

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

**Annual BOCES/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.*

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**Board Goals – 2009-2010**

- **Educational**
  - *To further expand the district initiative of differentiated instruction specifically denoting how schools plan to move student achievement from level to level as well as preventing student regression within and between levels.*
  - *To continue to develop our relationship with Winthrop Hospital to develop a career academy at the HS for students pursuing potential post HS opportunities.*
  - *To establish guidelines for the health and wellness of our children that encompasses curriculum, food program(s) and safety policies.*
- **Facilities**
  - *To investigate and embrace projects that incorporate 'green' technologies that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels.*
- **Finance**
  - *To create a five year financial landscape that captures status quo and tax levy projections. Those projections will then be articulated to the community in order to open a dialogue about the future of Mineola.*

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**DATE: April 20, 2010**

**LOCATION: Willis Avenue School**

**OPEN BUSINESS MEETING**

**7:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Staff Lounge**

**Board of Education**

William Hornberger, President  
Terence Hale, Vice President  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Christine Napolitano

**Central Office**

Dr. Michael Nagler, Superintendent of Schools  
Sherri Goffman, Deputy Superintendent  
John Waters, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Oper.  
Janice Patterson, Asst. Supt. for Pupil Pers. Services  
Donna Martillo, District Clerk

**A. Call to Order**

At 7:03 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Hornberger.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Reading of Mission – John McGrath**

**D. Moment of Silent Meditation**

- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**
- F. High School Student Organization Report**
- G. Old Business**

**1. Amendment of 2010-2011 School District Calendar**

**RESOLUTION #65 – BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mineola Board of Education amends the previously approved (February 4, 2010) 2010-2011 School District Calendar as set forth more fully in Attachment “A”.

**Motion:** Laraine Salvatore  
**Second:** Terence Hale

**Discussion:** Mr. Hornberger inquired as to the change in the calendar. The Superintendent of Schools responded that a Sunday was counted as a Monday and the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving was listed as a day off.

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**H. New Business**

**1. Adoption of BOCES 2010-2011 Annual Operating Budget**

**RESOLUTION #66 - BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mineola Board of Education approves the proposed BOCES 2010-2011 Annual Operating Budget in the amount of \$18,428,387.00.

**Motion:** Laraine Salvatore  
**Second:** Terence Hale

**Discussion:** Mr. Hornberger inquired about this vote. The Superintendent of Schools responded that every school Board will be voting this evening.

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**2. Election of BOCES Candidates**

**RESOLUTION #67** - **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mineola Board of Education casts one (1) vote for three of the following candidate listed below to fill the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (BOCES) for three (3), three (3) year terms commencing July 1, 2010:

Ronald Ellerbe  
Douglas Pascarella  
Robert "B.A." Schoen

**Motion:** John McGrath  
**Second:** Christine Napolitano

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
**No:** Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**Passed:** No

A motion was made to cast one (1) vote each for the following candidates:

Ronald Ellerbe  
Gale Ross-Srulevich  
Robert "B.A." Schoen

**Motion:** William Hornberger  
**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger  
**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**3. Adoption of the Proposed 2010-2011 School Year Budget**

**RESOLUTION #68** – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mineola Board of Education of the Mineola UFSD adopts the proposed 2010-2011 school year operating budget in the amount of \$80,128,573.

**Motion:** Terence Hale  
**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Discussion:** Mr. Hornberger needed clarification if this was done at the last meeting. The Superintendent of Schools responded that it was approved tentatively.

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
**No:** None

Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**Passed:** Yes

**4. Adoption of the Budget and Real Property Tax Report Card**

**RESOLUTION #69 – BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mineola Board of Education of the Mineola UFSD approves the real property tax report card prepared by the District's Business Office for the 2010 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:** Laraine Salvatore  
**Second:** Christine Napolitano

**Discussion:** Mr. Hornberger requested to explain the Real Property Tax Report Card. Mr. Waters' explanation was as follows: it is a one page document that is sent to the State; compares the 2009-10 budget to the 2010-11 proposed budget, tax levy, and the percentage increase for these categories

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**I. Consensus Agenda**

**1. Accepting of Minutes**

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of February 4, 2010 (Workshop) March 4, 2010 (Workshop); and March 18, 2010 (Business) Meetings, as presented.

**2. Instruction**

a. Resignations/Leave of Absence

1. That the Board of Education grants a request to Stacey Rosenblatt for an unpaid leave of absence for child-rearing purposes, effective September 1, 2010 to approximately December 8, 2010.

2. That the Board of Education grants a request to Jennifer Honerkamp for an unpaid leave of absence, for child-rearing purposes, effective September 1, 2010 to November 30, 2010.

b. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Cynthia Kopp, to the position of 45 Day Substitute Elementary Teacher, for Kim Morrissey, at Cross Street School, starting April 5, 2010 to on or before June 30, 2010; salary: Days 1-20, \$90.00; Days 21-39, \$100.00; Day 46 goes on contract salary, MA, Step 1, \$65,318.00 pro-rated.
2. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Lauren Merzbacher, to the position of 45 Day Substitute Special Education Teacher, for Amy Kuchynskas, starting approximately March 22, 2010 to on or before June 30, 2010; salary: Days 1-20, \$90.00; Days 21-30, \$100.00; Days 40-45, \$110.00; Day 46 goes on contract salary, MA, Step 1, \$65,318.00 pro-rated.
3. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following coach for the Spring Interscholastic Season for the 2009-2010 school year:

Thomas Leninger    New Position–Varsity Spring Track Asst. Coach    \$4,106.00

4. That the Board of Education accepts the following addition(s) to the Per Diem Substitute Teacher List at a salary of \$90.00 per day:

Erik Holzkamp            Physical Education

**2.1. Instruction: Committee on Special Education Actions**

a. Instruction: Committee on Special Education Actions

1. That the Board of Education approves the CSE/CPSE/SCSE recommendations for programs and services for students with IEPs for the time period from February 13, 2010 to March 11, 2010 as set forth in Confidential Attachment “B”.

**2.2. Instruction: Contracted Instructional Services**

- a. That the Board of Education approves a contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Hicksville Pre-School Program for the 2009-2010 school year; tuition reimbursement to private schools from NYSED SEDCAR Flow Through Funds, per the SED process. Reimbursement is for Mineola students who receive services.

**2.3. Instruction: Student Actions**

a. After-School Child Care Program

1. That the Board of Education approves the license agreement between the Mineola Union Free School District and SCOPE Education Services at the Jackson Avenue and Hampton Street School for the 2010-2011 school year.

b. Field Trip(s)

1. That the Board of Education approves the following overnight field trip to:
  - Taconic Outdoor Education Center, Cold Spring, New York, October 30, 2010 to October 22, 2010.
2. That the Board of Education approves of the following overnight, out-of-state, field trip:
  - Class of 2011 Trip to Washington D.C., October 14, 2010 to October 15, 2010.

**2.4. Instruction: Other**

**3. Civil Service**

a. Resignations/Leave of Absence

1. That the Board of Education grants a paid medical Leave of Absence for Josefina DaSilva, from March 16, 2010 through April 6, 2010, at which time she will go on unpaid Leave of Absence. Return date is at doctor's discretion.
2. That the Board of Educations approves the continuation of medical Leave of Absence for Christine Amagrande, effective March 16, 2010. Return date will be April 19, 2010.
3. That the Board of Education grants a paid medical Leave of Absence for Frank Pesa, Bus Driver, effective April 5, 2010. Return in approximately 6 weeks.
4. That the Board of Education approves the paid medical Leave of Absence for Daniel Olsen, Cleaner at Willis Avenue School, effective April 12, 2010 for emergency surgery. Return is at discretion of doctor.

b. Appointments

None

c. Excess/Eliminate Positions

1. That the Board of Education approves the excessing of eight part time Teacher Aide positions, effective June 30, 2010.
2. That the Board of Education approves the eliminating of an Administrative Assistant II position, effective June 30, 2010.

4. Business/Finance

a. Treasurer's Report

1. That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the period ending February 28, 2010 and directed that it be placed on file.

b. Approval of Invoices and Payroll

1. That the Board of Education approves the Invoices and Payroll for the period ending March 31, 2010.

Warrant #17	\$1,061,246.51
Warrant #18	\$1,245,887.97
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,307,134.48</b>

PAYROLL #17 & #18

General	\$4,115,381.42
Fund F	\$ 82,736.05
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>	<b>\$4,198,117.47</b>

c. Budget Appropriation Adjustment

1. That the Board of Education approves an appropriation adjustment to Budget Code A2110.500.06.1221 in the amount of \$690.00 for a mini Grant for a Teacher's Special Program.

4.1. Business/Finance: Contract Approvals

4.2. Business/Finance: Bids

5. Other

a. Appointment of Election Workers for the Annual Election & Budget Vote May 18, 2010

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 18, 2010** at the hourly rate of pay, \$10.00:

**CHIEF ELECTION INSPECTORS**

<u>CROSS STREET</u> Eileen Alexander (5:15 am-10:15 pm)	<u>HAMPTON STREET</u> Helen Callahan (5:30 am-10:30 pm)
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<u>JACKSON AVENUE</u> Carolina Macedo (5:30 am – 10:30 pm)	<u>MEADOW DRIVE</u> Raymond Kwiatek (5:00 am-10:30 pm)
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**REGISTRARS**

<u>CROSS STREET SCHOOL</u> Kathleen Finn (5:30 am – 9:00 pm) Joanne Fitzgerald (11:00 am – 9:00 pm)	<u>HAMPTON STREET SCHOOL</u> Marie DeStefano (5:30 am – 9:00 pm) Martha Makowski (5:30 am – 1:30 pm) Maryanne Iaquinto (1:30 pm – 9:00 pm)
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<u>JACKSON AVENUE SCHOOL</u> Patricia Stryjewski (5:30 am-4:00 pm) Susan Hock (4:00 pm – 9:00 pm) Jacqueline Borstel (5:30 am-4:00 pm) Laura Kwiatek (4:00 pm-9:00 pm)	<u>MEADOW DRIVE SCHOOL</u> Debra Donovan (5:30 am-9:00 pm) Anna Spatola (11:00 am-9:00 pm)
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**INSPECTORS**

<u>CROSS STREET SCHOOL</u> Ann Marie Smith (5:15 am – 9:15 pm) Loretta Piotrowski (5:15 am-1:15 pm) Lynn Clifford (1:15 am– 9:15 pm) Margaret Mahon (5:15 am-1:15 pm) TBD (1:15 pm-9:15 pm)	<u>HAMPTON STREET SCHOOL</u> Marian Kessler (5:30 am - 9:30 pm) Joanne Wladyka (5:30 am – 9:30 pm) Kathy Fabiszewski (5:30 am-1:30 pm) Frank Iaquinto (1:30 pm – 9:30 pm)
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<u>JACKSON AVENUE SCHOOL</u> Kristine Vigaró (5:30 am – 9:30 pm) Trisha Hahn (5:30 am – 9:30 pm) Maryanne Siwinski (5:30 am – 9:30 pm) Flore Rowe (5:30 am – 7:00 pm) Lynn Ruthkowski (5:30 am – 1:30 pm) Diane Roman (1:30 pm – 9:30 pm)	<u>MEADOW DRIVE SCHOOL</u> Douglas Cegelski (5:00 am-9:30 pm) Nicole Peralta (5:00 am – 9:30 pm) Renee Becker (5:00 am – 1:00 pm) Maddy Cegelski (2:30 pm-9:30 pm)
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NOTE: In the event 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 Registrars to serve on Registration Day, Tuesday, **May 4, 2010**, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the authorized rate of pay of \$10 per hour.

<u>CROSS STREET SCHOOL</u> Eileen Alexander	<u>HAMPTON STREET SCHOOL</u> Helen Callahan
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<u>JACKSON AVENUE SCHOOL</u> Susan Hock	<u>MEADOW DRIVE SCHOOL</u> Madeline Cegelski
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The Superintendent of Schools also recommends the appointment of: Eileen Alexander to open the Registration Books to the public on **Saturday, May 15, 2010** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the same authorized rate of pay.

A one hour workshop will be given on **Monday, May 17, 2010** from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the attending Registrars and Inspectors will be compensated at the hourly rate of \$10.00.

**RESOLUTION #70** – **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Education approves Consensus Agenda items I.1.a. through I.5.a.1. as presented.



**Motion:** Laraine Salvatore  
**Second:** Terence Hale

**Discussion:** Mr. Hornberger inquired about Item I.2.3.b.1., if other schools were going. The Superintendent of Schools responded that he only received a request from one school.

A motion was made to amend Resolution #70 as follows:

Item I.3.a.2. return date for Christine Amagrande to be reflected as April 19, 2010;  
Item I.5.a.1. to remove Anna Spatola from serving as Registrar on May 4, 2010 and appoint Madeline Cegelski to serve as Registrar for that day.

**Motion:** Laraine Salvatore  
**Second:** Christine Napolitano

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

The Board now voted on the original motion to approve Consensus Agenda Items I.1.a. through I.5.a.1. as presented including amendments.

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

#### **J. Public Comments**

President Hornberger requested that anyone with a question or comment come to the podium, give their name and address, ask one question at a time so others have an opportunity to voice their comments, and to turn cell phones to silent mode.

Public comments were as follows:

- ❖ A resident stated she had grandchildren attending Mineola schools commented that she was disturbed to hear about the proposed closing of Willis Avenue, and asked if it was a done deal. Mr. Hornberger explained what she had heard was based on the presentation made by the Triple C Committee, but no decision has been made yet. The resident inquired as to who will make the decision. Mr. Hornberger responded,

the Board, and the Board has not had a discussion about the recommendation. The Board is listening to the Committee Members (PTA Council represents the majority of the Committee) and is still gathering information. The resident further commented that the design and vision of Willis was only completed a few years ago and she cannot understand that the vision would be short lived and requested to consider what the design was intended for.

- ❖ A resident complimented the Superintendent of Schools on his original presentation and voiced his displeasure in the Committee's recommendation in closing Willis. He further stated that it does not make sense to close Willis when there is no asbestos and the building is to code. He felt it was an abuse of taxpayer funds in building this school only to close it. Mr. Hornberger replied that the decision to close Willis has not been made yet.
- ❖ A resident inquired if anyone in Administration took into account that 8<sup>th</sup> graders would be riding the bus with 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders to the High School. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the buses and drivers belong to the district and that very few High School Seniors ride the bus and stated that it is a concern, but will not generate a lot of problems.

#### **K. Board of Education Reports**

- Comments from Board President

President Hornberger made 2 comments: only one candidate (Irene Parrino) submitted a petition for the May 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Election, Ms. Salvatore did not submit a petition; the Board will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at the High School regarding further discussions with the Triple C Committee. The Superintendent of Schools interjected the meeting will be held at the High School Library at 8:00 p.m.

- Board Committee Report
- Superintendent of Schools' Reports & Comments

The Superintendent of Schools discussed the following: population projections for PreK-2, north and south sections of the district; staffing projections; cost analysis with a Bond; exit poll regarding 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 5<sup>th</sup> graders moving up to the High School and Middle School; investigation of SEQRA cost; Willis PTO response in letting children go to their home schools in September 2010 and will deal with transitions in September 2011; sending out a survey to Kindergarten parents of Willis students for their input; meeting of 20 Willis parents, 18 were for keeping the Kindergarteners at their home school in September 2010 and 2 were against; the results of the survey will be given to the Board before May 6<sup>th</sup>; first grade orientation is currently on hold.

The Superintendent of Schools made a presentation, "Where the Kids Are", as it relates to the reconfiguration of the school district. The Superintendent of Schools discussed the following: combining Cross and Meadow and Hampton and Jackson; using Jericho Turnpike as the dividing line with the current population, ESL and Special Education projections for north and south of the school district; additional classrooms will be needed in the south building generated by ESL and Special Education; presented a map of the district broken up in ½ mile squares displaying Pre-

K to grade 5 of where the students are located; transportation to give the mileage from the farthest point of the district to each of the neighboring schools (Cherrytree/ Princeton to Meadow and to Cross, as well as for Hampton and Jackson); highest concentration of students is around Jericho Turnpike; farthest distance students travel is approximately 3-1/2 miles; explained the history of Mineola (Closing of Cross Street and Willis Avenue, construction projects in building the bus garage and extension to Meadow Drive, missteps taken, student population remains the same as it did 20 years ago); also presented a fact sheet stating the number of classrooms, size of classrooms, wiring of buildings; 2 buildings are better to house Pre-K to grade 2; Meadow has big classrooms, but the cafeteria is small; Hampton's first floor is tight and would not fit Pre-K and the basement would be used; Hampton and Cross are exactly alike where the basement will be used; Jackson is the biggest building with 32 classrooms in which 22 to 23 are full size, anything can fit; Willis does not have an art room, a converted classroom is their library, and if it needed to expand, the second floor is an option to obtain 5 additional classrooms; building sizes need to be changed; over the years requirements changed, but the buildings didn't; taking over a portion of the second floor would affect the Superintendent's Office and Business Office and ½ of the parking lot (Making it grass); the cafeteria space at Willis is fine but the kitchen would need to incorporate the storage room next to it; and a discussion about the possibility of a rooftop playground.

- Adoption of the Budget and Property Tax Report Card
- Capital Updates
- Table Reports
  - Finance and Operations Report
    - Monthly Financial Report
    - Building & Grounds Report
      - Building Usage
      - Vandalism
      - Work order status
    - Transportation Report
- Special Reports
  - \*Public Questions - Board Committee Reports; Student Organization Report; Superintendent's Report; Table Reports (All Finance & Operation Functions); and Special Report

Public comments were as follows:

- ❖ A resident commented that they liked the idea of a rooftop playground. The resident needed clarification about the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Willis becoming classrooms and Central Office moving to the High School. The Superintendent of Schools responded that they are looking at a reconfiguration without moving the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the High School. The resident inquired if Plan B was to close 2 buildings and just move Central Office. The Superintendent of Schools responded that it can be accomplished without taking the whole floor. The resident inquired as to schools having the most number of classrooms with bathrooms. The Superintendent of Schools responded, Meadow Drive, but if one of the goals is to have a bathroom in every classroom there will be a cost. Ms. Napolitano inquired about the scenario of Hampton and Cross and the use of fields after school and if another school rents it does the district still maintain control of the fields. In order

control of the fields. In order to attract an interested school looking to rent they would want to use the fields. The Superintendent of Schools responded that they will cross that bridge when they need to. The Superintendent of Schools also made the suggestion of selling a building and buying another piece of land, i.e. Pergament on Jericho Turnpike in Garden City Park.

- ❖ A resident/teacher/parent in the district shared some of her perspectives: bathrooms needed more in Kindergarten than upper grades; past discussions regarding the bus fleet lead to keeping it; transition of use of classroom space throughout the years; students motor skills needed in navigating stairs; making Pre-K full time; and closing Willis parking lot for a playground. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the district is not legally allowed to change Pre-K. It would have to be eliminated and then outsourced.

Mr. Hornberger inquired if the survey would be going out in multiple languages. The Superintendent of Schools responded yes.

- ❖ A resident commented that St. Aidan's will not be using their parking lot as a playground and stated that parking at Willis is a problem. The Superintendent of Schools responded that if Central Office leaves it would alleviate traffic problems, but would create problems somewhere else. The resident commented that the traffic around Jackson Avenue, Middle School and Chaminade would be a nightmare. The Superintendent of Schools responded that it would be no different than what they are proposing in option 2. The resident inquired if first grade teachers will be moving in September. The Superintendent of Schools responded that Administration is looking for parents' input. The resident informed the Board that word in the community is that Willis is closing and the first grade teachers were told they were moving. The resident commented on the following: this is not as bad as people are making it; change needs getting used to; and educated decisions based on fear are not the best.
- ❖ A resident commented that the Superintendent of Schools did a great job on his research and presentation of Meadow. The resident suggested that approval might be needed for a roof-top playground. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the district would need approval from the Stated Education Department of New York. The resident commented on the parking situation at Willis and suggested negotiating with the Village of Mineola to allow teachers to get special permits to park on the street. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the issue is picking up and dropping off of students at Willis. The resident inquired why Jackson is not considered a neighborhood school because they are in all scenarios. The Superintendent of Schools responded that Jackson is the biggest building and it is hard not to count Jackson in the mix. The resident commented that affordable housing is an issue and he is constantly battling the County. The resident believes, if and when, affordable housing comes to the community it will affect the schools with an increase of student population. The Superintendent of Schools responded that in using the condo project on Old Country Road, the following questions arise: how long will it take to build and sell; and what year will the district see the net effect. It would be an anomaly for the district to get that many students and not be able to handle them.

Ms. Salvatore interjected that she has spoken to Mayor Martins about the parking issue at Willis and he assured her that they can come to some type of deal, i.e. parking passes.

Mr. Schumacher spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. He discussed the following: presentation made to the Board a few weeks ago; how to use any projected surplus; maintain 4% fund balance to pay down debt; fund reserve for compensated absences; possible creation of capital reserve account; any decision on capital account depends on reconfiguration decisions not made yet; accurate construction estimates; Finance Committee supports reconfiguration of buildings to enhance program and provide financial efficiencies; highlighted 2 issues expressed by the community (Do not move 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades into Middle and High Schools, don't spend a lot of money on construction); belief of the Finance Committee (Students and Education are highest priority, maximizing educational opportunity and maintain the highest standards for students while controlling costs and minimizing the taxpayer burden); Finance Committee feels it is not necessary to spend 7 million dollars on construction when there are buildings below capacity, i.e. High School; maximize utilization of capacity of existing buildings; specifics should be shared with the community regarding if construction is chosen, detail of accurate and supportable costs, if utilization of Willis should change; discuss any tenants for buildings that close; separate rental revenue from expenditures; and a timeline for decision on configuration.

The Superintendent of Schools clarified what the Capital Reserve Fund will be used for (A savings account just like the Compensated Absences Reserve, Employee Benefit Reserve, and Fund Balance). He also discussed: Willis' lack of appeal to renters (Renting the first floor only); discussions with tax attorneys regarding re-issuance of bond; displeasure with the reconfiguration should not be reason to vote no on the budget; and if the district is forced to a contingency budget, program will be affected, and it will defeat the whole purpose.

Mr. Hornberger requested a copy of Mr. Schumacher's presentation.

- ❖ A resident addressed the following: inquired if the Board was willing to look at other no cost options if a bond were to fail; not in favor of a 7 million dollar bond; felt that option 3 had the least amount of emotion attached to it; inquired as to what would be done for the gifted students, special services and for all students equally; not against 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the High School; and commented that she would rather spend her money on services for students. The Superintendent of Schools responded as follows: do not confuse full size classrooms with the number of classrooms; need to manage number of students in order to control staffing; depending on the zoning line and split, will generate the number of classrooms; and program is not problematic, but space could be.
- ❖ A resident needed clarification on the 3<sup>rd</sup> option if Willis was to house Pre-K – 2 and Meadow Pre-K – 2, Jackson 3 to 5, and if a bond passes Jackson would be a 3 to 4 with minimal construction costs at Willis and Meadow.
- ❖ A resident commented that by the Board voting to close 2 schools puts the cart before the horse, and is in favor of keeping all schools open. The resident inquired about the following: will reconfiguration add buses or change start times of schools; if a bond passes would it change start times or add buses. The Superintendent of Schools responded as follows: add more buses; he hasn't looked at start times yet; all start times can change. The resident was not in favor of starting the High School earlier. The Superintendent of Schools responded that parents were not in favor of starting elementary students early. The resident also

made the following comments: suggested maximizing class sizes per grade, especially in grades 1–3; agreed with Ms. Napolitano to keep the fields; and supports a Capital Reserve Fund. The resident inquired if the majority of people who participate in the exit poll were not in favor of moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and the bond fails, was there an option C. The resident commented that if 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades were to remain where they are more people would come out to vote on the bond than the budget. Mr. Hornberger stated that the Board is not looking to change class size guidelines. He felt the exit survey will tell them what the reality is. Ms. Napolitano requested additional information on the breakout of students in the north and south by grade. The Superintendent of Schools asked if she was using Jericho. Ms. Napolitano responded both. The Superintendent of Schools stated that he can only give current numbers. Ms. Napolitano stated that was okay. She feels the budget is taking a back step to the bond discussion and the community needs to understand that a failed budget will hit program. The Superintendent of Schools stated that if they go to a contingency budget \$500,000 in the Capital line has to be taken out of the budget, \$130,000 of equipment would be removed and the difference (\$265,000) would be taken out of program.

- ❖ A resident inquired if the Fund Balance could be used. The Superintendent of Schools responded that it would only reduce the tax levy. The resident inquired if the district could ask in the exit survey how much of a bond was the community was willing to support. Mr. Hornberger responded that it will be part of the survey. The resident inquired if the budget vote and bond vote would be on 2 separate days. Mr. Hornberger responded, yes.
- ❖ A resident suggested that the survey to Willis parents should be explicitly clear.
- ❖ A resident inquired as to the benefits of a Pre-K program. The Superintendent of Schools responded that children attending the program 5 days a week do better than the students attending 2 to 3 times a week, but he does not have data on children attending private schools. He further stated that early intervention is the way to go. The resident inquired if the list of colleges was a broad spectrum. The Superintendent of Schools responded that they are listed from most competitive to very competitive to least competitive at the end of the year. He posted the top 10 kids, and a list of other schools students were attending. The resident commented about the 8<sup>th</sup> graders moving to the High School. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the High School has room for growth and the Middle School cannot handle a full grade.

#### ○ Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent of Schools reported on the following: Mineola High School's ranking in Newsday at 97% of last year's graduating class, was higher than Manhasset and Roslyn and comparable to Garden City and Herricks; kudos to Mr. Escobar and his staff; discussed requirements to obtain a Regents Diploma and an Advanced Diploma (70% of students achieved the highest level of Math Regents); kudos also to the Math Department for a significant increase over the years; introduced Mr. Rich Forestano who is replacing Mr. Joe Rizza, former Editor of the Mineola American Newspaper and thanked Mr. Rizza for his many years of service and getting the story right; there was only one candidate for the vacated seat on the Board of Education; thanked Ms. Salvatore for her 3 years of service to the district; reminded parents of ELA testing during the week of April 26<sup>th</sup>; Math testing, week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>; full day of school on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Superintendent of Schools stated that he is in need of an executive session.

**L. Executive Session**

At 9:55 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:** Terence Hale  
**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

At 11:35 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

**M. Adjournment**

At 11:35 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

**Motion:** John McGrath  
**Second:** Terence Hale

**Yes:** Christine Napolitano  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Terence Hale  
William Hornberger

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Martillo  
District Clerk