

**MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINEOLA, NY**

Business 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 - 2014-2015

Educational

- To continue to align curriculum that assesses specific Common Core standards. These data must track individual student growth in the standards.
- Develop and implement a four-year plan to align High School coursework and partnerships in specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) strands.
- Explore partnerships with local universities to offer certificate programs to our students during his/her senior year.
- Continue to develop and encourage students to engage in college level coursework
- Continue to assess the District's Strategic Objectives and report on progress toward those objectives

Facilities

- Explore the feasibility of green technologies as part of the projects associated with our Capital reserve expenditures

Finance

- Not to exceed the allowable tax levy cap while continuing to maintain and enhance all of our programs.

DATE: April 23, 2015

LOCATION: Willis Avenue School

OPEN WORK SESSION

7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Board Room

Board of Education

Arthur Barnett, President
Christine Napolitano, Vice President
Patricia Navarra
Nicole Matzer
Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion

Central Office

Dr. Michael Nagler, Superintendent of Schools
Jack Waters, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Operations
Patricia Burns, Asst. Supt. of Curr.,Instr.,&Assess.
Andrea Paggi, District Clerk

A. Call to Order - 7:00 pm

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission- Christine Napolitano

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

E. Dais & Visitor Introductions

F. High School Student Organization Report

Tonight's SO Report was by Craig VandeStouwe. He stated that the play "Annie Get Your Gun", was very good and no one was disappointed. At the High School, all spring sports are up and running and hopefully it will be a successful season. The seniors are in the process of presenting their Senior Projects and there have been many very interesting ones to see. Many students will be taking the AP exams in May. The test will be administered at the High School over a two week period. The Environmental Club celebrated Earth Day by collecting 100 lbs of garbage and made a difference close to home. Craig reported that the SO elections are taking place and students will be electing the new officers for next year, including a replacement for him. Craig thanked the two Board members for visiting the cafeteria and having lunch after his last report of student issues. Mr. Barnett and Ms. Matzer added that they had lunch, talked to students and looked around the facility. Mr. Barnett reported that during his visit the frozen yogurt machine was broken and he wanted to insure that the vendor fixes the machine or we look into a new vendor. Ms. Matzer suggested having an additional register opened in order to keep things moving. The Board thanked Craig for his report.

G. BOE Reports

a. Comments from Board Trustees

Margaret Ballantyne stated that "Annie Get Your Gun" was wonderful. She also attended the Life Skills concert which was phenomenal. Dr. Ballantyne attended Career Day at the High School and was very impressed with how it was organized. She added that students were very engaged. She attended the Regatta which was a lot of fun. Dr. Ballantyne reported that the Board attended the NSBA Conference in Nashville. There were many very good presentations and the Board gathered a great deal of new options for the turf field. Based upon her experiences at the conference, she feels the Mineola District is on the right track.

Nicole Matzer got to be a guest reader at Jackson Avenue which was fun. She attended "Annie Get Your Gun" and there were many great performances. Unfortunately, Ms. Matzer was unable to attend the Regatta this year. She has attended the PTSA meeting at the High School, the McDonald's fundraiser and had lunch at the High School. Ms. Matzer looks forward the 8th & 9th grade performance of "Fiddler on the Roof". She was unable to travel to Nashville with the rest of the Board for the NSBA conference.

Patricia Navarra reported that she very happy to attend the NSBA conference and with all of the workshops and information that she obtained there. Ms. Navarra wished all of the seniors good luck with making their final college decisions.

Christine Napolitano attended many of the same events as the rest of the Board. She thanked Dr. Ballantyne for attending and commenting on the Career Day at the High School.

b. Comments from Board President

Artie Barnett stated that the NSBA conference in Nashville was very eye opening. He stated that this opportunity provided the board with a higher level of information and there were many vendors. The Board gathered a great deal of information regarding track and turf field options. Mr. Barnett attended the District Council Dinner and thanked Aileen and Renee for all of their hard work as well as thanking the many volunteers. Finally, he added that "Annie Get Your Gun" was great.

c. Comments from Superintendent

Dr. Nagler was very impressed with the performances in "Annie Get Your Gun". Although he does not normally single out one individual, he stated that Missy Dunlop's performance was amazing. The rest of the cast and crew were wonderful as well and overall it was a great show. The Superintendent looks forward to the 8th and 9th grade production of "Fiddler on the Roof" on May 8th and 9th, and added that tickets can be purchased online.

The Superintendent reported that representatives from two school districts in New Jersey will be visiting Jackson Avenue and the Middle School specifically to look at how we use electronic student portfolios to assess students work. Dr. Nagler just returned from Portland, Oregon where he attended the Spring conference with the League of Innovative Schools in Vancouver, Washington. The Superintendent is part of the National Assessment Team for Digital Promise. He worked with other members on developing a national student portfolio, which would look at the whole child. Dr. Nagler stated that it was very exciting work.

H. Old Business

Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there was any old business, but they did not have any this evening. Mr. Barnett stated that he had a few items. He asked for an update on the turf field project. Dr. Nagler stated that he had commissioned a survey of the High School to determine if a turf field would fit. Once we get the results and the drawings, then we can then start to get prices. Mr. Barnett also asked for an update on the fuel facilities and if the district has started to see a return on the investment yet. Mr. Waters stated that he believe they have but he needs to check the actual numbers. He added that the feedback received from Mr. Gilberg has been positive. Dr. Nagler stated that no problems have been noted and that the convenience of having the facility and the time saved has been beneficial. Mr. Barnett asked for a building project update. The Superintendent reported that the masonry work is about to begin at Hampton and Meadow and the target completion date is the end of June. The work has started at Hampton Street on the electronic transformer. Finally, the windows have been ordered for the three elementary schools and installation will begin once the windows are received. Mr. Barnett inquired about the process for adopting the newly amended policy book. Dr. Nagler explained that they need to find a way to make it available for the public. He stated that copies were being made for the libraries (Mineola and Williston Park) and for the District Clerk's office. Mr. Barnett asked about having it available on the website. Dr. Nagler stated the tech department was in the process of trying to make the copy a sortable pdf because it is not in the format currently. Once this is achieved it will be put on the district website. Dr. Nagler added that there will be a first reading of the policies on May 7th and he targets June for the adoption of the policies. Once the Policy Book is adopted, it will only need to be updated as new policies arise.

I. New Business

Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there was any new business. Dr. Ballantyne stated that she has a request that came up after she attended the Macaroni dinner at the High School. She asked if Dr. Nagler could provide the Board with the total number of service hours completed by this year's senior class as well as the number of hours completed by the rest of the students this year. Dr. Nagler stated he had the hours tonight. The Class of 2015 has completed a total of 3490 hours over the past 4 years. He added that the bulk of those services hours were done during their junior year. At this point in time, for the 2014-2015 school year, students grades 8th-12th have completed 2665 hours of community service. Dr. Ballantyne congratulated the senior class on their accomplishment. Dr. Ballantyne also requested for the Board, a full list of all competitions that the students have participated and the outcomes. She would like the list to include all competitions/opportunities for STEAM and Humanities. Dr. Nagler stated that the list would be ready by the end of the school year.

Dr. Nagler stated that Mr. Interrante, who is a MIE (Microsoft Innovative Educator) and his class had the opportunity to participate in a Skype session with the host of "Born to Explore". Microsoft donated ten devices for the class to take part in this opportunity. The students were able to ask the host up to 10 questions in order to determine his location. It was reported that the students only needed 4 questions to make their guess. The rest of the interaction was focused on the animals from the Everglades. Microsoft highlighted the kids on two Ted talks, to speak with the facilitator and ask questions. Dr. Nagler thanked Mr. Interrante for all of his hard work to make this happen and added that the kids really enjoyed the experience.

Ms. Matzer requested a list of the senior projects and when they are taking place. Dr. Nagler stated that he can get the master list for the Board.

Adoption of 2015/16 Budget and Property Tax Report Card

RESOLUTION # 43 - BE IT RESOLVED that the Mineola Board of Education approves the Adoption of the 2015- 2016 Education Plan and Budget in the amount of \$89,664,263, as submitted or, if necessary, with revisions, and further

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Mineola School approves the real property tax report card prepared by the District's Business Office for the 2015 Annual District Meeting: and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of said report card shall be submitted to the State Education Department by the end of the next business day following this approval.

Motion: Margaret Ballantyne

Second: Nicole Matzer

Discussion:* At this point in the meeting Dr. Nagler did his presentation on the "2015- 2016 Budget"- please see the "Superintendent Report" section for details. After the presentation, Mr. Barnett put Resolution #43 to vote amongst the Board.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

Employee Settlement Agreement

RESOLUTION # 44- BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District hereby approves the terms of a Settlement Agreement and General Release with an employee whose identity has been made known the Board in executive session, accepts the letter of resignation annexed to the Settlement Agreement, and authorizes the Board President and Superintendent of Schools to execute said agreement on behalf of the Board and take the necessary steps to implement its terms.

Motion: Christine Napolitano

Second: Patricia Navarra

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

2015- 2016 Cooperative Bid- Materials & Supplies (Bus, Van & Auto Parts & Transmission)

RESOLUTION # 45 - WHEREAS, It is the plan of the Boards of Education of Garden City UFSD, Herricks UFSD, Mineola UFSD, Great Neck UFSD, Levittown UFSD, North Shore Central School District, Port Washington UFSD, East Rockaway School District, Roslyn UFSD, Long Beach UFSD, Island Park UFSD, Floral Park-Bellerose School District, Plainedge School District, and East Williston UFSD County of Nassau, New York to bid jointly for Materials & Supplies (Bus & Auto Parts & Transmission) and

WHEREAS, The Mineola UFSD is desirous of participating with other school districts in Nassau County in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and

WHEREAS, The Mineola UFSD wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Boards of Education and making recommendations thereon, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Garden City School District hereby appoints David C. Murphy, Jr., for the Garden City School District to represent it in all matters related above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mineola UFSD Board of Education authorizes the above mentioned committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mineola UFSD Board of Education agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mineola UFSD Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by the majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards: (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee: (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s)

Motion: Nicole Matzer

Second: Margaret Ballantyne

Discussion: Dr Nagler explained that the District will at times be part of Cooperative Bids with other school districts in order to obtain better prices and share the work as well. There was no further discussion.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

Veterans Exemption

RESOLUTION # 46- WHEREAS, veterans have provided an invaluable service to this country by risking their lives to protect the freedoms enjoyed by all citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this service and the sacrifices that it entailed, on December 18, 2013, Governor Cuomo signed a bill to allow school districts to partially exempt property owned by certain qualified veterans; and

WHEREAS, New York Real Property Tax Law section 458-a was amended to provide eligible veterans with a real property tax exemption from school taxes so long as the School District in which the real property is located, after public hearing, adopts a resolution authorizing the exemption; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2014, after public hearing, the Mineola Union Free School District acted to adopt such a resolution authorizing said exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mineola Union Free School District, does hereby allow a cooperative corporation to be eligible to receive such exemption pursuant to RPTL §458-a(6)(d).

Motion: Margaret Ballantyne

Second: Patricia Navarra

Discussion: Mr. Barnett explained that resolution was necessary to clarify the original Veteran's Exemption, passed on November 6, 2014, and include cooperative corporation as an eligible property owner to receive the

exemption. There was no additional discussion.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

J. Consensus Agenda

RESOLUTION # 47 - BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.8.b.1, as presented.

Motion: Nicole Matzer
Second: Margaret Ballantyne

Discussion: Dr. Nagler stated that he wanted address two items in the Consensus Agenda; item 2.a.1 Abolish Positions and 2.f.1 Create New Position. He explained that there are two Central Office positions that are being abolished and we are creating a new one- Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. This is being done in an effort to get work done more efficiently. There will be a cost saving as well with the abolishment of the 2 positions. He stated that the Board will have the new contract for review next week. There was no further discussion.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

1. **Accepting of Minutes**

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the March 12, 2015 Workshop Meeting and the March 19, 2015 Business Meeting as presented.

2. **Instruction**

- a. **Abolish Position**
 1. That the Board of Education approves to abolish the following positions, effective June 30, 2015:
 - Chief Information Officer
 - Assistant Business Administrator
 - One (1) ESL teaching position

b. Leave(s) of Absence/Child Rearing

1. That the Board of Education grants a request to Melissa Koenig, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately June 22, 2015.
2. That the Board of Education grants a request to Roneldy Pingitore, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately April 17, 2015.
3. That the Board of Education grants a request to Charyn Restituyo, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately May 25, 2015.
4. That the Board of Education grants a request to Courtney Serio, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately June 14, 2015.

c. Appointments Instruction

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Jillian Vento, to the position of Leave Replacement Teacher for Janine Berto, starting April 16, 2015. Salary: MA, Step 1, \$68,282.
2. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Nicole Destefano, to the position of Probationary English Teacher, effective April 24, 2015. Salary: MA, Step 1, \$68,282. Probationary Period: April 24, 2015 to August 31, 2017.
3. That the Board of Education approves the transfer of Kaitlin Smith, to the position of Leave Replacement Teacher for Maureen Connolly, effective April 24, 2015 with no change in salary.
4. The Board of Education approves the appointment of Alyssa Puccio, to the position of part time/hourly paid Special Education Teacher at St. Aidan's, effective April 16, 2015 to on or before June 30, 2015. Salary: \$55.32 per hour
5. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Jennifer L. Azzara, to the position of Day-to-Day substitute teacher for Barbara Peters, Speech Teacher at Meadow Drive, starting approximately May 13, 2015. Salary: \$100 per day.

d. Appointments 45 Day Subs

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Lisa Mangino, to the position of 45 Day Substitute Teacher for Kim Martino, starting approximately June 8, 2015. Salary: Days 1-20, \$100, Days 21-39 \$110, Days 40-45 \$120, Day 46 MA, Step 1, \$68,282.

e. Appointment(S) Perm Sub

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Alyssa Puccio, to the position of .8 Permanent Substitute Teacher at Jackson Avenue, effective approximately April 24, 2015 to May 31, 2015. Salary: \$80 per day.

f. Creation of New Instructional Position

1. That the Board of Education approves the creation of the following Central Office position, effective July 1, 2015:

-Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

3. **Instruction: Committee on Special Education**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the CSE/CPSE/SCSE recommendations for programs and services for students with IEPs for the time period from 1/1/15- 2/28/15. Please be advised that all of the parents have received the student's IEP and a copy of their DUE process rights.

4. **Instruction: Contracted**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the Home Tutoring Services Agreement between Tutoring Services of Long Island and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.
- b. That the Board of Education approves the Services Agreement for Behavior/ Education and Speech between LNR Associates and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.
- c. That the Board of Education approves the Special Education Services Contract between Hempstead UFSD and the Mineola UFSD for the 2014- 2015 school year.

- d. That the Board of Education approves the License and Operating Agreement between the Mineola UFSD and the SCOPE Education Services for the Before and After School Child Care program for the 2015- 2016 school year.

5. **Instruction: Other**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the following Summer 2015 self-funded program:
-Summer Wrestling Clinic

- b. That the Board of Education approves the following positions for the fully self-funded Summer 2015 Music program:
-3 Music Teachers (9:00 am- 11:30 am)
-1 Drama teacher (12:00 pm- 2:30 pm)
-1 Student Worker (9:00 am- 12:00pm)
-1 Student Worker (12:00 pm- 3:00 pm)

6. **Civil Service**

a. Appointments

1. The Board of Education approve the appointment of Andrea Murphy, to the position of Registered Nurse, effective March 25, 2015. Salary is \$45,531 on Step 1. Additional hours will be paid at an hourly rate of \$35.02 per hour.
2. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Jeanette Landivar, to the position of part time Teacher Aide at Meadow Drive, to replace Carol Behan, effective April 20, 2015. Salary is \$13.74 per hour on Step 1.

b. Leave(s) of Absence

1. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Paul Ruppel, Head Custodian I at Meadow Drive School, effective April 20, 2015, due to surgery.
2. That the Board of Education extend a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Eileen Turano, Teacher Aide at the High School, effective April 16, 2015 through June 26, 2015, due to surgery.
3. That the Board of Education approves a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Joaquim Farinhas, 10 month Bus Driver, due to family illness, effective April 13, 2015 through April 30, 2015.

c. Leave(s) of Absence

1. That the Board of Education grant a request to Alice Ruggiero, part time Teacher Aide at Hampton Street School, for an Unpaid Medical Leave of Absence, due to surgery, effective April 10, 2015 through May 6, 2015.

- d. Civil Service: Other
- 1. That the Board of Education approves summer positions for the Transportation Department for Bus Drivers and Bus Attendants, effective July 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015. Rate of pay for the Bus Drivers will be \$25 per hour and Bus Attendants will be paid their hourly wage.
- 2. That the Board of Education approves 27 summer cleaners, effective July 6, 2015 through August 21, 2015. Salary will be \$8.00 per hour.

7. **Business /Finance**

a. **Treasurer's Report**

1. That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's report for the period ending February 28, 2015 and directs that it be placed on file.

b. **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

That the Board of Education accepts the Invoices and Payroll for the period ending March 31, 2015

A/P Warrant # 17	March 11, 2015	\$ 402,100.62
A/P Warrant # 18	March 25, 2015	\$2,106,207.26

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 2,508,307.88

PAYROLL # 17 & # 18

General	\$ 4,000,248.97
F Fund	\$ 50,673.69

TOTAL PAYROLL \$4,050,922.66

8. **Other**

a. Accept Donation

1. That the Board of Education accepts the donation of a 60' Flat Screen SMART Television to the students of the Meadow Drive School from the 2014-2015 Meadow Drive PTA Board.

2. That the Board of Education accepts the donation of ten (10) Surface Pro 3 devices, for a total value of \$12,990, from Microsoft for use and benefit of the Mineola Union Free School District.

b. Approval of Election Workers

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to serve as Registrars and Inspectors at the Annual Election and Budget Vote held **Tuesday, May 19, 2015** at the hourly rate of pay, \$10.00:

Chief Election Inspectors:

Meadow Drive: **Eileen Alexander**
Jackson Avenue: **Carolina Macedo**

Registrars:

Meadow Drive: Madeline Cegelski, Rosetta Morris, Loretta Piotrowski
Jackson Avenue: Robert Petraglia, Frank Iaquinto, Gary Nelson

Inspectors:

Meadow Drive: Ann Marie Smith, Douglas Cegelski, Raymond Kwiatek, Lynn Clifford
Jackson Avenue: Flore Rowe, Marie Encizo, Mary Ann Iaquinto, Karen Dombeck, Marion Kessler

NOTE: In the event that there should be a vacancy created in any of the positions of Inspector of Election or Registrar, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to appoint a qualified voter of this District to fill such vacancy.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the appointment of the following Registrar to serve on Registration Day, Tuesday, **May 5, 2015**, between the hours of 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the authorized rate of pay of \$10 per hour.

Willis Avenue: **Eileen Alexander**

The Superintendent of Schools also recommends the appointment of : Eileen Alexander to open the Registration Books to the public on **Saturday, May 16, 2015** from 9:00am to 12:00 noon, at the same authorized rate of pay.

A one hour workshop will be given on **Monday, May 18, 2015** from 3:00pm to 4:00pm and the attending Registrars and Inspectors will be compensated at the hourly rate of \$10.00.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 4/23/15

Presentations:

1. 2015- 2016 Budget

Tonight's 2015-2016 Budget presentation was by the Superintendent and it can be found on the District website on the Board of Education page under the heading presentations. The Superintendent reported that the formal budget hearing is on May 7th at 7:00pm. Dr. Nagler displayed a chart- 2015-2016 Education Plan and Budget and stated that the three components of the budget are: Operational Budget, Debt Services Budget and Transfer to Other funds. The tax levy increase in the proposed budget is 1.37%. Dr. Nagler went through the different aspects of the budget.

Educational:

- All current educational and co-curricular programs
- All extra-curricular activities
- all current athletic programs
- maintains comprehensive staff development and professional development
- continue expansion of district's Technology Program: Expand iPad 1:1 program for all students K-12

Curricular Enhancements:

- Maintain existing pre-k program: 54 full day slots at Harbor via lottery, 5 day, 1/2 day for all other students.
- continue dual-language and continue Spanish immersion program
- continuation of science laboratory program (Knowing Science) for grades 3-7 and expand the program in Grades k-2; create dedicated maker spaces
- Increase student time for regents level math courses at the high school
- Increase staff for Middle School Project Based Learning initiative

Operational:

- Vehicles: amend 5 year bus replacement plan- 3 large buses, 3-30 passenger vans and 1 wheel chair accessible.
- Facilities Upgrade: reconfigure woodshop at HS to create a robotics lab; reconfigure spaces at Jackson to create music lesson room and "small lab" space; repair/replace damaged asphalt, concrete and /or fencing District-wide; address HS track repair (if this is not part of a Capital reserve project); and air conditioning for non-instructional spaces as needed.
- Maintain 4% Fund Balance

Equipment: Allocated \$430,000

- New fitness equipment at HS, new gym divider curtains, "Small Lab" at Jackson Avenue, musical instrument replacement, new choral risers at HS, computer hardware, replacement desks and chairs district wide, 2 ATV snow removal vehicles for HS and MS.

Transfer to Capital:

- Allocate 1.3 million dollars from fund balance to budget to finish Cross Street windows and doors and district wide masonry.

Following the budget presentation, the Superintendent showed a video on "Small Labs". Dr. Nagler reported that three of our administrators had traveled to visit a school district in Pittsburgh that has set-up these "Small Labs". The school is willing to share all of their material with Mineola. We will try this at Jackson next year. Dr. Ballantyne commented that these "small labs" will be great for children who do not learn in the

"traditional classroom". Ms. Navarra feels that the interdisciplinary learning and robotics will provide our students with many valuable experiences. Dr. Nagler added that the Districts participation in the League of Innovative Schools puts us in the position where we have access to many new opportunities and initiatives.

Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent stated that he would like to discuss the State tests. According to Dr. Nagler, there was an increase in the number of students that opted out of the exams. He stated that 16 years ago when he came to the district, it was felt that there was not enough done for the "middle of the road kids". When Common Core was introduced in 2011, the goal was to provide a set of standards for all students. The State test is not Common Core. The Common Core is made up of standards, curriculum and assessment. From the beginning, Ms. Burns has spent numerous hours in Albany to learn and understand all that was involved. Dr. Nagler stated that he does not like the State exam. He also does not like that success of a school is based upon a test. Dr. Nagler emphasized that he has consistently said this and this is the reason that the District introduced NWEA. He also stated that the District can not opt-out of the State Exam. All of our teachers will get a score with 20% of students opting out. According to Dr. Nagler, no teachers here have suffered due to APPR, but there has been a lot of anxiety over what may or may not happen. Dr. Nagler does not want to see test prep going on in classrooms; he wants to see good teaching which in turn will give good results. He encouraged parents to look at their children's portfolios and the feedback; this is where you will find the most important information.

Mr. Barnett stated that in January, he had said that he had a problem with 50% of a teachers' evaluation being based upon test scores. He wanted to be clear that he shares the teachers' concerns. However, as a Board they can not encourage students to opt out. The SED has made it clear that they will remove any Board that does so. He supports removing state test results as part of the teacher evaluations. Ms. Navarra thanked the teachers and the principals for their grace under pressure regarding Opt out. She stated that she has been stopped by parents who voiced concern with the teacher evaluations. Ms. Navarra added that we will get through this. Mr. Barnett stated that with all that principals do, it is nice for them to see results. But due to the opting out, the results are invalidated. Ms. Napolitano stated when she first met Dr. Nagler, she talked to him about test scores. He always told her that we are so much more than scores. She said now parents are saying "kids are more than the test scores". The student achievement over the past four years has been amazing. This too shall pass and it will get fixed. Dr. Nagler stated that hopefully all of the highlighting on Opting Out will lead to a new teacher evaluation. He feels that the student portfolios are the ultimate way to show student performance. There were no additional comments.

L. Public Comments

Mr. Barnett opened the floor to public comments. There was one speaker this evening who is a resident/parent. The speaker spoke of how his child was ridiculed by some other students for taking the test and also that the teacher discussed opting out with the students. Dr. Nagler instructed the speaker to talk to the principal regarding the teacher's action and he stated that he would follow-up on the situation as well. There were no additional public comments.

M. Executive Session Time: 8:45 p.m.

At 8:45 pm, a motion was made for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiations.

Motion: Nicole Matzer
Second: Margaret Ballantyne

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

N. Adjournment Time: _____ p.m.

Motion: _____
Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Passed: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi