

**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 - 2014-2015**

**Educational**

- To continue to align curriculum that assesses specific Common Core standards. These data must track individual student growth in the standards.
- Develop and implement a four-year plan to align High School coursework and partnerships in specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) strands.
- Explore partnerships with local universities to offer certificate programs to our students during his/her senior year.
- Continue to develop and encourage students to engage in college level coursework
- Continue to assess the District's Strategic Objectives and report on progress toward those objectives

**Facilities**

- Explore the feasibility of green technologies as part of the projects associated with our Capital reserve expenditures

**Finance**

- Not to exceed the allowable tax levy cap while continuing to maintain and enhance all of our programs.

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**DATE: December 11, 2014**

**LOCATION: Willis Avenue School**

**OPEN WORK SESSION**

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

**Board of Education**

Arthur Barnett, President  
Christine Napolitano, Vice President  
Patricia Navarra  
Nicole Matzer  
Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion

**Central Office**

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

**A. Call to Order-7:00pm**

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Reading of Mission- Margaret Ballantyne**

**D. Moment of Silent Meditation**

**E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

Absent: Patricia Burns

**F. High School Student Organization Report**

There was no Student Organization Report tonight.

**G. BOE Reports**

**a. Comments from Board Trustees**

Margaret Ballantyne stated that she is proud of the successes of students during 2014. Dr. Ballantyne is looking forward to all of the events and festivities over the next few weeks. She wishes everyone Happy Holidays.

Nicole Matzer reported that this is her favorite time of year and she has already attended some of the concerts. Ms. Matzer stated that "Fools" was hilarious. Ms. Matzer had the opportunity to tour all of the buildings, except the High School, with Dr. Nagler. She enjoyed being able to see the students' learning in action. While at the Middle School, the Art Club students were selling bracelets made with the 3D printer. Ms. Matzer purchased one that turns pink in the sun and is hoping to see the sun soon to test it out. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Patricia Navarra stated that she was happy to see Mr. Owens here tonight. She encouraged everyone to bring their neighbors, who don't have children in the District, to see some of the concerts. She wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Christine Napolitano enjoyed the production of "Fools". Ms. Napolitano stated that this is a great time of year and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**b. Comments from Board President**

Mr. Barnett stated that he attended the Portuguese Cultural Society Party; there was great food and it was an enjoyable party. He sends his thanks to Cena Palumbo for the wonderful job that she does. Artie enjoys all of the concerts and is especially looking forward to the 4th grade concert which is always his favorite. He stated that "Fools" was great. Mr. Barnett reported that winter sports and winter guard is underway. He added that hopefully there will be no snow this winter. Finally, Mr. Barnett wished everyone Happy Holidays.

### **c. Comments from Superintendent**

The Superintendent stated that this meeting was streaming live for the first time if everything was done correctly. He explained the new system in place and stated that this is much more professional than what was previously in place. Dr. Nagler shared a letter that he received from community members, who no longer have school aged children, and attended the recent production of "Fools". They expressed how much they enjoyed the show. Dr. Nagler reported that it is concert season and he truly enjoys attending them. He said the 9th and 10 grade concert was great on Tuesday and he congratulated Mr. Ratner on his hard work. Dr. Nagler listed that the next concerts will take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Monday. He will be attending the Septa Holiday party on Saturday. It was reported that he and Dr. Smith met with staff at Queensboro regarding two projects. The first project involves helping current seniors be more prepared for college. The second is a partnership to begin with next year's 9th graders. Students would begin college level work in 10th grade, earning credits towards an associates degree. They have had success with a program called B-tech and we need to determine the discipline to focus on. Students would graduate with one year of credits towards their associates and would enroll at Queensboro after graduation to complete their degree. Dr. Nagler expects to have more information and a presentation for the Board in January. Dr. Nagler, Mr. Gavin, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Mercaldi and Ms. Maichin presented at BOCES- Digital Age Teacher Forum. They showcased their work with School for 1 and portfolios to show growth in the standards. Their colleagues are very interested because most other school districts are starting this in their high schools. Dr. Nagler expects to have visitors to Jackson Avenue. The Superintendent acknowledged two students in Mr. Interrante's AGP class, who both have had their entries to Epic Story Board aired on the Discovery Ed channel. He added that there are many other entries by the rest of the students and hopefully they will also be aired. Finally, Dr. Nagler thanked the Board for allowing Mineola to host the First Lego League qualifying tournament on January 31st, which is an all day event and the Mineola Middle School team will participate. Mineola is also hosting the Junior First Lego League on February 28th and there are four teams from Jackson Avenue participating. Dr. Nagler is really looking forward to these events and also stated that he coaches his son's team.

### **H. Old Business**

Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there was any old business. Ms. Napolitano stated that she needed to address an issue that recently came up at a Village Meeting. Ms. Napolitano stated that at the Board of Education Meeting on November 6th, the Board passed the Veteran's Exemption. At that time, Mr. Barnett related a story from his experience with the Fire Department, in which he questioned probies whether their father was an ex-cop, on the job or a veteran. He stated if they said veteran, then he knew there would be no problems. Ms. Napolitano stated that at a recent Village Meeting, Denis Walsh repeated this story, out of context, and made it into a personal attack against Mr. Barnett. He was portrayed as a "cop hater". Ms. Napolitano feels that Mr. Walsh was unprofessional and reported that between the Board members they have a total of 22 relatives who are in law enforcement. If the Board had felt that Mr. Barnett was being disrespectful, they would have stopped him at that point. Mayor Strauss had agreed with Mr. Walsh, although he knows Mr. Barnett and had worked with him. She feels that it is disgraceful that they did this as it has nothing to do with the disagreements over the PILOTs. This was a personal attack and an all time low. Ms. Napolitano stated that the real losers in this are the members of the community and it needs to stop. There were no additional comments.

## **I. New Business**

### **Accept donation**

**RESOLUTION # 24- BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the donation of \$2000.00 from Bolla/ ExxonMobil to the Mineola Middle School Math and Science program and makes an appropriation increase adjustment to Budget code: 2110 500 06 1821.

**Motion:** Nicole Matzer

**Second:** Margaret Ballantyne

Discussion: Mr. Barnett asked the Superintendent for a explanation of this donation. Dr. Nagler stated that this donation was secured by the owner of the new gas station, located by the Middle School, from ExxonMobil. He will be presenting the check at the next PTA meeting in January. There was no additional discussion.

**Yes:** Margaret Ballantyne  
Nicole Matzer  
Patricia Navarra  
Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett

**No:** No

**Passed:** Yes

### **Awarding of Contract**

**RESOLUTION # 25- BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves the award of Contract "H" for HVAC ( Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) for the Hampton Street (SED control # 28-04-10-03-0-003-020) and Meadow Drive (SED control # 28-04-10-03-0-001-013) Project bid opened October 31, 2014 to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, HVAC Inc., for a total contract price of \$1,049,500.00 which includes Alternates HH3 and HM2.

**Motion:** Margaret Ballantyne

**Second:** Patricia Navarra

Discussion: At this point, the Superintendent presented "3.8 million Capital Reserve Project: Estimates and Bids". This can be found under Superintendent's Report. After the presentation, Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there were any questions or discussion. Mr. Barnett asked if starting the HVAC and Electric projects would effect the other jobs. Dr. Nagler stated that at Meadow Drive, it will result in the need for some masonry work, which has been included in the bid. Mr. Barnett also inquired if the architects are working to insure more accurate bids. Dr. Nagler stated that the original estimates were off and now the focus is on doing the job well once. Ms. Napolitano asked for a timeline on the project contracts awarded tonight. Dr. Nagler stated that for the contracts awarded tonight, the work can start after the materials are received which should be by the end of January. The other projects will be rebid at the end of January and awarded in February. Mr. Waters has discussed these dates with the architects and these appear accurate. There were no additional comments and the Board was polled on the Resolution.

**Yes:** Margaret Ballantyne  
Nicole Matzer  
Patricia Navarra  
Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**Awarding of Contract**

**RESOLUTION # 26 - BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves the award of Contract "E" for Electrical upgrades for the Hampton Street (SED control # 28-04-10-03-0-003-020) and Meadow Drive (SED control # 28-04-10-03-0-001-013) Project bid opened October 31, 2014 to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, Palace Electrical Contractors Inc., for the negotiated amount of \$369,000 which includes Alternates EH3 and EM2.

**Motion:** Margaret Ballantyne  
**Second:** Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there were any questions or discussions. Dr. Ballantyne asked for a timeline for the electric work and the Superintendent stated that it is the same as the HVAC project. There was no other discussion.

**Yes:** Margaret Ballantyne  
Nicole Matzer  
Patricia Navarra  
Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

## J. Consensus Agenda

**RESOLUTION # 27 - BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.6.a., as presented.

**Motion:** Patricia Navarra  
**Second:** Christine Napolitano

There was no discussion.

**Yes:** Margaret Ballantyne  
Nicole Matzer  
Patricia Navarra  
Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

### 1. **Accepting of Minutes**

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the November 6, 2014 Workshop Meeting and the November 20, 2014 Business Meeting as presented.

### 2. **Instruction**

- a. **Resignation(s)**
  1. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Kathleen A. Matusiewicz, Permanent Substitute Teacher at Jackson Avenue, effective November 21, 2014.
  2. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Jacqueline D. Siegel, Permanent Substitute Teacher at Meadow Drive, effective November 25, 2014.
- b. **Appointment(S) Sub Teacher per diem**

The Board of Education accepts the following individual(s) as Per Diem Substitute Teacher(s) for the current school year, at a daily rate of \$100.00 per day; and retirees at a daily rate of \$125.00 per day.:

- |    | <b><u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u></b> | <b><u>EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION</u></b> |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Brianna C. Popham           | Physical Education                   |

#### c. **Appointments 45 Day Subs**

1. The Board of Education approves the appointment of Mary Phelan, to the position of 45 Day Substitute Teacher, effective September 18, 2014 to on or before June 30, 2015. Salary: Days 1-20, \$100.00, Days 21-39 \$110.00, Days 40-45 \$120, Day 46 BA, Step 1, \$58,706.

### 3. **Instruction: Contracted**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the Special Education Services contract for a Parentally Place student between the South Huntington UFSD and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.

b. That the Board of Education accepts the IDEA Flow- Through Allocation Contracts between the following list and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 School Year:

1. ACDS
2. Achieve Beyond
3. BOCES
4. Brookville Center for Children's Services, Inc.
5. Center for Developmental Disabilities
6. Developmental Disabilities Institute
7. Henry Viscardi School
8. ICCD- Interdisciplinary School for Child Development
9. Kidz Therapy Services
10. Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf
11. Variey Child Learning Center

c. That the Board of Education approves the Professional Development Services agreement between Eureka Math/Common Core Inc. and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.

4. **Civil Service**

a. **Resignation(s)**

1. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Barbara Nichols, part time Bus Attendant for Transportation, effective November 7, 2014.
2. That the Board of Education accept the resignation of AnnMarie Christy, part time Teacher Aide at the High School, effective November 17, 2014.

b. **Appointments**

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Christina Lingley, to the position of part time Teacher Aide at the High School, effective December 15, 2014. Salary is \$13.74 per hour on Step 1.
2. The Board of Education approves the appointment of Carolyn Lucchesi, to the position of P/T Teacher Aide in the Jackson Avenue cafeteria, effective 12/12/2014. Salary is \$13.74 per hour on Step 1.
3. The Board of Education approves the appointment of Zuzette Gallardo, to the position of P/T Teacher Aide in the Jackson Avenue cafeteria, effective 12/12/2014. Salary is \$13.74 per hour on Step 1.

c. **Leave(s) of Absence**

1. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Alice Ruggiero, part time Teacher Aide at Hampton Street School, due to surgery, effective December 1, 2014.

d. **Resignation(s)**

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation of Gonzalo Gonzalez, for the purpose of retirement, effective November 21, 2014.

5. **Business /Finance**

a. **Treasurer's Report**

1. That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's report for the period ending October 31, 2014 and directs that it be placed on file.

b. **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

That the Board of Education accepts the Invoices and Payroll for the period ending November 30, 2014

A/P Warrant # 9	November 5, 2014	\$ 4,026,594.39
A/P Warrant # 10	November 19, 2014	\$ 442,272.99

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 4,468,867.38**

PAYROLL # 9 & # 10

General	\$ 4,031,751.63
F Fund	\$ 49,851.27

**TOTAL PAYROLL \$4,081,602.90**

c. **Budget Appropriation Adjustment**

1. That the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds, in the amount of \$21,000 from Budget code: 9760 700 00 7399 to Budget code: 2070 400 00 6430 to cover additional costs for curriculum contracts.

6. **Business/Finance: Bids**

a. That the Board of Education approves the awarding of the 5 Year Bus Lease Bid for two buses to TD Equipment Finance, the lowest responsible bidder meeting all specifications.



## **K. Superintendent's Report**

### Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 12/11/14

#### Presentations:

#### 1. STEAM Report- Technology, Engineering and Art

Prior to the vote on Resolution # 25 and 26, the Superintendent presented "**3.8 million Capital Reserve Project: Estimates and Bids**". \*(This presentation is also on the District website, on the Board of Education page.) According to Dr. Nagler, the Capital Reserve Project was bid in four categories: Masonry, Windows, HVAC and Electric. He displayed the estimates, bids and the difference for each. Dr. Nagler reported that the opening bids were way off from the estimate (\$1,256,500).

The Superintendent provided the following analysis:

- Clearly the estimates are/were off and we cannot complete all of the desired work.
- We bid the project by trade inclusive of all seven buildings; hoping for "economy of scale" in pricing
- Masonry- the two lowest bidders withdrew. The estimate low total should come in around \$500,000.
- Windows and Doors- the architect admits a miscalculation in bid numbers.
- HVAC and electric bids are within \$200,000 of the estimate (combined) and are good bids.

The Superintendent gave the following recommendations:

- Award HVAC and Electric bids (\$1,418,500)
- Repackage the bid specs by building
- After rebid, award as many building projects as possible with the remaining \$2,400,000 in the reserve + \$175,000 (in budget)
- All of the projects that are unable to be awarded will be put in the 2015-2016 budget. The savings in TRS should allow us to accomplish this.

#### **STEAM Report**

The Superintendent introduced Ed Escobar, Joe Owens and Jennie Fahey to present "STEAM- Engineering and Art". Mr. Escobar thanked the Board and Dr. Nagler for their vision and resources to continue the initiatives and endeavors that started in September at the High School. He added that he is very happy to have Joe and Jennie as part of his team. They bring youth and new ideas to the table. Mr. Escobar turned the presentation over to Jennie Fahey. \*(This presentation can be found on the district website, on the Board of Education page under presentations.)

Ms. Fahey explained "Engineering"- the students apply what they know to invent, design, build, and/or improve structures, machines, devices, materials and processes. The goal is for students to continue to be exposed to engineering principles and build upon that knowledge. The teachers will continue to incorporate STEAM/Engineering concepts into students' coursework. Finally, students will be able to apply what they are learning to context outside of the classroom.

Ms. Fahey briefly discussed a project at Jackson Avenue, students are constructing devices, snap circuits, which demonstrate how electricity is created and converted from one form to another. Ms. Fahey stated that the Science Labs (grades 3-7) are using the Knowing Science program which has engineering curriculum embedded within. The Knowing Science program is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.

At the Middle School, students in the Engineering and Design Class (previously known as Technology), use

the jigsaw to construct a fully functioning desk clock that demonstrates the creative concepts that go into the building process. Also at the Middle School, students take part in an integrated maglev project. The students design and race vehicles, research and write a paper on maglev transportation and general design principles and practices are emphasized and practiced by the students. Ms. Fahey stated that the future of Engineering at the Middle School includes the following: technology and art will be integrated; learning across disciplines will be seamless; a candy bar project; Maker Space; coding with 5th and 6th grade and a greenhouse project.

Ms. Fahey discussed Engineering at the High School. She presented Technology for 2015-2016 which includes: the option for students to take a Robotics course; the redesigning of Design and Drawing for Production I to include engineering principles and mechanics and the possible creation of an Introduction to Engineering Principles course. In Physics, students work with classmates to design a small car and adapt the car so that it can go the farthest without an engine. In Science 8, Flight and Resistance- students researched on iPads the best design for airplanes and constructed their own to test out in class. All 8th graders complete quarterly STEAM projects in Algebra. In the Library, Maker Space: little bits, legos, erector sets and electronic graveyard and there are monthly challenges to focus Makers. All 9th graders will have Exploring Computer Science. Finally, Ms. Fahey discussed the future of Engineering at the High School. They will work with Business, Technology and Art teachers to create opportunities for students to explore engineering principles; expand the Technology lab; Digital Production class; Music/TV studio; and Maker Space expansion.

Next, Joe Owens presented "Art- Where does it fit?". Mr. Owens stated that Mineola is ahead of the curve with STEAM and other districts are surprised that the arts have been incorporated into this initiative. He reported that curriculum writing took place during the summer of 2014. The Art teachers rewrote the curriculum for grades 3-6. There is an interdisciplinary focus and they collaborated with their colleagues in science. The Art teachers were very happy with this collaborative process. The focus is on artistic skills. Mr. Owens stated that in grade 3, students did scientific drawings of "never discovered" frogs or plants. They then did a sculpture of this new species. Teachers reinforced the science vocabulary as well as introduced artistic vocabulary. Mr. Owens displayed photos of some of the new species sculptures. In 6th grade, students had a brand new project- stable structure, which shows the impact of weight and balance. Students also do a "Flower Painting". Students study plants in nature and create a close up painting of a section of flower/plant. They will use an iPad to work with cropping and composition. Tempera paint will be used to create the painting. Students will also create microscope inspired abstract leaf prints. Mr. Owens displayed photos of the students work. Mr. Owens discussed the 3D Design club at the Middle School, which everyone loves. He mentioned some of the projects including bracelets and clay stamps. Mr. Owens briefly discussed the High School development including the use of new materials and areas for exploration including: AP Art, Digital Artistry, Computer Graphics/Web Design. Mr. Owen had samples of the projects involving glass bottles. This project involved a lot of trial and error. Finally, he displayed a word wall of careers which are influenced by art education. Joe Owens stated that he is very excited to see where all of this is going and thanked the Board.

Mr. Barnett asked if there is time in the schedules of students in the younger grades to fit all of this in. Ms. Fahey stated that she is working with Dr. Smith and Andrew Casale to look at schedules. The Superintendent added that the Candy Bar project is a good example of an interdisciplinary project. Ms. Napolitano thinks that it is good to see students that don't think of themselves as artistic, participating in these projects. Mr. Owens stated that we are building skill to help students get to that point. Ms. Navarra added that we are teaching kids to think on their own and this is all very exciting. Dr. Ballantyne feels that this is giving students the ability to "own" the standards. Mr. Escobar agreed and stated that it ties into college and career readiness and kids enjoy school. Dr. Nagler stated that he enjoys this series of presentations because it shows how we can get students college and career ready. We are helping students to be prepared. He added that Ms. Fahey, Mr. Casale and Ms. Gonzalez just visited a School District in Pittsburgh. One of the things that they looked at was Maker Space, in which students learn through play. Dr. Nagler stated that he wholeheartedly supports

incorporating this concept. The Board and Dr. Nagler thanked Jennie Fahey, Joe Owens and Ed Escobar for the presentation.

### Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent had no additional comments this evening.

### **L. Public Comments**

Mr. Barnett opened the floor to public comments. There was one parent/resident who had comments this evening. She thanked the Board for the STEAM initiative and also voiced her concern regarding the Capital projects. One issue raised was the doors at Jackson Avenue. The Superintendent stated that the safety of the existing doors has been tested, the doors are locked, there is a single point of entry and the outsiders can not get in. Mr. Barnett assured the parent that from a safety standpoint, if there is a safety issue it will be taken care of immediately. There were no other public comments this evening.

The Superintendent stated that he is in need of an Executive Session this evening to discuss negotiations.

### **M. Executive Session Time: 8:20 p.m.**

At 8:20pm, a motion was made for the Board of Education to go into Executive session to discuss negotiations.

**Motion:** Margaret Ballantyne

**Second:** Patricia Navarra

**Yes:** Margaret Ballantyne  
Nicole Matzer  
Patricia Navarra  
Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Andrea M. Paggi**