

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 – 2008-2009

- *Educational Expectations and Improvement*
- *School Quality*
- *Operations*
- *Fiscal Management/Stability*

DATE: October 2, 2008

LOCATION: Willis Avenue School

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
OPEN WORK SESSION**

**7:00 p.m. 1st FLOOR CAFETERIA
7:30 p.m. - APPROXIMATELY**

Board of Education

Stephen Siwinski, President
Laraine Salvatore, Vice President
John McGrath
William Hornberger
Terence Hale

Central Office

Dr. Lorenzo Licopoli, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Michael Nagler, Deputy Superintendent
Sherri Goffman, Asst. Supt. of Curr. & Inst.
John Waters, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Oper.
Janice Patterson, Director of Pupil Services
Lori Dolan, Asst. District Clerk

A. Call to Order

At 7:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Siwinski.

B. Executive Session

At 7:06 p.m. a motion was made for the Board to go into executive session.

Motion: Laraine Salvatore
Second: William Hornberger

Yes: Terence Hale
William Hornberger
Laraine Salvatore
Stephen Siwinski
No: None

Passed: Yes

At 7:20 p.m. Mr. McGrath joined the meeting.

At 8:00 p.m. a motion was made to come out of executive session.

Motion: Laraine Salvatore
Second: William Hornberger

Yes: Terence Hale
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Stephen Siwinski

No: None

Passed: Yes

- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Reading of Mission
- E. Moment of Silent Meditation
- F. Dais & Visitor Introductions
- G. Old Business
- H. New Business

1. Independent External Auditor's Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2008

RESOLUTION #30 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the Independent External Auditor's Report for the year ending June 30, 2008 and places it on file.

Motion: Laraine Salvatore
Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Terence Hale
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Stephen Siwinski

No: None

Passed: Yes

2. Proposed Salary Schedule for Occupational Therapists

RESOLUTION #31 – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the proposed salary schedule for Occupational Therapists as set forth in Attachment "A".

Motion: Laraine Salvatore
Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Terence Hale
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Stephen Siwinski

No: None

Passed: Yes

I. Superintendent's Reports

- **Student Leadership Report** – Ralph Amitrano

Discussion: Mr. Amitrano introduced Jill Wetzel and Gail Jakubek as 2 members of the Student Leadership Class, a new course created as a result of attending the Principal's Leadership conferences held at Adelphi each year, whereby six students would accompany the Principals and Physical Education teachers. Mr. Amitrano stated that it was a great program, and they wanted to bring it back to more students, so this course was developed to review aspects and characteristics of leadership. Letters were sent to approximately 50-60 10th grade students inviting them to participate in the course, and 16 enrolled. Mr. Amitrano stated that the students complete the course as 11th graders and, as seniors the students become leaders in their Physical Education class. Jill Wetzel and Gail Jakubek stated that they really loved the class, they had lots of responsibility, and they had to write lesson plans and helped them become better public speakers.

- ❖ A member of the public asked how they were selected. Mr. Amitrano replied that the PE teachers selected students that demonstrated leadership qualities, and not based on athletic ability.
 - ❖ Mr. Hornberger asked what age the seniors teach, and Mr. Amitrano replied that, this year, the seniors teach their own grade, but eventually they would teach the younger grades.
 - ❖ Ms. Salvatore inquired if, out of 50-60 students, a class of 16 was sufficient, and Mr. Amitrano replied that he had wanted a class of 20, but that it only worked out for 16 students when it came to scheduling.
 - ❖ Mr. Siwinski asked the students what attracted them to the course, and the students replied that they were invited, and they really love gym.
 - ❖ The Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Siwinski thanked the students for coming.
- **District Physical Education Plan** – Ralph Amitrano presented the State Audit in PE and Athletics, stating that 20 schools in New York State were randomly selected to be audited, and that Mineola was the only school in Nassau County. The audit was conducted by the NYS Comptroller's office over a 4 day period, where they examined required instruction, the Physical Education Plan and personnel licensing and staff certification. The results of the audit indicated compliance in all areas except grades K-6 required instructional time, and a Physical Education Plan is not filed with the State Education Department. In response to the Audit, Mr. Amitrano stated that he would send a copy of the Plan to New York State, and discussed options for compliance with regard to additional instructional time for grades K-6. He further stated that, of the 20 schools audited, only 13 schools had a Plan, and none of the schools had them filed with the Sate.

- **Superintendent's Comments**

- ❖ The Superintendent stated that Homecoming was postponed due to inclement weather, targeting a make-up date of November 1.
- ❖ He further stated that the schools will be finishing their School Improvement Plans and would be ready for the Board in about two weeks.
- ❖ Follow-ups – in support of Bill Urianek’s Can Drive for the Christopher Levy Fund, the Central Office and Willis Ave. staff are conducting their own can drive. Also, the Superintendent stated that he was looking for direction from the Board with regard to the November 1 timeline on the Cost Reduction Plan, and whether they were looking for generic or specific scenarios. Mr. Hornberger stated that scenarios did not necessarily have to be specific. Ms. Salvatore stated that she prefer that the scenarios not touch any programs for the children. The Superintendent of Schools stated that the cost reduction scenarios would be presented at the November 6th Board of Education meeting.

• **Tentative Agenda Topics**

Discussion: The Superintendent asked if the draft of the Board of Education Agenda Tentative Topics was what the Board was looking for, and Mr. Siwinski replied yes.

• **Budget Calendar**

A draft of the Proposed 2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar was presented to the Board.

Mr. Siwinski asked Lori Dolan to e-mail the elementary school PTA Presidents to let them know that Board representatives would be attending next month’s meetings as follows:

Ms. Salvatore – Meadow
Mr. hale – Cross

Mr. Hornberger – Hampton
Mr. McGrath – Jackson

Mr. Siwinski announced that he and the Superintendent will have an open door meeting with the public on October 16, 2008, from 6:30 – 7:00 in the Willis Cafeteria.

K. Adjournment

At 9:20 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Terence Hale
William Hornberger
John McGrath
Laraine Salvatore
Stephen Siwinski

No: None

Passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Dolan
Assistant District Clerk