

**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.

DATE: February 12, 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 - 7:05pm

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission- Christine Napolitano

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

E. Dais & Visitor Introductions

Absent: Patricia Navarra

F. High School Student Organization Report

Tonight's SO report was by Craig VandeStouwe. He stated that Felicia was unable to be here tonight because she is preparing to leave tomorrow with the Marching Band on their trip to Disney. The Band will be performing in the Magic Kingdom. Craig also added that another group of students and chaperons will be leaving for Italy tomorrow night. He reported that the winter sports season is ending. Craig reported that the team from the High School placed 2nd in the Science Bowl on January 31. He added that before leaving the High School on Saturday for the Science Bowl, he looked in at the Lego League competition and it was cool looking. Craig also said that it is good for the school to host events like this and get our name out there to others. The Spring musical is "Annie Get Your Gun" and the students involved are getting very excited. The quarter two grades at the High School were just posted. Craig stated that the SO continues their efforts to raise money for scholarships and local charities with a Valentine sale tomorrow. Dr. Ballantyne stated that she would like to acknowledge that Craig was at York College presenting his research project and she was proud to see him at the College at which she teaches. The Board also congratulated Craig and the rest of the team who took part in the Science Bowl.

G. BOE Reports

a. Comments from Board Trustees

Christine Napolitano had a wonderful time at the Mustang Stakes. Buggy Malone was incredible. Ms. Napolitano also stated that she wanted to acknowledge the parent volunteers and thank them for all of their hard work. She is truly appreciative of all they do.

Nicole Matzer agreed with Ms. Napolitano that our parent volunteers do a great job. She also wanted to commend Mr. DeLuca on the wonderful job that he did with the play. It is not an easy task to organize such a large group of Middle School students. Ms. Matzer stated that Jazz Night was amazing and it was nice to see some of the younger students doing solos. She wished safe travels to both the Marching Band and the students going to Italy.

Margaret Ballantyne stated that the play was great and it was hard to keep in mind that the actors were just Middle School children. She reported that the past week was all about the Middle School for her. On Saturday, she attended that First Lego League and it was very exciting to see the students so enthusiastic and engaged. Dr. Ballantyne also thought it was great that some many staff people were there to show support. Dr. Ballantyne also visited Mr. Interrante's class last Friday and was very impressed with what she saw. The students were being real "scientists" and Mr. Interrante did a very good job keeping all of the groups engaged.

b. Comments from Board President

Artie Barnett stated that the kids in Buggy Malone did a great job and the auditorium turned out beautiful. He stated that Mr. DeLuca did a great job. Mr. Barnett stated that the Board was all over last night: Jazz Night, the Village Meeting and Dr. Nagler was in Albany. Mr. Barnett hopes that everyone enjoys the February break.

c. Comments from Superintendent

Dr. Nagler stated that he enjoyed many of the same events that the Board mentioned and was even able to live stream Jazz Night while he was in Albany. He was participating in an event with an organization called the "International Center for Leadership in Education". This organization works with school boards to film best practices in education. Nassau BOCES approached Dr. Nagler regarding the topic of Emerging Trends in Technology for our use of School for 1 and Standard Based grading. Mike did a presentation 7-9 minutes in length that was filmed and will put together with the other taped pieces. Dr. Nagler will make the link available once it is complete. He also added that one thing that he took away from this experience is that some of the things which are considered as "emerging" have already happened in Mineola. There was one case in which the trend took place here 2 years ago. Dr. Nagler feels that we will be lending our knowledge to many more districts.

Dr. Nagler stated that he loved hearing Craig's statements about the First Lego League competition. He feels it is a good thing when students recognize the importance of putting our District on display. Dr. Nagler was very pleased with all of the parent volunteers that helped on that day and added that they did a great job. On 2/28, we will be hosting the Junior First Lego League expo and four teams from Jackson Avenue will be participating.

The Superintendent stated that he attended the Booster Club meeting on Tuesday along with the architect, Michael Mark. He reported that there was a healthy discussion and new direction was given to the architect regarding the turf field and the track at the High School. There will be another meeting once the architect completes his tasks.

Dr. Nagler attended "Buggy Malone" at the Middle School with his son. He loved the play, the new auditorium and the number of students involved in the production. It was not an easy task to work with such a large group but the staff was very patient. The High School spring musical is "Annie Get Your Gun" and the 8th and 9th grade production will be "Fiddler on the Roof".

H. Old Business

There was no old business this evening.

I. New Business

Mr. Barnett asked if there was any new business and Ms. Matzer stated that she had one item. Ms. Matzer inquired when information regarding the summer program will be available for parents. Ms. Burns stated that she hopes to have the information on line by March 1st. Some of the programs to be included are: Fast track, Camp Invention, Young Rembrandts and summer music. Mr. Barnett stated that he would like to plant a seed for parents; he was wondering if there is interest for starting a parent group supporting technology. Dr. Nagler stated that he would be surprised if a parent group is not started. He added that the First Lego League reminded him of the Home Show, in the way in which it was run. There were no other items from the Board.

Annual Election and Budget Vote - May 19, 2015

RESOLUTION # 34 - BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves of the following information regarding the Annual Election and Budget Vote scheduled for May 19, 2015:

- (a) The District's Annual Election will be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2015**.
- (b) The District Clerk be authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the registration of qualified voters and for the conduct of the District's Annual Election to be held on **Tuesday, May 19, 2015**, including the rental and delivery of voting machines and the publication of the necessary notices of public budget hearing, and of said registration, as required by law, in the **Mineola American and Williston Times**.
- (c) The polls on the date of the Annual Election will be open for the period from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., both inclusive.
- (d) The polls for voting purposes at these locations will be designated as (1) Jackson Avenue School; and (2) Meadow Drive School.
- (e) Each of the Inspectors of Election and Registrars designated by the Board of Education serve for such Annual Election and be compensated in the sum of **\$10.00** per hour for their services.
- (f) The President of the Board of Education will be designated as Chairperson, calling the election to order.
- (g) The form and content of the notice of the Public Budget Hearing and of the registration of voters and the annual election including the dates, times and places thereof as set forth in such notices, all as prepared by the District Clerk and annexed hereto, be approved.
- (h) Dr. Nagler and Mrs. Paggi are designated as Poll Clerks to canvass "affidavit ballots" to meet at the Superintendent's Office on **Wednesday, May 20, 2015**, at 3:00 p.m. for such purpose.
- (i) The Budget Hearing will take place on **Thursday, May 7, 2015** at 7:00 p.m., at the Willis Avenue School, with regard to the special meeting.
- (j) A special evening registration of voters shall take place on **Tuesday, May 5, 2015**, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Willis Avenue School, located at 121 Jackson Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501.

Motion: Margaret Ballantyne

Second: Nicole Matzer

Discussion: The Superintendent stated this is the annual timeline and information regarding the Annual Election and Budget Vote.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

J. Consensus Agenda

RESOLUTION # 35 - BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.4.a.1., as presented.

Motion: Christine Napolitano
Second: Nicole Matzer

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

1. **Accepting of Minutes**

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the January 15, 2015 Workshop Meeting and the January 29, 2015 Business Meeting as presented.

2. **Instruction**

- a. Leave(s) of Absence/Child Rearing
 1. That the Board of Education grants a request to Lisa Balogh-Richards, for an unpaid Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, effective September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
 2. That the Board of Education grants a request to Kim Morrissey, for an unpaid Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, effective September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

3. **Instruction: Contracted**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the Special Education Services contract for a Parentally Place student between the Jericho UFSD and the Mineola UFSD for the 2013- 2014 school year.
- b. That the Board of Education approves the Special Education Services contract for a Parentally Place student between the Jericho UFSD and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.
- c. That the Board of Education approves the amendment to the contract for Related Services, approved on October 23, 2014, between Life's WORC and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.

4. **Civil Service**

- a. Appointments
 1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Joseph Theriot, to the position of Cleaner at the High School, to replace Gonzalo Gonzalez who retired, effective February 2, 2015. Salary will be \$41,459 on Step 1, plus a 6% night differential, equalling \$43,947. Probation is 26 weeks.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 2/12/15

Presentations:

1. Tax Levy Calculation
2. SMART Music presentation

Tonight's first presentation by the Superintendent is an "Explanation of the Tax Cap". *This presentation can be found on the district website on the Board of Education page, under the heading presentations. Dr. Nagler explained that the 2% tax levy cap is not actually as simple as multiplying this year's levy by 2%; there is a very complicated formula that is used to determine the tax cap. Dr. Nagler displayed part one of the formula to determine the adjusted prior year levy. In the first part of the formula, the prior year tax levy is multiplied by tax based growth. This tax base growth is supplied annually by State taxation and Finance department. He stated that new growth equals new expenses which need to be accounted for. The PILOTS present a problem because when a building receives a PILOT, the expenses are not accounted for and this is a loss that repeats and compounds year after year. This matters a great deal to the District and the result is \$9 million over twenty years. Dr. Nagler also displayed the Capital Expense Exemption which is equal to 2,105,904. Next, the complete Part 1 of the formula was displayed and the resulting adjusted prior year tax levy is 77,208,759. This number is used in the formula for determining the new levy which is 80,124,763. The increase in levy from last year is 1,079,522 or 1.37%. Dr. Nagler stated that the question is can we maintain all current programs as well as introducing some new programming with a little over a million dollars. He believes it is possible due to the nine retirements this year. Mr. Barnett asked when we are going to have a solid number of aid from the governor. The Superintendent stated that for now we are keeping that number flat because the district must adopt a budget by April 24th and it does not look like the State budget will be finalized prior to that time. Ms. Napolitano asked the Superintendent how many years has the District been at or less than 2 1/2 % and he replied 8 years. There were no additional questions or comments at this time.

The Superintendent introduced Joe Owens, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts, to present "SmartMusic in Action". *This presentation can be found on the District website on the Board of Education page, under the heading presentations. SmartMusic is a partnership with music and technology. Mr. Owens gave the following snapshot of the Music Department: there are about 1000 Instrumentalists grades 3- 12; 200 students choose to be assessed through the solo NYSSMA Festival and only between 3% and 5% of all students take private lessons. The Goals of the Music program are to increase independent time on task (practicing) and increase overall skill level (ensemble/solo NYSSMA). Mr. Owens explained the outcome of these goals. He stated that as skills improve, so does the students enjoyment. Also, there is the following non-musical, improved student development: reinforced Bi-Lateral connections, problem solving, fine motor skills, computational skills, verbal comprehension, communication and teamwork.

Mr. Owens explained the SmartMusic Program components. First, there is guided practice and motivation: it has a game-like format, allows for background accompaniment, iPad integration and instant feedback (automatic playback and recording). There is also a Literature Warehouse containing method books, concert literature and solo festival literature. At this point in the presentation, Mr. Owens played a few videos to demonstrate how Smart Music is being utilized in the music classes as well as student testimonials regarding the program. Mr. Owens also explained how teachers are able to use this program. They are able to send out specific pieces of music for students to practice and then they can track what is being done at home. The Smart Music program is not used for vocals. According to Mr. Owens, the younger students love this program but the 8th graders just like it. Mr. Owens hopes to continue the use of Smart Music with the Middle School Instrumental music grades 5-7. It is currently, used in Orchestra 5, Band 6 and Band 8.

Mr. Owens asked the Board if there were questions or comments. Ms. Matzer stated that she is very happy with the purchase of this program. Ms. Napolitano stated that she is very impressed with this program specifically the accompaniment piece. She asked if teachers see improvement and he stated that some improvement has been seen. Dr. Ballantyne asked if teachers can track this information. Mr. Owens stated that currently they need some better baseline data. Mr. Barnett stated that he loves this program; there is instant feedback and instant correction. Dr. Nagler inquired if the program can focus on the entire band playing a piece of music and Mr. Owens stated that the program is very good at picking up the "clunkers" during the piece. Dr. Nagler asked about the cost and Mr. Owens stated that it is fairly expensive. Dr. Nagler will discuss with Mr. Owens the budget needed. Mr. Owens also added that he had spoken to surrounding district about forming a cooperative for this program. Mr. Barnett asked if this program is available in practice rooms currently. Mr. Owens stated that there is a practice room subscription and all machines in the music rooms have this program. The Board thanked Mr. Owens for his presentation.

Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent had no other comments this evening but stated that he was in need of an Executive Session to discuss an employee disciplinary matter.

L. Public Comments

Mr. Barnett opened the floor to public comment. There was one parent/resident that had comments this evening concerning the use of I pads. She discussed the pros and cons and voiced a concern that she has with regards to her children. Dr. Nagler instructed her to email him the specifics and he will address the issue himself. The speaker thanked Dr. Nagler for his response. There were no other public comments this evening.

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

A motion was made at 8:20pm, for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to discuss an employee disciplinary matter.

Motion: Margaret Ballantyne

Second: Nicole Matzer

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

N. Adjournment Time: _____ p.m.

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Passed: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi