

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

Workshop 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 - 2011-2012

- ***Educational***
 - *To increase the use of assessment data (NWEA) to inform differentiated instruction thereby increasing individual student achievement*
 - *To continue our growth as professional learning communities focusing on common formative assessments to demonstrate individual student growth*
 - *Re-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*
 - *Increase opportunities for participation in science and math research at the elementary and middle school levels*

- ***Facilities***
 - *Continue projects that incorporate "green" technologies that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels*

- ***Finance***
 - *To continue the district initiative to actualize a five year plan to maintain a stable tax levy while minimizing loss of program*

DATE: November 3, 2011

LOCATION: Willis Ave. School

OPEN WORK SESSION 7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Board Room

Board of Education

Christine Napolitano, President
William Hornberger, Vice President
John McGrath, Trustee
Irene Parrino, Trustee
Terrence Hale, 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- 7:02pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reading of Mission- Mr. Waters**
- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

Also in Attendance: Mr. Escobar, Principal, high school; Mrs. Eileen Burke, teacher and Student Service Center advisor from high school.

Absent: Ms. Burns- in Albany; and Mr. Hornberger

After introductions, Dr. Nagler stated that the Board of Education had expressed an interest in hearing more from students. The Superintendent invited Mrs. Burke and a few students from the High School to speak about the "Falk-Sysak Student Service Center." Mrs. Burke thanked the Superintendent and the Board of Education for the invitation to speak. She stated the SSC provides an opportunity to educate minds and hearts. The Student Service Center was started 27 years ago by teacher Diane Falk to provide students and opportunity to serve. It was originally named the Sysak Student Service Center after Board member, Walter Sysak who was very supportive of the program; eventually it was renamed to also honor Ms. Falk. Mrs. Burke brought five students with her to speak about the various programs and their experiences.

The Student Service Center has programs for senior citizens, children as well as peer to peer. Service opportunities with senior citizens include nursing home visits, lunch bunch and computeers. The students explained how both the student and the senior citizens benefit from these programs. A letter from a senior citizen was read and she expressed how impressed she was that students perform these services on their own time. For children, the programs include: PTA/PTO Babysitting, help with homework and Gingerbread University. Programs to help peers include: peer tutoring at the high school and homework helpers at the middle school. The students explained that there are many opportunities to serve without leaving the building, such as making sandwiches for the INN and making holiday cards and Valentines for Vets. Additionally, there are service opportunities outside their comfort zone (outside of the high school). This includes the following programs: SPARC which involves completing projects with other schools; Mary Brennan INN youth board; Ronald McDonald house(Mineola was the first high school to provide service at this program, 20 years ago); and SADD- Students Against Destructive Decisions.

After the students' presentation, Mrs. Burke provided the Board with some additional information. She stated that at the high school, service learning is an organized curriculum based experience that benefits the community. Currently, there are eight service learning class projects. In senior year, students must complete a senior project and about 1/3 of the seniors pick service related projects. The 9th graders do tree planting at Alley Pond Park. Life skills students take part in a cross age literacy project. The high school won a State Farm Good Neighbor Grant, which was presented by Senator McCarthy. Also, after the AP exams are complete, the AP students come up with some lesson plans to be completed.

Dr. Nagler thanked Mrs. Burke and her counterpart Ms. Regan, who was unable to be here tonight. The Superintendent stated that few high schools have a service program like Mineola and we should be very proud. Ms. Napolitano also thanked Ms. Burke and the students for their presentation and she asked the Board if there are any questions. Mr. Hale congratulated the group and stated that it was very apparent as they spoke how much they enjoy their service. Ms. Napolitano also added that she was amazed at the amount and the variety of services.

Dr. Nagler stated that service learning is a very important part of the curriculum; it takes learning to another level. The Superintendent stated that he feels that type of learning should be held equally as important as everything else students are taught. He thanked Mrs. Burke and the students again for coming and sharing their time. Ms. Napolitano added that Mrs. Burke should be highly commended for all of her hard work.

F. Old Business

RESOLUTION #27 -BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby acknowledges receipt of the Internal Auditor's Agreed Upon Procedures Report related to the District's extraclassroom activities previously reviewed by the audit committee.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Terence Hale

Discussion: The Superintendent explained that the Board of Education serves as the audit committee. This resolution formally adopts the Agreed Upon Procedures Report. After it is adopted, Mr. Waters will write a formal response.

Yes: Terrence Hale
Irene Parrino
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
No: None

Passed: Yes

G. New Business

RESOLUTION #28 -BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves an Agreement between the Mineola UFSD and Nassau BOCES in the amount of \$176,905 over a five year period for Fiber Optic Connectivity, Internet and Voice services.

Motion: Terence Hale
Second: John McGrath

Discussion: The Superintendent explained that BOCES helped to bundle together various districts in order to get the best prices. The district has had a savings of \$1,000 per month. BOCES has airways in Nextel. BOCES wants to build a countywide network "BoTIE" initiative. Mr. Hale asked if the \$1,000 per month savings can be used. The Superintendent stated he is investigating if phones can be purchased with this money, as many of the phones are beginning to age and break. No further discussion.

Yes: Terrence Hale
Irene Parrino
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
No: None

Passed: Yes

1. **H. Consensus Agenda**

RESOLUTION #29 -BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items H.1.a.. through H.3., as presented.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Terence Hale
Irene Parrino
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano

No: None

Passed: Yes

2.

Instruction

a. Leave(s) of Absence/Child Rearing

1.

That the Board of Education grants a request to Janine Berto, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately 12/01/2011.

b. Leave(s) of Absence/Medical

1.

That the Board of Education grants a request to Elsa Coelho for a Medical Leave of Absence, using accumulated sick days, effective November 4, 2001 to December 4, 2011.

c. Appointments 45 Day Subs

1.

The Board of Education approves the appointment of Amber Danisi, to the position of 45 Day Substitute Teacher for, Janinie Berto at Hampton Street, effective 11/07/2011 to on or before June 30, 2012; salary: Days 1-20, \$90.00, Days 21-39 \$100.00, Days 40-45 \$110, Day 46 \$70,539, MA, Step 2, pro-rated.

2.

The Board of Education approves the appointment of Patricia Campbell, to the position of 45 Day Substitute for, Donna Beck at Mineola Middle School/Willis Avenue School, effective 10/26/2011 to on or before June 30, 2012; salary: Days 1-20, \$90.00, Days 21-39 \$100.00, Days 40-45 \$110, Day 46 \$67,604, MA, Step 1, contract salary pro rated.

d. Appointment(s) Winter Interscholastic Coaches

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following coaches for the Winter Interscholastic Season for 2011-2012 year:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Track-Assistant	Thomas M. McGuire	1	\$4,250

e. Facilitators

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following staff for the 2011-2012 APPR Facilitators:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Willis Ave School	Denise M. Maynard	\$1,000.00
Meadow Dr School	Stephanie Kalberer	\$1,000.00
Hampton St School	Karin Shaw	\$1,000.00
Jackson Ave School	Maureen A. Cromwell	\$1,000.00
Mineola Middle School	Stephen J. Mitchell	\$1,000.00
Mineola Middle School	Linda Villalta	\$1,000.00
Mineola High School	Greg Greer	\$1,000.00
Mineola High School	Hilary B. Bernstein	\$1,000.00

3. Civil Service

a. Appointments

1.

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Rose Higgins, to the position of part time Classroom Aide, at Jackson Avenue School, effective 11/01/2011. Salary will be \$13.74 per hour on Step 1 (2007/2009 Teacher Aide Salary Schedule); probation is 26 weeks.

2.

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Anna Spatola, to the position of part time Greeter/Monitor at Meadow Drive School, effective 11/03/2011. Salary will be \$11.55 per hour on Step 4 (2007/2009 Teacher Aide Salary Schedule); probation is 26 weeks.

3.

The Board of Education approves the appointment of Donna Squicciarino, to the position of Part-time Treasurer effective 07/01/2011 through June 30, 2012 with a salary of \$20,000, and the position of Extraclassroom Activities Treasurer effective 07/01/2011 through Jun 30, 2012 with a salary of \$8,000, reflective of the job duties as prescribed by the Superintendent of Schools. Payment will be retroactive to July 1, 2011.

4. Business/Finance: Contract Approvals

Vendor	School	Amount
WE Transport	Holy Martyrs	\$18,000.00
First Student	United Nations	\$11,110.00
WE Transport	Wm. Spyropoulos	\$17,760.00
First Student	St. Martin DePorres	\$5,110.00
Veterans Transportation	West Hills Montessori	\$8,100.00
Dell Transportation	Progressive School	\$9,870.00
Acme Bus Corp	Oceanside High School	\$8,490.00

After the vote, Ms. Napolitano asked the Board if there was any other Old Business to discuss. Mr. McGrath asked the Superintendent for an update on Hampton Street School. The Superintendent stated that the project has gone out to bid. He stated that he hopes to have a walk on item at the next meeting on 11/17, for approval of the bid award.

Mr. Hale asked for an update of the high school parking lot. The Superintendent stated that the original asphalt job has been rejected. The work has been scheduled (weather permitting) for Monday/Tuesday; if not Friday/Saturday of next week. This would be the last opportunity to complete this job before the weather gets too cold. Also, as far as the lights in the parking lot, we are still waiting for LIPA. The Superintendent gave an update on the other projects as well. The Softball field project is moving along well. Drainage was a substantial issue. The expected completion date is next Friday. The Art room at the high school will be completed in three phases. Phase 1 and 2 will take place this year and phase 3 will take place in the summer (on next year's budget). There is no further information on the Jackson Avenue project at this time.

The Superintendent also gave a technology update. The IPAD initiative- E-spark APPs for the two classes are in place and they are tied into NWEA. The APPLE project- Mineola created their own I-tune store; students should be able to get a voucher and then purchase APPs. At the present time, we are trying to work out a problem that has come up. Once a student purchases an APP, it is in that student's account. When the students turn in the machine to be cleaned and re-issued to another child, Mineola no longer owns that APP because it was in the student's account. The Superintendent wants to find a way to buy the APP once and keep it. This has not proved to be an easy task.

Ms. Napolitano asked the Superintendent if teachers are using the district website. The Superintendent stated that at the Middle School, many of the teachers are on line and posting assignments on their individual pages.

I. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent stated that he had a pressing issue which needs to be discussed tonight - the 2012/2013 School Calendar. The Superintendent stated that in the first draft of the calendar, students were slated to begin on August 29, with students coming in for two days and then having a long weekend for Labor day. However, the Superintendent is suggesting that students be brought in August 28 for three days and to add a day somewhere else (Thanksgiving or Memorial day). The Superintendent would like all NWEA testing to be done during those three days.

Ms. Napolitano stated that she does not have a problem with the three days, but feels that parents need to have time to plan for the change. Ms. Napolitano stated that she understands that in order to have 182 days of instruction, days must be taken from somewhere in the calendar.

The Superintendent stated that he does not see anyway around this start date. Mr. Hale and Ms. Parrino stated that they are in agreement with starting school for the three days in August. It was agreed that it made the most sense to add an extra day off to Memorial day weekend. The 2012/2013 Calendar will be up for adoption at the November 17th meeting.

The Superintendent stated that Ms. Burns is currently in Albany and will report on 11/17 about the regents Reform Agenda and Mineola's planned response. The Superintendent discussed the changes which are coming in State testing. This is the last year for the State assessment; next year will be the Common Core assessment, and finally the following year will be the PARCC assessment. The Superintendent stated that the

PARCC is a different kind of test, students will be asked to answer questions based on what they have learned and it will be administered on the computer. The use of the PARCC assessment, according to the Superintendent, raises many questions about the Regents exams. The Superintendent stated that in NY, students will definitely take the PARCC, but they may or may not take the Regents. Money is definitely going to be an issue. The Superintendent stated that Mineola is trying to stay ahead of the curve by introducing problem based learning. The Superintendent stated that parents can go to "engage NY.org" for what changes are coming. He emphasized that nothing has been officially decided yet, however the Superintendent stated that the curriculum for current 5th and 6th graders will be very different than it is now.

Strategic Planning Committee: The Superintendent stated that the committee has been finalized except for two teachers. The Superintendent has sent all members information to review. Meetings are scheduled for 11/10, 11/22 and 12/6.

J. Executive Session Time: 8:15 p.m.

At 8:15pm, 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: John McGrath

Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Terence Hale

Irene Parrino

John McGrath

Christine Napolitano

No: None

Passed: Yes

K. Adjournment **Time:** _____ **p.m.**

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Passed: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Paggi