

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

**Special 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 - 2012-2013**

***Educational***

- To use technology and NWEA assessment data to provide differentiated homework thereby increasing individual student achievement.
- To implement the Common Core Curriculum with an emphasis on assuring a correlation between the grade level unit assessments and State exam.
- Create grade 7-12 ELA curriculum in line with Common Core shifts in ELA/Literacy
- Continue to encourage HS students to challenge AP and/ or College level coursework with the goal of every student gaining this experience before they graduate
- Continue to engage the community in the District's Strategic Plan with a specific focus on the quality indicators that define Mineola's expectations of academic excellence.
- Assess the long term viability and explore expansion of the elementary world language program. Assess current program through parental input and student data.
- Implement, monitor and assess the effectiveness of the Pre-K -7 science program

***Facilities***

- Continue projects that incorporate 'green' technologies that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels
- Begin to fund our Capital Reserve with the goal of achieving new windows and doors on all 4 elementary buildings

***Finance***

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

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**DATE: June 11, 2013**

**LOCATION: Willis Ave. School**

**OPEN WORK SESSION**

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

**Board of Education**

William Hornberger, President  
Terence Hale, Vice President  
Irene Parrino, Trustee  
Arthur Barnett, Trustee  
Christine Napolitano, Trustee

**Central Office**

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

- A. Call to Order- 7:05pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reading of Mission- Terence Hale**
- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

**F. New Business**

**RESOLUTION # 65- IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoints Harris Beach PLLC as special counsel to represent the Board and Terence Hale individually in Matter of Irene Parrino v. Terence Hale and the Mineola Board of Education at an hourly rate of \$200 per hour.

**Motion:** Arthur Barnett  
**Second:** Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Mr. Barnett asked Ms. Parrino, if given the fact that Mr. Hale has already agreed to resign, she would withdraw this suit in order to prevent the need for this action. Ms. Parrino stated she would not and stated that the District does not have to respond formally. Mr. Barnett disagreed and stated that we need to respond and therefore must hire legal counsel. Mr. Hornberger stated that based on the advice of two different legal counsels, the District must respond if Ms. Parrino does not withdraw the papers. Mr. Barnett also asked Ms. Parrino if she has released the petition and back-up documents to the press and Ms. Parrino stated that she is neither denying nor responding to that question. Mr. Barnett stated that he has an issue with how information is being released and the fact that taxpayer money will be spent on this matter. Ms. Parrino stated that this could have been handled differently and Mr. Barnett stated the Board took their advice from legal counsel. Mr. Hornberger stated that as the matter stands; if the petition is not being withdrawn then the district must hire legal counsel. No further discussion and the Board was polled on the Resolution.

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
Arthur Barnett  
William Hornberger  
**No:** Terence Hale  
**Abstain:** Irene Parrino

**Passed:** Yes

## G. Superintendent's Report

### Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 6/11/13:

#### 1. Discussion of filling vacant seat

The Superintendent stated that the Board can decide how to fill the vacant seat and there is not a set way of how this must be done. He presented the following options: the district could hold a special election or an individual can be appointed. If an individual is appointed, the Board would need to determine how they would find their candidates. Mr. Hornberger inquired what the time frame would be for filing this vacant seat and the response was that the Re-organization meeting would be the earliest date. The Board was in agreement that they are against holding a Special Election due to the cost. Mr. Hale stated he feels that this should be a Board Action. Ms. Napolitano stated that she would like this handled as quickly as possible in order for the Board to get back to business. The Superintendent stated that the Board should decide now on the plan to proceed and recommends locking in dates. Mr. Barnett stated that letters of interest should be sent to the District Clerk and this should be posted in the local papers. Mr. Hornberger stated that he does not see the need to rush this decision and doesn't see a difference in deciding 6/27 or 7/2. The Superintendent stated that it is possible to come out of executive session on 7/2 and appoint the candidate. Mr. Barnett questioned how the interview process would take place and if all candidates would be interviewed. He also stated that he does not want to be making a decision on 7/2. He suggests have candidates submit letters of interest and the Board will decide, no interviews. Mr. Hornberger stated that he disagrees on the timeframe and feels the Board can function even if the slot is not filled by 7/2. He also stated that he feels that the Board should interview all interested candidates. The Superintendent suggested the following compromise: start the re-org meeting earlier, go into executive session, interview the candidates and make a decision. Ms. Navarra will be seated and then the individual can be appointed. Ms. Napolitano is in agreement with the compromise and stated that she wants this process done. It was stated that if a deadline of 6/25 is set for the letters of interest, a decision can be made based upon the response of how the Board should proceed. The letters of interest will be submitted to the District Clerk by the end of the work day on 6/25. This information will be posted on the District website and the local papers. The Board will interview all candidates; dates to be determined. Mr. Hornberger stated that he feels that if an individual expresses interest then it is important for the Board to meet with them. The interested candidates will be notified when their letter is received and their interview date and time. The Board also discussed Ms. Navarra's role in the process. Mr. Hornberger asked the Board if there was any other discussion and the Board stated there was not anything further.

### Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent had no additional comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Barnett to allow public comment and the motion was second by Ms. Napolitano. The Board was polled and all were in favor. Mr. Hornberger opened the floor to public comment. A parent/resident asked for clarification of the need for legal counsel since Mr. Hale has already agreed to resign. Mr. Hornberger stated that based on legal advice, unless the petition is withdrawn the District must respond. The Superintendent added that the Commissioner of Education would look at the petition and he needs to be aware of both sides. Another parent/resident asked for clarification for the reasoning for hiring outside counsel and the Superintendent stated that this is for neutrality. There were no further comments.

**H. Executive Session    Time: \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.**

There was no Executive Session this evening.

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

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

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

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

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

**I. Adjournment    Time: 7:50 p.m.**

**Motion:** Arthur Barnett

**Second:** Christine Napolitano

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano

Arthur Barnett

Irene Parrino

Terence Hale

William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi