

**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 – 2010-2011

- **Educational**
 - *To further expand the district initiative of differentiated instruction specifically focusing on individual student achievement.*
 - *To continue our growth as professional learning communities focusing on common formative assessments to demonstrate individual student growth*
 - *To continue to provide the resources to attain a Intel finalist within the next three years*
- **Facilities**
 - *To investigate and embrace 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*

DATE: October 7, 2010

LOCATION: Willis Avenue School

OPEN WORK SESSION

7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Staff Lounge

Board of Education

Terence Hale, President
Christine Napolitano, Vice President
John McGrath
William Hornberger
Irene Parrino

Central Office

Dr. Michael Nagler, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Waters, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Operations
Janice Patterson, Asst. Supt. for Pupil Pers. Services
Patricia Burns, Asst. Supt. of Curr., Instr., Assessment
Donna Martillo, District Clerk

A. Call to Order

At 7:04 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Hale.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission – Jack Waters

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

E. Dais & Visitor Introductions

F. Old Business

Mr. Hornberger inquired if the 8th graders move to the High School will a crossing guard be assigned to Herricks Road. The Superintendent of Schools responded that he needs to investigate that. Mr. Hornberger would like this looked into. Mr. Hornberger inquired of the Board if they would entertain another exit poll for the October 26th Bond Vote. The Superintendent of Schools stated that it has to be decided at this meeting. He asked District Council if they would take on the responsibility because he doesn't want ask students, but District Council is not interested, they don't want to confuse the issue. Mr. Hornberger spoke about an option discussed at the Jackson Avenue PTA meeting, in having another transition in order to keep 5th and 8th graders at their current schools. Ms. Napolitano inquired if there was time to have a mailing to the community that they can complete and return the day of the vote. Ms. Parrino does not think they will get enough of a response. President Hale inquired of the Board if they wanted an exit poll. Mr. McGrath did not have an objection, but didn't think it would help resolving the issue. Mr. Hornberger stated that The Superintendent of Schools cautioned the Board on changing direction. The Superintendent of Schools stated that he can obtain information for the Board if they are leaning toward a different direction, but evidence is needed. Mr. McGrath stated that if the Bond passes more information won't be needed.

1. Annual Risk Assessment Update Report

RESOLUTION #24 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free Schools District accepts the 2009-2010 Annual Risk Assessment Update Report presented by Cullen & Danowski, LLP, Internal Auditors in accordance with Chapter 263 of the laws of New York, 2005.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Christine Napolitano

Yes: Irene Parrino
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
Terence Hale

No: None

Passed: Yes

G. New Business

H. Consensus Agenda

1. Appointment of Registrars & Inspectors for the 10/26/10 Bond Vote

- a. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to serve as Registrar/Inspectors on October 26, 2010, as well as participate in a pre-vote workshop on October 25, 2010; the hourly rate of pay is \$10.00:

Nora Coniglio	Inspector	Cross Street	1:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
Michael Coniglio	Inspector	Jackson Avenue	1:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Laura Kwiatek	Registrar	Jackson Avenue	4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Gina Hahn	Registrar	Hampton Street	3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

- b. That the Board of Education approves the extension of hours for Jacqueline Borstel, Registrar at Jackson Avenue School, for the October 26, 2010 Bond Vote, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. She is already approved for 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The hourly rate of pay remains the same, \$10.00.
- c. That the Board of Education approves amending the list of Registrars/Inspectors for the October 26, 2010 Bond Vote with the removal of Martha Makowski, Registrar, Hampton Street School, 1:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

2. Contract(s)

- a. That the Board of Education approves of an agreement between the Mineola Union Free School District and Maria Dove, Consultant, to work with Kindergarten classroom/ESL teachers. This is to be paid out of Title I and Title IIIA Immig. Ed 2010-2011 money, at a total cost of \$13,000.
- b. That the Board of Education approves the amendment to the contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and CORE, increasing the cost by an additional \$40,000.00 for staff at the copy center.

3. Disposal of District Property

- a. That the Board of Education approves the disposal of the following District Property, in accordance with District Policy #6900, declaring them obsolete:

Bus #42 – VIN #1HVLPHYL7GHA46732
 Bus #43 – VIN #1HVLPHYL5GHA46308
 Bus #49 – VIN #1HVLPHYL6GHA46267

4. Leave of Absence

- a. That the Board of Education approve the unpaid Medical Leave of Absence for Maria Dunlop, part time Teacher Aide, effective September 1, 2010. Date of return is undetermined at this time.

5. Appointment(s)

- a. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Maria David, 5 hour Bus Driver to a 10 Month Bus Driver, to replace Laurice Byrd, effective October 4, 2010. Salary will be \$39,606 on Step 6; probation is 8 weeks.

b. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Christina Garofalo, Teacher Aide Sub, to the position of part time Greeter, effective October 4, 2010. Salary will be \$10.00 per hour on Step 1; probation is 26 weeks.

c. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Gladys Gaines, Teacher Aide Sub, to the position of part time Teacher Aide, effective October 4, 2010. Salary is \$13.74 on Step 1; probation is 26 weeks.

d. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following two Student Workers for the High School Locker Room at \$8.50 per hour:

Nick Palma	September 14, 2010
John Caputo	September 16, 2010

e. That the Board of Education approves the reappointment of Diane Ricciardi (previously excessed, June 30, 2010) to an appointment as a one-to-one part time Teacher Aide at the Middle School, effective October 4, 2010. Salary will be \$14.16 on Step 2.

f. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following Teacher Aides to work in the Federally Funded CSE Extended School Day Program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The program will begin on September 21, 2010 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 3:15 pm – 4:45 pm; to be paid at the hourly rate stated:

Lorena Romano	\$22.21
Nancy Gestner	18.05
Barbara Miller	23.86
Marie Sallie	27.27
Nina Mullane	15.38
Angela Hagan	15.38
Kathy Polumbo	18.51

g. The Board of Education approves the following employees as substitute Teacher Aides, if needed, for the CSE Extended School Day program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders, at the hourly rate stated:

Karen Dombeck	\$33.97
Melanie Reif	20.81
Elizabeth Curatolo	28.59
Geri Larson	20.81
Theresa Takacks	13.74
Donna Coulon	26.55
Christina Garofalo	10.00

h. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Christine Simione to the substitute Nurse List effective September 13, 2010; salary is \$90.00 per day.

RESOLUTION #25 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Consensus Agenda Items H.1.a. through H.5.h. as presented.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Christine Napolitano

Yes: Irene Parrino
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
Terence Hale

No: None

Passed: Yes

RESOLUION #26 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District supports and approves the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, in 1938, at the specific request and behest of the County of Nassau, New York State granted county-wide property assessment jurisdiction to the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, aside from upstate Tompkins County, Nassau is the only county-wide assessing unit in New York State, with over 415,000 parcels, and is second in size only to the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, in its original consideration of the County of Nassau’s petition for assessment jurisdiction, the New York State legislature expressed concerns that the enormity of the assessment load would result in erroneous assessments and subsequent challenges; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature, aware that school districts are highly dependent on a secure property tax base and that school budgets would be vulnerable as a result of inaccurate tax rolls, thereby endangering the education of children, decreed in 1948 that the County of Nassau, with its broader range of revenues, should be held responsible for costs and penalties resulting from its errors in assessment; and

WHEREAS, in order to secure control of a county-wide system and the benefits thereof, the County of Nassau pledged and guaranteed to the State of New York to protect its school districts from any negative consequences resulting from the assessment procedures utilized by the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, for decades, schools and taxpayers within the County of Nassau have suffered from the inequities caused by the adherence of the County of Nassau to an irrefutably and admittedly flawed assessment process; and

WHEREAS, legal challenges to commercial assessments made by the County of Nassau have been, either negligently or willfully, permitted to languish in the courts for years and years, accruing interest at exorbitant rates prior to their eventual settlement by the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, in order to facilitate an assessment roll relatively free from errors and potential challenges, the New York State Legislature granted the Nassau County Assessment Review Commission one (1) full year for review prior to the establishment of its final assessment roll; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, has denied the attempt by the County of Nassau to shift responsibility for multi-year back payments for tax certiorari costs from the County of Nassau to local school districts in derogation of the pledge and guarantee previously made by the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, has denied an attempt by the County of Nassau to implicate school districts in its move to shift to villages, towns and special districts the funding of tax certiorari judgments; and

WHEREAS, it is the County of Nassau that is responsible for its own property assessments, including, but not limited to any flaws, errors or delays therein, and that school districts within the County of Nassau have no role whatsoever in either making such assessments or in responding to challenges to such assessments; and

WHEREAS, the Executive of the County of Nassau, Edward P. Mangano, has called upon the Nassau County Legislature to unilaterally, without the approval of the State of New York and/or the consent of the school districts of the County of Nassau, relieve the County of Nassau of its pledge, guarantee and lawful obligation to hold such school districts harmless for back payments of multi-year tax certiorari settlements, thereby shifting the costs of such payments onto local school property taxes and local school property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, any assertion that abandonment of the pledge, guarantee and obligation of the County of Nassau contained in language in the proposed Budget of the County of Nassau for Fiscal Year 2011 means “no property tax increase” is false and misleading, resulting in no real cost avoidance, but merely a shift in the lawful responsibility of the County of Nassau on to the schools within the County of Nassau; and

WHEREAS, such action would only raise school taxes to the taxpayers of the County of Nassau without adding any educational value; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mineola Board of Education opposes any legislation, from whatever source, that would shift the responsibility of the County of Nassau for funding multi-year tax certiorari settlements of its assessment errors onto the local school district tax levy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to the following representatives for their endorsement, which shall be shown by their counter-signatures on the Resolution when returned to this Board of Education:

- Members of the Nassau County Legislature
- Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, representing Nassau County districts
- Members of the Town Councils of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay

Motion: Christine Napolitano

Second: John McGrath

Discussion: President Hale asked Mr. McGrath to explain the above resolution. Mr. McGrath stated that on October 18th there will be a vote in the County legislature to effectuate the repeal of the County Tax Refund Guarantee (Common Sense Act 2010). Mr. McGrath further explained: that the current and past County Executives were in favor of this; it is a way for the county to reduce their budget; people challenging tax assessments through certiorari claims; schools districts will now be responsible for paying all refunds to individual tax payers who are successful in their challenge to lower their assessment; it would cripple a school district's budget; currently there is \$80 million in tax certiorari claims that have not been resolved; potential liability for Mineola is \$640,000; in 1938 State granted a request by Nassau County to do their own assessments; not confident it will pass.

Yes: Irene Parrino
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
Terence Hale

No: None

Passed: Yes

I. Superintendent's Reports

The Superintendent of Schools introduced Ms. Patricia Burns. Ms. Burns discussed the following: curriculum and instruction in where the district is currently and where it intends to go; correlated the Board's 2010-2011 Goals to instruction; common core standards; assessment of students; students taking all formative assessments; clear set of appropriate subject area goals; differentiate instruction; technology being part of students' education. The Superintendent of Schools interjected that the students using the ipads are enthusiastic about the program. Mr. McGrath inquired about the use of paper. Ms. Burns responded that books are still being used because the program is very new. The Superintendent of Schools stated that the goal is to use less paper. Ms. Burns further discussed the following: High School participation in the Marzano Research Lab Consortium; Robert Marzano is a leading researcher in effective classrooms; use of NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) in looking up data and making the connection; holding teachers accountable. Mr. McGrath inquired as to how will the district hold teachers accountable. Ms. Burns responded that there will be data available about their students' progress. The Superintendent of Schools stated that the Race to the Top has a teachers' evaluation piece to it and NWEA lends itself to that evaluation piece.

Mr. McGrath inquired about the grades using the NWEA program. The Superintendent of Schools stated next year the program will be district-wide. Ms. Burns also stated that students will own their learning and teachers being responsible for student learning.

The Superintendent of Schools reported on the following: NWEA and stated that it is the wave of the future in the State; district is on the fast track in the implementation of it; thanked Ms. Burns and Ms. Mackon in getting it off the ground; individualized instruction for students; explained the program (RIT (Rash Unit) scale; not a test of mastery; instructional level where a teacher should begin instruction; skill level achieved by asking questions; for all students; MAP (Measures of Academic Progress); instructional resources (RIT Report, Goal Report, Parent Report); given 3 times a year (Fall, Winter, Spring) and results are next day; student goal setting; growth research database; school overview; differences between

Mr. Hornberger expressed concern about young children setting their own goals. The Superintendent of Schools explained how the children will set their goals working in conjunction with teachers.

Ms. Napolitano inquired if homework would be differentiated. The Superintendent of Schools responded yes, it will be appropriate for where the student is.

The Superintendent of Schools further discussed: RIT score needed to graduate (237); NWEA program can project if a student in 2nd grade will meet the State RIT standard and be able to graduate on time.

Ms. Napolitano inquired as to the number of States incorporating this program. The Superintendent of Schools responded approximately 25 to 30. Ms. Napolitano inquired about each State setting their own standards and where does New York State fit in compared to the other states. The Superintendent of Schools responded that is a problem because New York State is committed to change their standards.

Mr. McGrath inquired if the district was aligning with the core standards. The Superintendent of Schools responded that these are the current standards and they will be adjusted when they adopt the new state standards.

The Superintendent also stated: the program focuses on the individual student and gives real data quickly for teachers to teach kids; valuable tool when negotiating with teachers the data that will be used in their evaluations.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about the Middle School not participating in the program. The Superintendent of Schools explained that it would be unfair to drop the AIMS program this year, but next year, if everything goes well the NWEA program will be K-10; the district needs to be on the same system; there is a cost associated with it, but it is worthwhile; and Mineola is ahead of the 3 years the Commissioner has set.

The Superintendent of Schools announced the following: Parent University on October 20, 2010 at Willis to discuss NWEA; refunding project in refinancing the Bond, a significant savings to the district; good job to Mr. Waters. Mr. Hornberger thanked the Financial Planning Committee and the specific individual, in saving taxpayers a substantial amount of money by this recommendation.

The Superintendent stated he was in need of an executive session to discuss personnel.

J. Executive Session

At 8:25 p.m. a motion was made 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: Christine Napolitano

Yes: Irene Parrino
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
Terence Hale
No: None

Passed: Yes

President Hale stated the Board may return at any time.

At 10:30 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

K. Adjournment

At 10:30 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: William Hornberger

Yes: Irene Parrino
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Christine Napolitano
Terence Hale
No: None

Passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Martillo
District Clerk