

**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: January 29, 2015**

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

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

Tonight's SO report was by Felicia Villa and Craig VandeStouwe. A report about the Fine and Performing Arts program at the High School was provided by Felicia. She reported that the 8th and 9th grade spring musical is "Fiddler on the Roof". The 11th and 12th grade will perform "Annie Get Your Gun" on March 27th and 28th. The leads in the play are Melissa Dunlop as Annie Oakley and CJ Asam as Frank Butler. Felicia stated that she is thankful for the Marching Bands new uniforms and stated that they are beautiful. The Marching Band will be performing in Disney during the February break. Jazz Night will take place at the High School on February 11th at 7:00pm. Brian Lewis, the owner of Lewis Music Store, will be working with the students during the day. Brian Lewis and his band, the New Vintage Orchestra, will be performing as well as the Middle School Jazz Band, the High School Band and the High School Jazz Ensemble. The High School will be hosting NYSSMA for performances by the Middle School, High School and other surrounding schools.

Craig reported that the SO 3rd Annual Mustang Olympics will take place in February; the date to be determined. He congratulated the two Intel Semi-finalists from the High School: Monika Dharia and Charlotte Ring. Reggie Carter Night was held at the High School on January 16th and many students, families and community members took part in this annual event. A team of students from the High School will be participating in the Science Bowl on Saturday 1/31. Also, on that day Mineola High School will be hosting the First Lego League Competition. According to Craig, many students were upset with the way in which the midterms were rescheduled due to the snow. It caused a great deal of stress and unhappiness. Craig stated that he would appreciate a rationale for how the rescheduling was done. Dr. Nagler advised Craig to direct those questions to the principal because the exam schedule was completed by the High School administration. Dr. Nagler also noted that this is the first time that Mineola has qualified for the Science Bowl. Craig stated that a five person team, including him would participate at the Cold Spring Harbor Lab. He stated that there was a very small window for registration and a small number of schools are chosen to participate. Dr. Nagler thanked Craig for participating in the Intel competition and representing the High School at the Science Bowl.

Next, Dr. Nagler introduced Mr. DeLuca to discuss the Middle School Drama Production "Bugsy Malone Junior". Mr. DeLuca reported that there is a cast of 145 and a crew of 25 students. He looks forward to performing the show in the brand new auditorium, which turned out beautiful. The performances will take place 2/6 at 7:30pm and 2/7 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. Mr. DeLuca introduced Ann Marie Patalano to perform a song from, "Bugsy Malone Junior". The Board thanked Ann Marie for her performance and Mr. DeLuca for coming this evening.

## **G. BOE Reports**

### **a. Comments from Board Trustees**

Margaret Ballantyne thanked Ms. Burns and Mr. Waters for taking the time recently for meeting with her and answering her questions. Dr. Ballantyne stated that she watched a webinar on Transgender students and stated that it was very informative. She is looking forward to the Lego League competition on Saturday.

Nicole Matzer is excited for the Mustang Stakes and for "Bugsy Malone Junior". She is looking forward to seeing the new auditorium.

Patricia Navarra stated that it was her first day back for classes at Hofstra. She reported that all that is going on at the High School is exactly what is needed for college.

Christine Napolitano is also looking forward to the Mustang Stakes and Bugsy Malone. She also looks forward to hearing how the students perform in the Science Bowl on Saturday.

#### **b. Comments from Board President**

Artie Barnett is looking forward to seeing Bugsy Malone in the new Middle School Theater. He stated that the Lego League Competition is going to be a challenge on Saturday. Mr. Barnett stated that he watched the State of the State address and speaking for himself, he sees the Governor's proposal that increased funding will be linked to basing 50% of teachers rating upon students test performance as a problem. He feels some cooperation from Albany will be helpful.

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

The Superintendent started by stating that he does not know how Mr. DeLuca is able to organize 145 Middle School students. It is not an easy task. Dr. Nagler thanked the Maintenance staff and Bus Drivers for all of their hard work during the storm. They worked hard to get the Schools clear and buses ready to pick-up students. He stated that safety is the primary concern during storms. He chose to open on-time Wednesday because he wanted to avoid inconveniencing families with a delayed opening. Dr. Nagler stated making decisions regarding snow days is his least favorite part of his job and no decision is made lightly. He let the Board know that a ball bearing blew in the fans at Meadow Drive causing smoke and a burning smell. The fire department came to the school and the repair was made quickly. Students were able to continue their day.

On Saturday, 1/31, the First Lego League Competition will be held at the High School. There will be 60 teams county wide participating as well as two of our teams. He expects a lot of excitement. Dr. Nagler thanked parents who have volunteered to assist during the competition. Some were required to take a test in order to be part of the judging. He also needed to take the test. Dr. Nagler, Mr. Gaven and Dr. Smith will be flying to Chicago on Sunday to take part in a two day APPLE event to which they were invited.

Dr. Nagler thanked the Board for allowing the District to purchase the new uniforms for the Marching Band. He added that we were able to purchase them very inexpensively from another District. Finally, Dr. Nagler stated that the dates for the two Special Board Meetings for Policy Review are 2/5 and 3/12 at 7:00pm.

#### **H. Old Business**

The Board members had no old business. Mr. Barnett had two items. Mr. Barnett suggested that the Board look at the possibility of moving the voting out of the school buildings for the Annual Election and Budget Vote. The Superintendent stated that no changes would be made for this year's vote and reminded everyone that two years ago, the District decreased the number of voting sites from four down to two. Mr. Barnett commented on the Policy meeting and stated that the District has reviewed the book of policies and re-reviewed. This has been a long process and he looks forward to completing this task.

## I. New Business

### Approval of 2015-2016 School Calendar

**RESOLUTION # 29 -BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves the 2015-2016 school calendar.

**Motion:** Christine Napolitano

**Second:** Nicole Matzer

Discussion: The Superintendent displayed the proposed calendar. The first day of school will be September 1st, which is before Labor Day. Teachers will report on August 31st for the Superintendent Conference day. Dr. Nagler explained that starting prior to Labor Day preserves the February break and allows for the Spring Breaks in March and April. Election Day, November 3rd, schools will be closed for staff and students. May 27th will be a Superintendent's Conference day. In this calendar there are 182 school days, 2 Superintendent Conference days, 2 built in snow days and 3 weather contingency days. Dr. Nagler added that this calendar is very similar to surrounding school districts and two districts chose to eliminate the February break. Mr. Barnett commented that Dr. Nagler has given much notice that this would be a challenging calendar. He stated that he is fully behind this calendar. There were no additional comments/discussion, so the Board was polled on the resolution.

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

### Accept donation

**RESOLUTION # 30 - BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the donation of \$6000.00 from the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation to the Mineola Fine and Performing Arts Program for the purchase of musical instruments and makes an appropriation increase adjustment to Budget code: 2110-200-00-2400.

**Motion:** Margaret Ballantyne

**Second:** Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Dr. Nagler reported that this is the third year in a row that the Thomas and Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation has made a donation to the District. This is the first year that they have designated the Fine and Performing Arts program as the recipient. He stated that the District is very thankful for their generous donation. There was no additional discussion.

**Yes:** Margaret Ballantyne  
Nicole Matzer

**No:** None

Patricia Navarra  
Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett

**Passed:** Yes

**Approval of CAP- Financial Statements**

**RESOLUTION # 31 -BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District hereby accepts the Corrective Action Plan ("CAP") for the 2014 Audited Financial Statements by Nawrocki Smith and hereby instructs the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to file such a plan with the NYSED Office of Audit Services.

**Motion:** Patricia Navarra

**Second:** Nicole Matzer

Discussion: Dr. Nagler stated that this is a very short Corrective Action Plan due to the fact that there were very few recommendations. He added that Mr. Waters answered point by point. There were no additional questions or comments.

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

## J. Consensus Agenda

**RESOLUTION # 32- BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.5.a.2., as presented.

**Motion:** Christine Napolitano

**Second:** Patricia Navarra

Discussion: Dr. Nagler commented that in the Consensus Agenda tonight, the Board must make the important decision of tenure for two teachers. He added that he highly recommends both of these individuals. Prior to the Board vote, there will be a brief presentation on each teacher.

Dr. Nagler invited Devra Small, principal of Hampton Street School, to come to the podium to make her statements. Ms. Small stated that she will first talk about Catherine Baker. She described Catherine Baker as a fabulous and compassionate teacher who has a gift of working with students to answer high level questions. Her work goes right to the heart of the Common Core Standards. Ms. Small related a story to illustrate Ms. Baker's compassion towards her students. Devra Small stated that she highly recommends Catherine Baker for tenure. Dr. Nagler stated that he met Catherine Baker about six years ago and she has made it through a leave replacement position, excessing and finally a teaching position. At their first meeting, a day before school was to begin; he asked if she would be interested in setting up a classroom with no guarantees that she would actually have the teaching position. Ms. Baker, an architect, said yes, set-up the room and wound up being the classroom teacher leave replacement for the entire year. Dr. Nagler compared tenure to a marriage, from which you don't want a divorce. He highly recommends Ms. Baker and hopes that she has a long career here.

Devra Small stated that the next teacher to be considered for tenure is Carmen Vasquez. She was the first teacher hired to do the Dual Language program. Ms. Vasquez helped design the program and is a real problem solver. Ms. Small stated that she has done many very good presentations for the parents. Ms. Small stated that it is very easy to follow along in Ms. Vasquez's class even if you don't know Spanish and it is amazing to see the students answering questions in Spanish. Ms. Small added that Ms. Vasquez is a very good teacher of literacy and she never sits still. Ms. Small highly recommends Carmen Vasquez for tenure. Dr. Nagler stated that he stole Carmen Vasquez from the city. At the time of her hire, the district had a very specific need of someone to spear head the development of the dual language class. He stated that we looked to Ms. Vasquez to lead in this program and it has been replicated at Meadow and Jackson. Dr. Nagler stated that the goal is to bring this program up to the 5th grade. He enjoys going to her class and hopes that Ms. Vasquez will stay for a long time. Dr. Nagler highly recommends Carmen Vasquez for tenure.

Mr. Barnett thanked Carmen Vasquez for spearheading the Dual Language program. He added that he feels that Catherine Baker's background as a architect is a perfect skill set for a teacher. There were no other comments so the Board was polled for Resolution #32.

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

1. **Instruction**

a. Resignation(s)

1. That the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Patricia Parendo, Elementary Teacher, for the purposes of retirement, effective June 30, 2015.
2. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Zelia D. Attaway, Permanent Substitute Teacher at Hampton Street, effective January 16, 2015.

b. Leave(s) of Absence/Child Rearing

1. That the Board of Education grants a request to Kimberly Martino, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately June 8, 2015.

c. 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.:

EMPLOYEE NAME

EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION

1. Lisa A. Mangino Childhood Ed (1-6), SWD (1-6)

d. Appointment(S) Perm Sub

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Lisa A. Mangino, to the position of Permanent Substitute Teacher at Jackson Avenue, effective February 1, 2015 to May 31, 2015. Salary: \$100 per day.

e. Appointment(S) Tenure

That the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint the following Teachers and/ or Administrators to tenure:

EMPLOYEE  
NAME

TENURE AREA

EFFECTIVE  
DATE

SCHOOL

1. Carmen Vazquez Elementary 02/11/2015 Hampton St School
2. Catherine Baker Elementary 02/01/2015 Hampton St School

2. **Instruction: Committee on Special Education**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the CSE/CPSE/SCSE recommendations for programs and services for students with IEPs for the time period from 11/1/14- 12/31/14. Please be advised that all of the parents have received the student's IEP and a copy of their DUE process rights.

3. **Civil Service**

a. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Sandra Buzeta, to the position of part time Teacher Aide in the cafeteria at Jackson Avenue School to replace Donna Renda, effective February 2, 2015. Salary will be \$13.74 per hour on Step 1.

b. Leave(s) of Absence

1. That the Board of Education grant a request to Mary Ann Marino, part time Greeter at Meadow Drive, for a Leave of Absence, effective January 19, 2015. Leave would be approximately six weeks.

c. Leave(s) of Absence

1. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Patricia Stichweh, Sr. Typist Clerk at the High School, due to surgery, effective January 26, 2015. Leave will be approximately six weeks.
2. That the Board of Education extend a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Eileen Turano, Teacher Aide, due to illness, effective January 7, 2015 through April 15, 2015.
3. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Terence Doyle, Maintainer, effective December 30, 2014, until further notice.

d. Leave Replacement

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Mary Ann Marino to the position of Clerical Leave Replacement for Patricia Stichweh, who is on medical leave, effective January 20, 2015. This position would be for approximately 6 weeks.

e. Civil Service: Other

1. That the Board of Education approve a new position of Registered Professional Nurse to work on a full time basis with a special needs student. This position would be effective February 2, 2015.

4. Business /Finance

a. Treasurer's Report

1. That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's report for the period ending November 30, 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 December 31, 2014

A/P Warrant # 11	December 3, 2014	\$ 1,303,886.87
A/P Warrant # 12	December 17, 2014	\$ 1,956,526.17

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 3,260,413.04**

PAYROLL # 11 & # 12

General	\$ 3,994,719.85
F Fund	\$ 51,091.74

**TOTAL PAYROLL \$4,045,811.59**



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

a. That the Board of Education approves the following two Lease Agreements between the Mineola Union Free School District and Pitney Bowes:

1. Lease Agreement for Digital Meter Postage System (Central Office)- NYS Contract # PC 65205- Terms 51 months at \$300 per month

2. Lease Agreement for High School Mail System Machine- NYS Contract # PC 65205- Terms 51 months at \$700 per month

**Walk-On Agenda**

**Appointment of an Impartial Hearing Officer**

**RESOLUTION # 33 - BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves the appointment of James McKeever as the Impartial Hearing Officer for the impartial hearing related to the student, identification number: 111380001.

**Motion:** Margaret Ballantyne

**Second:** Nicole Matzer

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

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

### Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 1/29/15

#### Presentations:

#### 1. Turf Field Follow-Up

Dr. Nagler stated that Michael Mark, Architect is back tonight to answer some of the questions and concerns raised after his first presentation on 11/6/14. Mr. Mark stated that he will present some health and safety data, in-fill options as well as costs related to the project. Mr. Mark presented three in-fill options: "cool fill", plastic pellets and cork and corn husk pellets. The "Cool Fill" option reduces the surface temperature by up to 30% and provides an alternative to the traditional black crumb rubber in fill. The rubber infill receives a green coating. This technology has been around for 6-7 years and was originally used to address the field temperature. This in-fill is presently used at the Bethpage High School field and has worked well. Mr. Mark reported that the cost of this cool fill is approximately 20% more than the crumb rubber (approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 up charge). Mr. Mark stated that there is not much of a track record for the other two options because they are not really being used at this time.

Mr. Mark presented some health and safety information that he found related to turf fields. He quoted from an article that Dr. Robert Hayashi, the Director of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at St. Louis Children's Hospital, said "there is no scientific evidence to believe its true that there is a link to the fields and cancer". Dr. Hayashi went on to say "if you consider the other dangers of playing sports, like traumatic brain or bone and joint injuries, those risks far outweigh the risks of participating on a crumb rubber field". Mr. Mark also presented some additional data that there is not elevated health risks related to the crumb rubber in fill.

Mr. Mark discussed the long term replacement for a turf field. He stated that after ten years, the turf and infill would need to be replaced. drainage may remain after fine grading. Another issue that was raised after the last presentation was related to the concession stand. Mr. Mark presented a prefabricated option, which will save some money. These structures are precast in sections, delivered by flatbed trucks, set in place via a large crane, foundations are poured in place and they have flexible layouts. Mr. Mark stated that they are very easy to maintain.

Michael Mark next displayed the Hampton Street Floor Plan which includes a new all-purpose room/cafeteria, a bus loop and two new classrooms. Mr. Mark also displayed some flexible furniture plan options for the cafeteria and the classrooms. He added that these furniture options are not put into an architecture plan. Mr. Mark concluded his presentation by stating that he highly recommends the turf field because of its benefits of reducing traumatic brain, bone and joint injuries. Mr. Mark asked the Board if there were questions or comments. Ms. Navarra asked for more information regarding the cork and husk infill. Mr. Mark stated that it would probably need to be replaced sooner but there are no studies available because this is not being used. Ms. Napolitano inquired if Bethpage is the only school using the cool fill and Mr. Mark stated that they are the only other local school using this option. Mr. Barnett stated that he is cynical about some of the studies based upon who is commissioning them. Mr. Mark also reported that his company worked on the Garden City fields and half were turf and half are grass. The grass fields are much more difficult to maintain. Dr. Nagler stated that the current situation of our fields is not working. Dr. Nagler stated that there are several issues to be considered. One of the major pros to having a turf field would be fewer injuries, but the risks of the turf field must also be a consideration. The Superintendent next tried to establish a time line for this project. He stated if by the February break decisions are made regarding the project and it is submitted to the State by April, there is currently a 24 week waiting period for approval of projects. This would take us to October and the project would be ready for bid in November. It is possible to do some on the work in the winter as long as the ground is not frozen; but realistically it probably would not be done until lacrosse season

(2016). The construction would take approximately six weeks. Dr. Nagler also asked Mr. Mark about the issue of the location of the bus loop that was raised at the last meeting. Mr. Mark stated that based upon the measurements, there is not a large enough clearance for the buses to turn on the block that was suggested. He stated the option that he presented with the bus loop in the front of the building is the most ideal. Dr. Nagler also asked about the cost of resurfacing the track at the High School. Mr. Mark stated the cost would be \$325,000 for a rubberized surface, which has a lifespan of 10- 12 years. He stated that this is approximately a 4 week project and the temperature must be at least 40 degrees. There was a question raised regarding the lighting on the walking track at Hampton and Mr. Mark stated that there could be lower fixtures on the light poles specifically aimed at the track. Mr. Barnett asked about the sound system and Dr. Nagler felt the current system is sufficient. Mr. Barnett also asked if it is possible to have some electrical outlets and Mr. Mark stated that they can be at the poles. Ms. Napolitano asked if the \$325,000 cost of resurfacing the track is just a basic cost. Mr. Mark stated it is but it will make the track much safer. The Board had no other questions, so Mr. Barnett moved to public comments.

### Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent had no additional comments.

### **L. Public Comments**

Mr. Barnett opened the floor to public comment. There were two parent/community members who had comments regarding the turf field. The first speaker asked about another in-fill option called Nike grind. The architect stated that he could look into this option for pricing. The speaker also provided the Board with some research that she printed out regarding turf field safety. The second speaker commented questioned the dimensions of the field presented by the architect and expressed his desire that this project be completed the right way. The Superintendent stated that the Board also wants to insure that the project is done correctly and doesn't want to rush or cut corners. Dr. Nagler stated that he will arrange a meeting between the Booster Club, Michael Mark and himself to come to some consensus on the turf field and get the timeline started on this project. There were no additional public comments.

### **M. Executive Session Time: 8:50 p.m.**

At 8:50 pm, a motion was made for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations.

**Motion:** Margaret Ballantyne

**Second:** Christine Napolitano

**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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\_\_\_\_\_

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Respectfuuly Submitted,**

**Andrea M. Paggi**