

**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: December 4, 2008

LOCATION: Willis Avenue School

OPEN WORK SESSION

7:00 p.m. 1st FLOOR CAFETERIA

Board of Education

Laraine Salvatore, Vice President
John McGrath
William Hornberger

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 7:10 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Vice-President Salvatore.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

E. Dais & Visitor Introductions

F. Old Business

Discussion: Mr. Hornberger asked if the Sexual Harassment Training was complete, and Mrs. Goffman responded that some of the part-time Teacher Aides and several other staff members still need to complete the course, which was scheduled. Mr. Hornberger inquired as to the possibility of “going paperless” with regard to Friday Reports and Board Meeting Agendas and back-up, and the Superintendent responded that this would be possible to begin this by the next Friday. The possibility of using laptops at Board meetings was also discussed. Mr. Hornberger

asked if the hot water in the boys' locker room showers was fixed, and Mr. Waters responded that it was. Mr. Hornberger inquired as to the status of a replacement for the Director of Transportation position, and the Superintendent responded that they had begun the Civil Service canvassing process. Mr. Hornberger inquired as to posting salary and benefit information for Central Office Administrators on the District website. Dr. Nagler responded that the information is already available on the website as part of the Educational Plan and Budget. Mr. McGrath stated that he would like to see the information broken out for the public. Ms. Salvatore added that she would like the contracts posted as well. Mr. Hornberger asked for the status of the desk audit, and the Superintendent responded that it will be part of the reorganization planning for 2009-2010. Mr. Hornberger inquired as to parameters with regard to clubs and stipends. The Superintendent responded that he would conduct an analysis of clubs and stipends in the district. Mr. Hornberger inquired on the status of the Middle School Asbestos Study Report from Broderick, and the Superintendent responded that it was not complete yet. Once complete, he would submit it to the Board, adding that there would also be a meeting with Middle School staff and an environmental physician to address any concerns.

G. New Business

No new business was discussed.

H. Superintendent's Reports

- Curriculum Projects and Staff Development Status Report

Sherri Goffman and Dr. Nagler presented an overview of curriculum projects and staff development, including Summer Curriculum Writing, Literacy Consultants, the Professional Residency Program, and other professional development, including Classroom Walk-Throughs, Differentiated Instruction, Technology, Common Assessments, the Master Level Teacher Course and Superintendent's Conference Days.

- Parameters for Expense Side Reductions

The Superintendent of Schools presented his recommendations to the Board with regard to parameters for expense side reductions. The Superintendent and Dr. Nagler discussed the impact of closing Willis Avenue School, indicating that classrooms would be very close to full capacity in all elementary schools, the Kornreich Early Childhood Center would probably have to be eliminated, all 3 classes of Universal Pre-K would probably not be possible, and scheduling of services such as Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy would be problematic due to the necessity of sharing a classroom. The Superintendent stated that forecasting of State Aid as per the Governor's office called for a 15% reduction in revenue. Ms. Salvatore added that a tax cap is also still possible. The Superintendent stated that he would be attending a meeting with Governor Patterson and Senator Craig Johnson next week. He further stated that we need to think in a 2 year, 4 year and 6 year context, establish goals, and that the parameters should guide us with regard to class sizes, program development, cost per pupil and an intensive line by line review of the budget. The Superintendent stated that he would present cost reduction options at either the December 18 or January 15 Board meeting.

Public Comment:

- ❖ A member of the public asked at what point does the tax levy get to the point where the budget fails and the Superintendent responded that, at that point, at least one building would have to close.
- ❖ A member of the public stated that, in light of home value assessments not getting reduced by the County, the likelihood of a failed budget is high.
- ❖ A member of the public inquired as to the demographics of our teachers, and Dr. Nagler responded that he could provide a list.

J. Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: Will Hornberger

Yes: Will Hornberger
Laraine Salvatore
John McGrath

No: None

Passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Dolan
Assistant District Clerk