

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: December 2, 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 7:01 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Hale.

President Hale stated Mr. Hornberger would be arriving late.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission – Irene Parrino

- D. **Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. **Dais & Visitor Introductions**
- F. **Old Business**

1. **Adoption of Regulation #6910-R – Authorized Use of District-Owned Materials & Equipment**

RESOLUTION #38 – BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District waive the formal reading of the Regulation #6910 (Authorized Use of District-Owned Materials & Equipment) and move its adoption.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Christine Napolitano

Yes: Irene Parrino
 John McGrath
 Christine Napolitano
 Terence Hale

No: None

Passed: Yes

G. **New Business**

Mr. McGrath commented he wanted to clarify the purpose of his writing a letter to the editor regarding the potential merging of the Mineola School District with the Herricks School District: generate a community dialogue; savings would be greater than the proposed Bond (Between 50 and 70 million dollars over 10 years) in administrative salaries with the elimination of Central Office Administrators, support staff, Middle and High School administrative positions); High School students would benefit because they wouldn't be getting educated in an industrial area but in a campus setting; alleviate traffic around Jackson Avenue and Chaminade; criticized that he had not spoken to Herricks; proposed that Mineola begin talks with Herricks to ascertain interest; New York State provides \$50,000 to do a feasibility study that examines a variety of factors (Impact on tax rate of both districts, transportation issues, and if there is community support for this type of merger); districts are under no obligation after the feasibility study has been completed;

A motion was made for the Board of Education to contact the Herricks Board of Education to ascertain if there is an interest to begin the process of a possible merger in order to conduct a feasibility study.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Irene Parrino

Discussion: Ms. Napolitano read a statement regarding Mr. McGrath's behavior during the reconfiguration process: his letter to the editor of a local newspaper; offering no alternatives; angering District Council of PTAs; no discussion with Mineola Board nor Herricks Board regarding a merger, which Herricks believes is not in the best interest of their community; his lack of

respect for the residents of the community, Board, Triple C, or Administration; referred to the NYSSBA Code of Conduct; decision based in opinion rather than facts; is resistant; and his proposal is most radical; and with little regard to the community. Mr. McGrath commented about the following: he is not under obligation to discuss his idea with Herricks or obligated to bring it up at the meeting; State has been discussing consolidation for a long time; State offers millions of dollars to effectuate consolidation.

Mr. McGrath discussed the following as it pertained to bringing the merger proposal before the Mineola Board: Mr. Hale voted in favor of tabling Resolutions (31, 32, 33) which eliminated the need to discuss it; Mr. Hornberger amended the Bond Proposition and Mr. McGrath felt it unnecessary to address it then; feels both communities can have this discussion; PTA did not mention him by name. When Ms. Napolitano inquired of Mr. Velez is she referred to Mr. McGrath in their statement, Ms. Velez confirmed she had. Ms. Parrino inquired when Herricks would be approached. Mr. McGrath responded, at the Board's convenience. Mr. Hale referred to this motion as grandstanding, and stated the Herricks community is not interested. Mr. Hale asked the District Clerk to poll the Board on the motion.

Yes: Irene Parrino
John McGrath

No: Christine Napolitano
Terence Hale

Passed: No

H. Consensus Agenda

1. Amendment to Middle School Club Stipends
 - a. That the Board of Education approves the amending the following Middle School Club Stipends, previously approved at the October 21, 2010 Business Meeting, as:

Middle School	Chess Club	\$ 896
	Animal Rights	\$ 896
2. Leave of Absence(s)
 - a. That the Board of Education grants a request to Trevlin Alexander, for an extension to her unpaid leave of absence, for child-rearing purposes, effective January 3, 2011 to June 30, 2011.
 - b. That the Board of Education grants a request to Lauren Reiff, for a leave of absence, using sick days, fro child-rearing purposes, starting approximately April 3, 2011.
3. Appointment(s)

- a. That the Board of Education approves the re-appointment of Jill Cole to the position of Leave Replacement Art Teacher for Trevlin Alexander, effective January 31, 2011 to June 30, 2011; salary, MA, Step1, \$67,604.00.
- b. That the Board of Education approves the addition of the following individuals to the Per Diem Substitute Teacher List at a daily rate of pay, \$90.00:

Christopher Conterelli Students w/Disabilities (Grades 1-6)
 Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)

Nicole Adams Physical Education

4. Field Trip(s)

- a. That the Board of Education approves the following out-of-state/overnight field trips for the Winter Guard (Rockette) Competitions:

1/8/2011	W. MILFORD CT
1/22/2011	WEST ORANGE, NJ
2/26/2011	S. BRUNSWICK COMPETITION
3/5/2011	WGI MID-ATLANTIC- S. Brunswick, NJ
3/6/2011	WGI MID-ATLANTIC- S. Brunswick, NJ
3/18-20/2011	WGI EASTCOAST, PROVIDENCE, RI
4/6-10/2011	WGI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
4/16/2011	MAIN CHAMPIONSHIPS- South Brunswick, NJ

RESOLUTION #39 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves Consensus Agenda Items H.1.a. through H.4.a. as presented.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Ms. Parrino inquired about Item H.1.a. (Amendment to MS Club Stipends). The Superintendent of Schools responded that it they were incorrectly stated when previously approved.

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

Passed: Yes

I. Superintendent's Reports

The Superintendent of Schools discussed the following: transitioning the children as buildings close if the Bond fails and if it passes; transition plan with Cross Street closing first; passage of Bond proposal (Leave MS & HS as they are; 3-5 at Jackson); what will appear on the December 16th agenda (Amending Hampton SEQRA; transfer of monies out of current budget for Architect's fee; convene a Committee comprised of parents, teachers, administrators to meet with the Architects).

At 7:31 p.m. Mr. Hornberger joined the meeting.

The Superintendent of Schools also discussed: 3rd grade being the only grade transitioning twice; completion of construction by 2012 and Willis will close. Mr. Hale inquired about staff and administration at Willis. The Superintendent of Schools responded that they will excess the least Sr. Principal and the same for the following year. The remaining Principals will switch buildings and there will be a big difference in staffing if the 5th and 8th grades move to the Middle and High Schools. Mr. Hale commended the Superintendent of Schools on the work he was doing and encouraged him to keep it up.

Ms. Parrino inquired about class sizes. The Superintendent of Schools responded he is using the current class size guidelines and all of this information will be on the district's website tomorrow.

The Superintendent of Schools made a presentation on the preliminary renderings of the Hampton proposed construction as follows: instead of constructing 4 additional classrooms, renovate the existing special spaces into 4 additional classrooms and construct a Library/Media center, Art Room, and Music Room onto the building whereby all will benefit from the renovations; cost is \$2.1 million and in order to reduce that number, professional fees will be removed and paid for through the current budget; items not included in the construction (A/C, and shelving); costs can be scaled down; and he is looking for Board direction to complete the process before the budget vote.

Mr. Hale inquired if the State mandated a minimum on space for a library/media center. The Superintendent of Schools responded no, but the current library was 800 sq. ft and Meadow Drive's library is between 1100 and 1200 sq. ft.

Ms. Napolitano inquired as to the number of students after the buildings are closed. The Superintendent of Schools responded, 350 including Pre-K.

Mr. Hornberger inquired if there would be room for growth in Hampton's addition for multi-media technology. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the wiring installed will be needed in the future and have the ability to use 25 to 30 computers at a time when testing.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about a room in Hampton's basement. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the room is not used, just to store books.

Mr. Hornberger stated he is comfortable with moving forward and understands the higher cost. Mr. Hale stated he likes the look of the extension renderings.

Ms. Napolitano inquired as to the size of the room where this evenings meeting was being held. The Superintendent of Schools responded about 3000 sq. ft. and the extension onto Hampton will be 2-1/2 times that.

Mr. McGrath requested confirmation that the total cost of Jackson and Hampton's construction will be \$6.8 million (4.4 million Bond for Jackson, and 2.1 million plus \$300,000 for Hampton). The Superintendent of Schools responded in a positive manner. Mr. McGrath commented that the community just defeated a \$6.7 million Bond. The Superintendent of Schools stated that they are 2 separate events.

Mr. Hornberger and Mr. McGrath discussed the community passing a 7% tax levy. Mr. McGrath stated that in the past the community passed similar amounts and referenced a 10 year comparison that appears in the Educational Plan and Budget.

The Superintendent of Schools stated that the next agenda will reflect a transfer of monies and amending the Hampton SEQRA.

The Superintendent of Schools reported that he attended a symposium in Carle Place with Nassau County Legislator Richard Nicoletto regarding level 3 sex offenders residing in hotels because they are homeless.

The Superintendent of Schools also reported on proposals coming out of State Education Department about Regents exams and the possibility of charging districts a fee (\$5.93) for each student taking the test. Mr. McGrath inquired about getting a Regents Diploma for students taking Latin. The Superintendent of Schools responded that teachers across Nassau County are getting together to provide a test, which will be submitted for approval. He further stated that 5th and 8th grade Social Studies and proficiency exams are being eliminated. Mr. McGrath inquired as to how the State could eliminate exams. The Superintendent of Schools responded that they can change diploma requirements, but nothing is official as yet.

President Hale took a consensus of the Board to open up a public comment portion regarding tonight's presentation. The Board was in agreement to open it up to the public.

President Hale informed the audience when addressing the Board to come up to the microphone to state their name and address.

A resident commented to have the Architect come up with fewer windows at Hampton because the athletic field and playground are close to the addition. The Superintendent of Schools referred to the natural light for the Art Room and stated that it was a good point.

J. Executive Session

At 8:17 p.m. 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: William Hornberger

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

President Hale informed the audience that the Board may return at any time.

At 10:40 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

K. Adjournment

At 10:40 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Irene Parrino

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Martillo
District Clerk