the exit poll survey were there until 9:00 p.m., and was appreciative that they took on the task. The student President was incredibly involved organizing the students, creating a database to input the responses and do an analysis in time for this evening's meeting. The Superintendent of Schools referred to this young man (Matthew Yarri) as a consultant. The Superintendent of Schools introduced Mr. Yarri and stated that he has been accepted to Harvard. Mr. Yarri reported the results of the exit poll survey as follows: students located at all 4 polling places for the entire day; received 993 surveys out of 2400 voters; stated it was not a proof survey and there was a margin of error; Meadow Drive collected the most surveys; difficult to get everyone to participant during high voter turnout hours; complaints were raised regarding the survey (wording, questions, too confusing, lacking information, questions about specific configuration); demographics of school-age children; supporting a bond; discussion regarding survey questions; maintaining a low tax levy;

should Willis be utilized regardless of whatever configuration is decided on; not able to quantify public comments; people who voted no were not comfortable with survey.

At 7:37 p.m. a brief recess was in order to access the computer file.

At 7:41 p.m. the meeting was back in order.

Mr. Yarri continued: breakdown of survey participants (1/2 had kids in the district, and 75 people had students in private school); ranking of questions; results were weighted in order to quantify the importance of the issue; highest most important issue, 5th and 8th graders to remain in Middle and High Schools, followed by the tax levy; clustering issue of 3 schools before Middle School had the largest percentage saying no; clustering with a bond (2 schools before the Middle School) the majority said no; 50% said they would support a bond; clustering by location (disparity depending on where the survey was collected); voters who wanted to maintain the system, 50% said they would support a bond; constant sentiment throughout all buildings was those with children would support a bond and those without would not; specific proposals, no preference option was left blank in most surveys (30%) a significant number; Willis Avenue, should it be utilized, most people said yes; everyone liked a 2.5% tax levy; even split on bond vote data; some voters were in a hurry and did not participate, some were not happy with survey, and too crowded at one point at Jackson to get to everyone; people filled them out individually, and there were some that tore it up.

Mr. Hornberger now opened this discussion to the public if they had any comments or questions.

- ❖ A resident inquired about the non-determination of the clustering questions for 3 buildings or 2. The Superintendent of Schools responded that a preference was for a 2 building cluster than a 3 building.
- ❖ A resident inquired as to how the Board will use this data. Mr. Hornberger responded that the Board has not yet discussed the data. He personally feels there is value in the survey.
- ❖ A resident inquired if language was a problem. Mr. Yarri responded he will ask the other poll takers, but said only 1 or 2.
- ❖ A resident suggested making an interpreter available and inquired if Willis was an appropriate building or too juvenile for 1st and 2nd graders to attend there.
- ❖ A resident requested if the majority of voters were against 5th and 8th graders moving to the Middle and High Schools was an implication to keep neighborhood schools or keep one school. The resident then asked if the Board was considering 1st grade through 5th grade together. Mr. Hornberger requested clarification to the question, if the resident meant regardless of 5th and 8th grades moving the Board should only close 1 building. Mr. McGrath asked if the resident was asking for no schools to close. The Superintendent of Schools responded, looking at the survey we are asking the question that is most asked of the Board; 5th and 8th grades are only a piece, as is Willis. The survey is to get answers to the issue. The resident thanked the student volunteers for conducting the survey.
- ❖ A resident stated he was not sure what was meant by a 2 building cluster. Mr. Hornberger explained a 2 buildings cluster (Students attending to a large enough facility prior to attending the Middle School). Mr. Hornberger also stated that the

High School students did a great job on the survey and thanked them. The resident inquired if this survey would be used in conjunction with the last one sent out a few years ago. Mr. Hornberger responded that all information and feedback from the exit poll and past survey are useful.

- ❖ A resident commented that not many people will support a bond, but he would because he is informed by coming to the meetings. The resident is against school closings and feels a compromise should be reached. A bond would need to be communicated more.
- Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent of Schools shared some of his observations: the data tells them that they must attempt to present a bond; how will the transition occur with the configuration of Pre-K – 2, 3-4, and 5-7; if a 3-5 roll out and bond fails, they will have to fall back to the other configuration; possibility of an October or November bond vote. Mr. Hornberger stated that the Triple C Committee supported both options. If a bond is not successful the district would fall back to the configuration of 3-4 and 5th grade to the Middle School. The community is in favor of a 3-4 grade cluster as well as leaving 5 to 8 alone. They need to look at more pressing issues and move in that direction.

The Superintendent of Schools thanked the community for supporting the budget and their message to the Board of Education regarding the survey.

The Superintendent of Schools informed everyone in the passing of a High School student last evening. Prayers and thoughts go out to the family, and the High School staff is helping with the grieving process. The young man had siblings attending one of the district's elementary school.

The Superintendent of Schools reminded everyone that May 28th will be a full day of school, the last day taken back as a result of snow days.

The Superintendent of Schools reported that he had met with the Chamber of Commerce and they conveyed to him that they were appreciative of the schools, but felt residents didn't frequent local stores other than food establishments, and that they are not supported by the community.

- Capital Updates
- Table Reports
 - Finance and Operations Report
 - Monthly Financial Report
 - Building & Grounds Report
 - Building Usage
 - Vandalism
 - Work order status
 - Transportation Report
- Special Reports
 - *Public Questions - Board Committee Reports; Student Organization Report; Superintendent's Report; Table Reports (All Finance & Operation Functions); and Special Report

The Superintendent of Schools expressed a need for an executive session.

Mr. McGrath thanked the Superintendent of Schools, Administration, and District Clerk for their work on the Annual Election and Budget Vote.

L. Executive Session

At 8:21 p.m. 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: Laraine Salvatore

Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Christine Napolitano
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Terence Hale
William Hornberger

No: None

Passed: Yes

At 10:00 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

M. Adjournment

At 10:00 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: William Hornberger

Yes: Christine Napolitano
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Terence Hale
William Hornberger

No: None

Passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Martillo
District Clerk