

**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: February 2, 2012

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
Terence 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- John McGrath

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

E. Dais & Visitor Introductions- Absent: Irene Parrino

F. High School Student Organization Report

No report tonight.

The Superintendent stated that tonight there will be a special presentation from the high school. He invited Mr. Puccio, assistant principal, to present on the "High School Collaborations" throughout the community. Mr. Puccio thanked the Superintendent for inviting him to speak here tonight. Mr. Puccio explained that the collaborations allow our students to be exposed to new and different resources beyond the reach of most public schools. Mr. Puccio stated that tonight's presentation will include the Collaborations with Winthrop, Adelphi University and Molloy College. Mr. Puccio stated that these collaborations are all possible because of the support from the principal, Mr. Escobar and assistant principal, Mr. Smith. The Winthrop Collaboration includes three areas: Research, Explorers and Vocational/ Transitional Exploration. Mr. Puccio introduced Mr. Gollisz, Science Instructional leader. Mr. Gollisz stated that studies show that students who do research early, will excel in their other studies. Mr. Gollisz stated that about 2 years ago, students were first placed at Winthrop to do research. Mineola then became involved in the Explorer program, in which students are exposed to the various occupation opportunities available at Winthrop. Students meet at the hospital monthly and tour the facility.

The students are also able to shadow different occupations. Ms. Batcher, Director, Grants and Special Programs Winthrop, addressed the group. She stated that she is very pleased to have this partnership with Mineola HS. Ms. Batcher stated that students are placed in the research labs and work with scientists and learn all aspects. The Explorers expose students to careers at all levels. This program benefits the students by providing them with networking opportunities, helping them to learn to interact with professionals and to form relationships. Ms. Batcher reported that the staff at Winthrop is happy with these programs and this is a win/win situation for Winthrop and Mineola HS.

Dr. McGlade- McCulloh, Science Research program at the high school, stated that in the four years since she started the research program has grown significantly. These collaborations are essential to the continued growth of the Research program. Dr. McGlade-McCulloh, introduced a student to discuss her experience. Karen stated that at Winthrop, she worked in the Immunology Laboratory. She stated that she was treated like a colleague, received hands-on experience in a professional laboratory, and would recommend it to all underclassmen. Next, Brianna spoke about her science research experience at Adelphi University under the supervision of a biology professor. Brianna gave a brief overview of her project. She explained that her experience was challenging but very rewarding. As a result of her experience, Brianna now plans to major in Biology and pursue research in college. Next, Jose discussed his research experience at Hofstra University. Jose explained that his research project was conducted at Hofstra University's chemical research laboratory and he gave an overview of his project. Jose reported that he was treated like a colleague by staff and would now like to major in Chemistry.

Next, the Literacy Collaboration between Adelphi University and Mineola HS, was presented by Diane Feige, Ed.D., Clinical Associate Professor, Adelphi University and Ms. Beach, Reading Collaborative, Mineola HS. Throughout this program, projects have been developed to benefit the children of Kenya. In one project, students contributed poems and pictures to be put together in a book "What I See Outside My Window", which was sent to Kenya and in return the children in Kenya sent back material. The benefits of this program are that the students who participate in this collaborative with Adelphi, now begin to dream about going to college. They begin to realize it is possible for them. Dr. Feige stated that this collaborative represents to her the theme of "it takes a Village". She thanked Mineola for welcoming Adelphi. This started as an afterschool reading program. Students went from feeling like college was outside of their realm to becoming part of the college program. Dr. Feige feels this program has broadened these students' horizon. Now they want college to be part of their future.

The next presentation was "The Latina Program" which is a collaboration between Molloy College and

Mineola High School. Dr. Maddy Gunn, Molloy Director of Experiential Learning and Ms. Marie Watson, Mineola, discussed that this program started as the result of an increase in the drop out rate of the Latina population. The ten females in this program have shown a decrease in discipline issues and have shown improvement with language skills. Dr. Gunn explained that Molloy has a tradition of mentoring and is very interested in this collaboration. The goal is to broaden their horizons and show what is available if they complete high school. The real value is the sense of empowerment that these girls develop. Ms. Espinosa spoke about her experience in the Latina Program. She stated that she learned that there is more after high school for her. The mentors are great and she can talk about the possibility of college. Ms. Espinosa highly recommends this program for other Latinas.

Mr. Puccio stated that this concludes the presentation and that he hopes it provided everyone with an overview of the various collaborations. Dr. Nagler thanked everyone and stated that these are all true partnerships that have formed over a number of years. These connections make our high school both competitive and unique. He again thanked everyone for coming and sharing their experiences tonight. Mr. Hale stated that the passion of the students that spoke is priceless and he wishes them all good luck. Mr. Hale thanked everyone for the presentation. Ms. Napolitano stated she loved that the idea "it takes a village" was used and stated that all of the programs help students see the possibilities past high school. Ms. Napolitano stated that it is wonderful to see all of the positives that have come from these collaborations. Ms. Napolitano thanked everyone.

G. Old Business

Ms. Napolitano polled the Board regarding any old business. Mr. Hale and Mr. McGrath stated that they had no old business. Mr. Hornberger asked the Superintendent the status of the clubs at the Middle School and if there is no staff interested in the position, will it be opened to parents. The Superintendent stated that as of this morning there were no teachers interested in the position and this is a situation that we have never had before. Mr. Hornberger asked what is the level of "expertise" required for these positions and is it possible to work with the district counsel on this issue. Mr. Hornberger also asked how it would work if a parent got one of these positions; would they get the position the following year as well. The Superintendent responded to Mr. Hornberger's questions. He stated that he would contact the district counsel presidents. The Superintendent stated that if a parent got the position this year, they would not automatically get it next year, because it must be opened up to the teachers first. The Superintendent stated that he needs to get legal advise on how the district would bring in parents. The Superintendent stated that another option would be to bring in "chess nuts" to run the club, but this will possibly lead to the issue of the district hiring an organization to run this club, when parents are paying for the service somewhere else in the district. Ms. Napolitano stated that she feels that there should be a set date for when we can put out these advisor positions when teachers are not interested. She feels that this would prevent this situation for occurring again. The Superintendent stated that this would need to be part of contract negotiations. Mr. McGrath asked if there could be a grievance if a parent is brought in to serve as the advisor. The Superintendent stated that the least problematic solution would be to contract with Chess Nuts, but he would anticipate some complaints. Mr. McGrath stated that he doesn't understand why there would be a complaint and does not feel this should stop us from proceeding. Ms. Napolitano stated that there are many issues involved with having parents running programs and would prefer hiring a program. The Superintendent added that the company would have insurance and is the simple way to do things. Mr. Hornberger asked for the status of the Math Olympiads. The Superintendent stated that there may be a teacher that will be taking over the position. Mr. Hornberger stated that it is important that the issue of dates to express interest in being an advisor be dealt with in order to prevent this issue from coming up in the future.

H. New Business

I. Consensus Agenda

RESOLUTION #51 -BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items I.1.a.1. through I.2.a.2., as presented.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: Terence Hale

No discussion.

Yes: Terence Hale

John McGrath

William Hornberger

Christine Napolitano

No: None

Passed: Yes

1. **Instruction**

a. **Appointments Instruction**

1. The Board of Education approves the re-appointment of Cynthia Kopp, to the position of Leave Replacement Teacher, for Elizabeth Goldman, at Meadow Drive School, effective 02/01/2012 to June 30, 2012. Salary: MA+20, Step 2, \$73,579 pro-rated.
2. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Amber Danisi, to the position of part time hourly Special Education Teacher at Jackson Avenue School, effective February 6, 2012. Salary: \$54.77 per hour.

2. **Civil Service**

a. **Appointments**

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Patricia Froehlich, to the Teacher Aide Substitute list, effective 02/06/2012. Salary would be \$13.74 per hour.
2. The Board of Education approves the appointment of Shanelle Glover, to the position of Bus Attendant PT (Hired 11/12) effective 02/06/2012 with a salary of \$10.75.

J. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reported that for the next school year it may be necessary to change the school start times. Dr. Nagler presented the three options to the public. The Superintendent stated that it could be as simple as changing one of the Pre-K- two buildings and should be a difference of about a half hour. He explained the reason for the shift in time is that the number of children being bussed next year will increase. The following are the options available:

Option 1- the High School start time would remain the same; Middle School would go back to 7:49am to 2:41pm; Hampton Street would stay 8:12am to 2:49pm; Meadow Drive time would be 8:42am to 3:19pm; and Jackson Avenue would be 8:50am to 3:27pm.

Option 2- the High School and Middle School times would remain the same; Jackson Avenue would change to 8:12 am to 2:49pm; and Meadow Drive and Hampton Street would attend school from 8:48am to 3:25pm. The problem that arises with this option is that the Jackson Avenue dismissal would overlap with Chaminade (2:50pm dismissal).

Option 3- is the most radical option and would involve moving the high school start to a later time and moving the younger children to the earlier start time. The High School would move to 7:54am to 2:46pm; the Middle School would attend from 8:20am to 3:12pm; Jackson Avenue would be 8:45am to 3:22pm; and Meadow Drive and Hampton Street would change to 7:30 am to 2:07pm. The Superintendent stated that this is a radical departure from our current start times however, research supports younger children going to school earlier due to the fact that they are already up. He reported that the later time would not be a problem at the high school and would not affect the afternoon sports. The Superintendent stated that an issue that he commonly hears from parents, this year, is that they need both before and after care for their children due to the start times and their need to get to work. Mr. McGrath raised his concern of the push back from the teacher's union and staff, whose contracts are in negotiations currently. Mr. McGrath said now staff at the high school finish at 2:18 and this last option would change that to 2:46pm. He stated that we will need to discuss this. Mr. Hornberger added that bell time is contractual and would need to be negotiated. The Superintendent stated that he would like to see that we make the best decision to benefit the children.

The Superintendent stated that he has a few other announcements. He stated that at the next Board meeting, there will be presentations from two perspective renters for this building. The Middle School drama presentation "Annie" is tomorrow night and Saturday. The Superintendent encouraged everyone to attend and stated that Friday night's performance is almost sold out. The Superintendent stated that the previously reported tax levy cap was incorrect and they are getting clarification of what the actual number is. The Superintendent proudly displayed an issue of "Time for Kids", on which the cover features the Middle School and our work in technology. He added that all of our neighboring districts will be reading about what is going on in Mineola. The Superintendent stated that there are links to this magazine on the Middle School webpage and on the Patch. According to Dr. Nagler, this feature was not something that the district solicited. When they came in the class was dissecting a heart and the teachers did a great job. The Superintendent stated that he is very proud of our kids. According to the Superintendent, E-Spark created APPs for students based upon their NWEA needs. The 7th grade students, according to data, have made very high gains. The Superintendent stated that we are in the process of starting a new program for 3rd and 4th grade. The teachers will get dashboard which provide them with feedback on all children. Dr. Nagler stated that homework in the future should all be individualized. The Superintendent stated that by next year, for grades 3rd through 7th, all teachers should have dashboard for all students and they will be engaging them in a fun way.

Finally, the Superintendent stated that he is hoping to make a decision regarding the start times at the March 1, Workshop meeting. The Superintendent stated that he was in need of an executive session.

