

**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.*

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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: February 25, 2010**

**LOCATION: High School**

**OPEN BUSINESS MEETING**

**7:00 p.m. Auditorium**

**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 7:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Hornberger.

At 7:10 p.m. Mr. McGrath joined the meeting.

- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reading of Mission – Michael Nagler**
- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**
- F. High School Student Organization Report**

The High School Student Representative reported on the following: High School Wrestling Team won the division championship; Arnold Gomez and Danny Granados were going to the Wrestling State Championships; High School hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Multi-Cultural Night; Spanish and Italian exchange program completed (Students from Spain came in the Fall and Mineola students went to Spain and Italy during the break; blood drive on March 3<sup>rd</sup>; 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation was a success; Brainstormers went to the L.I. Challenge and played South Side and Kellenberg which will be aired on MSG Varsity this weekend.

**G. Old Business**

Mr. Hornberger inquired about making up the two snow days the district had this year. The Superintendent of Schools responded that he is hoping tomorrow isn't a snow day. Built into the calendar 184 school days, 2 of which are professional development days for staff, and 182 instructional days. By law students are required to attend 180 instructional school days. The district is at its maximum before days are taken away from the rest of the year. The Commissioner of Education declared an emergency day and is not holding that as part of the maximum. If tomorrow is a snow day the schedule will need to be adjusted. The teachers' contract states 182 instructional days. We can still decide to take Friday before minimal day to give students extra days.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about the Cell Phone and Code of Conduct Regulations. The Superintendent of Schools responded that both regulations are on for the next meeting.

Mr. Hornberger inquired if the Superintendent of Schools reached out to the union Presidents. The Superintendent of Schools responded that he had a meeting with them last Thursday, it was a good discussion, when he left the room they continued the discussion for about a ½ hour. They indicated that they would poll their constituents.

**H. New Business**

**1. School Consolidation**

**RESOLUTION #54** – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District approves the closure of two schools: the first school, as of September 1, 2011, and the second school, as of September 1, 2012.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to develop and execute a plan for Elementary School Consolidation that would result in a financial savings to the District and a more equitable distribution of students in the Elementary grades, which will better serve the community of the Mineola Union Free School District.

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

A motion was made to amend Resolution #54 as follows:

WHEREAS, the District faces significant setbacks for the next several years due to losses in state and federal aid; and

WHEREAS, the Board has directed the Superintendent to explore all reasonable options for saving the District money while continuing to maintain an excellent education program for the District's children; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of this directive, the Superintendent has reviewed the District's current student enrollment and future enrollment projections, as well as the economic feasibility of continuing the District's existing operational plan consisting of seven school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has indicated that the District's present needs and projections for future enrollment needs can be met with fewer than seven school buildings;

WHEREAS, the building configuration of the District has a direct and significant impact on individual communities within the District; and

WHEREAS, there is a direct correlation between positive educational outcomes and the building configuration of the District; and

WHEREAS, due to the potential negative impact that changing the present building configuration may have on individual communities within the District as well as the District as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the community has not provided a clear direction as to its preference over the course of many months and meetings; and

WHEREAS, the community as a whole, not five individuals within a community of tens of thousands, should clearly express its preference as to the building configuration of the District; and

WHEREAS, the only reliable measure of the preference of the community as a whole, regarding the building configuration of its school district, is through the annual vote on the school district's budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to put together a budget reflecting the current District building configuration at a tax levy percentage increase of no more than 5%; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the event the community rejects the budget reflecting the current configuration at the District's annual budget vote, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to take the

to take the necessary steps to close one school building following the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year, and to develop a budget reflecting same and to make appropriate plans for the successful transition into the new configuration.

BE IT FURTHER REOLVED that, if necessary and appropriate for the financial well being of the District, with the advise and further consent of the Board of Education, as necessary, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to take the necessary steps to close a school building following the conclusion of the 2011-2012 school year, and to develop a budget reflecting same and to make appropriate plans for the successful transition into the new configuration.

**Motion:** John McGrath

No second, motion failed.

**Discussion:** Ms. Napolitano read a statement as to her reasons for voting as she would: the children were very much on her mind; outlined her children's experiences going through the educational system, and participating in many activities during their education, which was a positive academic experience; she wants all children to have the same opportunities that her children had; these difficult economic times, sky rocketing contractual obligations along with reductions in state and federal aid have created the perfect storm of harsh realities; Board and Superintendent have embarked on a journey of enlightening the public; majority of voices have seen what she has that keeping all buildings open was no longer a viable or fair option; a solution can be found that will be financially sound and equitable in nature in the distribution of students; to provide a better educational experience; parents will be primarily responsible to embed a positive experience for the child; zero percent contingency also impacted her decision; Superintendent has done an excellent job; many opinions expressed to the Board; end of the day she has to do what is best for all taxpayers and children; community that cherishes children and works very hard for their money and intends to honor both of those values.

Ms. Salvatore read a statement as to her reasons for voting as she would: she ran for the Board on fiscally responsible; proposed cuts from eliminating the Deputy Superintendent's position to abolishing the \$28,000 parking fees for employees at Willis, they were known as the Salvatore proposal; none of her suggestions were supported; she was elected to make tough choices; a leaner more efficient district that the community can bear; cost savings but to direct resources to the best educational experience all children across the district and community; and to use those taxpayer funds as effectively as possible to that goal.

Mr. McGrath pointed out a couple of gaffs in the school closing plan: not known which schools will be closed; don't know how much it will cost to construct onto remaining buildings; we know what we have now; he compared the amount of time he has been on the Board to Ms. Salvatore's

time; she came on the Board wanting to close 2 schools; local real estate agent relayed his opinion when asked if closing 2 schools will help sell houses; feels the decision should be decided by the community at the annual budget vote; and that is why he is going to oppose this resolution.

Mr. Hale took exception to Mr. McGrath's comments about Ms. Salvatore by stating that during Mr. McGrath's years on the Board he voted for all big raises. Mr. Hale read a stated as to why he was voting the way he was: one of the hardest decisions he has ever had to make; he has been an active member of the community for 16 years; his commitment to the children has never waived and wants the best education for every child that can be provided; he will not be responsible in taking any the opportunity for students to participate in activities, perform in plays or Marching Band; he named many colleges and universities Mineola students have been accepted to; colleges and universities look for well rounded applicants and the same opportunities (Sports, Music, Clubs, activities, community service) will be given to the future children of the district; and he and the Board are focused on the children.

Mr. Hornberger stated he started on the Finance Committee to understand what drives the budget. He saw a lot of spending, but no delivery. There was redundancy throughout the district in the buildings with the replication of services. The Superintendent of Schools has illustrated what the future could look like and that future includes cutting some programs. The Board's decision will be long term and each Board Member came to that decision. With guidance from Central Administration and input from the community can build a better Mineola. Tonight's meeting has provided the best decision. Strengthening program for all schools. Mr. Hornberger inquired of the Superintendent of Schools what his recommendation would be. The Superintendent of Schools responded that his recommendation would be to close schools for the best way to keep programs into the future and based that on the history of budget votes (passed and failed votes). Failed budgets did not preserve programs and we need to do everything to preserve them.

The Board of Education now voted on Resolution #54 as stated above.

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

**No:** John McGrath

**Passed:** Yes

## **I. Consensus Agenda**

### **1. Accepting of Minutes**

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of January 7, 2010 (Workshop); January 21, 2010 ((Business) Meetings, as presented.

**2. Instruction**

a. Resignation(s)/Leave of Absence(s)

1. That the Board of Education grants a request to Kim Millan Morrissey for a leave of absence, using sick days, for child-rearing purposes, starting approximately April 16, 2010.

b. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Danielle Johnson, to the position of Leave Replacement Spanish Teacher for Kathleen Levin, effective February 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010; salary, BA, Step 1, \$56,158.00 pro-rated.
2. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Catherine Baker to the position of Elementary Teacher, to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Elizabeth Jordan, effective February 1, 2010; salary, MA, Step 1, \$65,318.00, pro-rated; probationary period, February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2013.
3. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following coaches for the Spring Interscholastic Season for the 2009-2010 school year:

<u>SPORT &amp; LEVEL</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Varsity Baseball	Helms Bohringer	3	\$8,011.00
Varsity Baseball Asst.	Barry Silverstein	3	\$5,447.00
JV Baseball	Christopher Collins	1	\$4,405.00
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball	Bill DiGennaro	3	\$5,223.00
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball	Dominick Tolipano	3	\$5,223.00
Boys Varsity Lacrosse	Michael Perro	1	\$6,190.00
Boys Varsity Lacrosse Asst.	Anthony Barone	1	\$4,207.00
Boys JV Lacrosse	Thomas Oswald	1	\$4,405.00
7/8 Boys Lacrosse Head	Mark Miller	3	\$5,206.00
7/8 Boys Lacrosse Asst.	Matt Antoniou	3	\$4,580.00
Boys Varsity Track	Mike Santamaria	3	\$7,507.00
Girls Varsity Track	TBA		
Girls Varsity Lacrosse	Frank Massaro	3	\$8,003.00
Girls Varsity Lacrosse Asst.	Katherine Bennett	3	\$5,445.00
Girls JV Lacrosse	Daniela LoVerde	2	\$4,904.00
Varsity Softball	Mike Boccuzza	3	\$8,003.00
Varsity Softball Asst.	Melissa Skupp	3	\$5,442.00
JV Softball	Natalie Brittell	2	\$4,904.00
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Softball	Vanessa Ricci	2	\$4,258.00
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Softball	Anthony Tramonte	3	\$4,855.00
Girls 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lacrosse	Diana Nick	3	\$5,206.00
Girls 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lacrosse	Meghan Nelson	3	\$5,206.00

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

- 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 January 1, 2010 to January 31, 2010 as set forth in Confidential Attachment "A".

**2.2. Instruction: Contracted Instructional Services**

- a. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and the Association for Children with Down Syndrome for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- b. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Bilinguals for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- c. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and the Brookville Center for Children's Services, Inc. for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- d. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and ICCD for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- e. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Kids First Evaluations & Advocacy Center for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- f. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and the School for Language Communication Development for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- g. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and S.E.E.D.S. of the Willistons for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- h. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Kidz Therapy Services, PLLC for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to

private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.

- i. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Hebrew Academy for Special Children, Inc. for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- j. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- k. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and New York Therapy Placement Services for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- l. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Quality Services for the Autism Community for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- m. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and UCPA Nassau County for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- n. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Variety Child Learning Center for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.
- o. That the Board of Education approves an agreement between the Mineola UFSD and SCOPE Education for an SAT Preparatory Program for the 2009-2010 school year at no cost to the district. The district will only provide classroom space for the operation of the Program at no expense to SCOPE.
- p. That the Board of Education approves an IDEA Sub-Allocation Contract between the Mineola Union Free School District and Brookville Center for Children's Services, Inc. for the 2009-2010 school year. Tuition reimbursement to private schools from Special Education grants, per the SED process is for Mineola students who receive services.



**2.3. Instruction: Student Actions**

a. Field Trip(s)

1. That the Board of Education approves the following overnight/out-of-state field trip:
  - Student Service Center – 21<sup>st</sup> Annual National Service Learning Conference, San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, California, March 24 through March 28, 2010. Expenses will be paid by the SPARC Learn and Serve American Grant.

**2.4. Instruction: Other**

**3. Civil Service**

a. Resignation(s)/Leave of Absence(s)

1. That the Board of Education grants a Medical Leave of Absence to Gustavo Lopez, Bus Driver, effective January 12, 2010 through February 12, 2010.
2. That the Board of Education grants a Medical Leave of Absence for Patricia Carlo-Castaldo, Bus Driver, from February 2, 2010 until further notice, to undergo surgery.
3. That the Board of Education amends the date for the Medical Leave of Absence for Claudia Domb, Registered Nurse, from January 13, 2010 to January 4, 2010 through March 1, 2010 due to surgery.

b. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following candidates to the substitute lists, effective March 1, 2010:

Kelly Munson	Teacher Aide Sub	\$13.74
Debra Annala	Clerical Sub	\$12.32
Vanessa DeFendini	Clerical Sub & Teacher Aide Sub	\$12.32 \$13.74
Joan Woessner	Teacher Aide Sub	\$13.74
Lisa Margaritis	Registered Nurse Sub	\$90.00 per day.

2. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Joan Selvin, 5 hour Bus Driver, to 8 hour Bus Driver, to replace

Cassandra Graham, effective March 1, 2010; salary will be \$38,658.00, Step 5; probationary period is 8 weeks.

3. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Gregory Glover to the position of 5 hour Bus Driver, to replace Robert Musial, effective March 1, 2010; salary will be \$21,819.00, Step 1; probationary period is 26 weeks.
4. That the Board of Education approves the following anticipated positions for the Special Education Summer Program, effective July 1, 2010 through August 11, 2010:

11 Teachers-in-Training	\$8.50 - \$9.00 per hour
15 Teacher Aides	Hourly Contract Rate
1 Clerical	Hourly Contract Rate

5. That the Board of Education approves the following anticipated positions for the High School Summer program from July 1, 2010 through August 30, 2010:

1 Clerical – Main Office	Contracted Salary
1 Clerical – Guidance	Contracted Salary
1 Student Worker – Textbooks	\$8.00 per hour
3 Summer Workers – Mineola EAST	\$8.00 per hour

**4. Business/Finance**

a. Treasurer’s Report

1. That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending December 31, 2009 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 January 31, 2010.

Warrant #13	\$2,249,580.49
Warrant #14	\$ 909,595.37
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,159,175.86</b>

PAYROLL #13 & #14

General	\$4,111,081.39
Fund F	\$ 74,819.60
<b>TOTAL PAYROLL</b>	<b>\$4,185,900.99</b>

c. Budget Appropriation Adjustment

1. That the Board of Education approves an appropriation adjustment to Budget Code A2330.150.07.0000 in the amount of \$13,200.00 for Driver's Education.

d. Budget Transfer

1. That the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1480.400.00.0000	1480.412.00.7299	\$14,000.00

4.1. Business/Finance: Contract Approvals

4.2. Business/Finance: Bids

5. Other

a. Disposal of District Property

1. That the Board of Education approves the Disposal of the following District Property, in accordance with District Policy #6900, declaring them obsolete:

Bus #46, 1986 International Bus with Bluebird Body  
Vin # 1HVLPHYL8GHA46321

**RESOLUTION #55** – **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Education approves Consensus Agenda items I.1.a. through 5.a.1. as presented.

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

A motion was made to amend item I.2.b.3. (Coaching Appointments for the Spring Interscholastic Season 2009-2010 school year) for 2 individuals as follows:

Michael Perro, change to Step 1, with a Stipend of \$6,190.00  
Anthony Barone, change to Step 1, with a Stipend of \$4,207.00

**Motion:** William Hornberger  
**Second:** Terence Hale

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

**Discussion:** Mr. Hale inquired of Mr. Waters if the district ever received the itemized bill as referenced in the Internal Claims Auditors report. Mr. Waters responded that the district has gone back to Accurate to further support their quote. Resolution to this issue will be made next week. They have provided the information and it is being reviewed by Ms. Greene. The bill that was submitted agreed with the original quote, but the district requested a more formal invoice.

Mr. Hale requested that Mr. Romano direct building custodians to check every classroom for extension cords and to ensure that all safety precautions are made to eliminate potential fire hazards. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the Head Custodians were briefed today and that the annual fire inspections are slated to take place March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our buildings are equipped with smoke detection devices that are new and in working order. The Superintendent of Schools also stated that the last couple of years the capital project plan addressed updating the district's systems.

Ms. Salvatore inquired about the Budget Appropriation Adjustment (Item I.4.c.1.) if Driver's Ed was self funded. The Superintendent of Schools responded, yes, and the revenue is put into the proper code to pay salaries.

Mr. Hornberger requested further clarification regarding item I.2.3., Field Trip. The Superintendent of Schools responded that it was their annual field trip of the Student Service Center as part of their grant with other schools in their consortium for two (2) student leaders, who are the biggest volunteers active in the Service Center.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about item I.5.a.1., Disposal of District Property, if it is was part of the bus replacement plan. The Superintendent of Schools responded that these 4 buses are well beyond their life and from this point on the Board will hear about bus replacement.

The Board now voted on Resolution #55 with amendment as presented.

<b>Yes:</b>	Christine Napolitano John McGrath Laraine Salvatore Terence Hale William Hornberger	<b>No:</b>	None
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**Passed:** Yes

**J. Public Comments**

Mr. Hornberger requested that anyone coming up to the podium state their name and address.

- ❖ A resident commented that he is in favor of school closings, Mineola has the 10<sup>th</sup> highest per pupil cost in Nassau County (Named other school districts), and the community cannot sustain the expenses of the school district. The resident also thanked Ms. Salvatore for keeping an eye on his money and to keep up the good work. The resident commented that the former Superintendent of Schools left with full benefits. Mr. Hornberger responded zero expense for his health and welfare. The resident suggested opening his contract so that at age 65 he goes on Medicare. The resident also suggested the following: an audit on all expenses; and if students want to participate in sports their parents should pay.
- ❖ A resident thanked Mr. McGrath for giving them a voice. The resident commented that this is a faulty decision and wants school closings voted on by the public. She also stated she was extremely disappointed in the Board.
- ❖ A resident and former Board of Education Member commented about her experiences when Cross Street was closed and spoke fondly about her children's education. She does not want to live in a community where there are no sports, music, and/or extra activities. She never wants to lose those programs no matter what has to be done.
- ❖ A resident complimented the four Board Members in their decision. He requested confirmation if 80% of the budget is in salaries and benefits. The Superintendent of Schools responded yes. The resident also requested clarification on the cost spent directly on students. The Superintendent of Schools responded non-instructional 1-1/2 million dollars; and extra-curricular sports costs \$650,000. The resident noted that 64 million dollars goes to benefits and felt the community was fighting amongst themselves about closing buildings and missing the entire picture. The real impetus of the problem is 80% of 80 million dollars. He asked; how can this be stopped? He has not heard that the unions are even willing to meet half way.
- ❖ A resident expressed disappointment that the Board did not support Mr. McGrath's amendment. He wants the community the opportunity to vote on school closings. He also stated that by presenting a 2-1/2% budget there will be dissenting voters against the budget and a failed budget hurts the children. The resident pointed out to the Board that they voted when there was no plan in place, which he felt was not good.
- ❖ A resident expressed his disappointment in the Board voting to close 2 schools and asked what the new class sizes will be in each grade. The Superintendent of Schools responded it would vary on the new configuration. If all students in one grade in one place you can make class size whatever you would like. When you have 4 buildings you cannot. The resident again asked the question about class sizes. Mr. Hornberger responded it depends on the configuration. We won't have class sizes of 15 or 26. The resident commented that excessing 20 teachers and closing 2 schools are critical pieces of information and it wouldn't surprise him that it would go to 35. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the resident was assuming all teachers being excessed were classroom teachers. Some would include classroom and some (Specialty teachers) would not. The resident insisted that in excessing that many teachers it will affect class sizes. The Superintendent of Schools responded that by grouping all student together

grouping all student together class size is whatever you like. The district maintains a class size that is under the guidelines and calculations are based on the district's guidelines. The resident inquired about the number of elementary teachers on each grade level that will be eliminated. The Superintendent of Schools responded once they know the configuration he can answer that, but he knows that he can deliver class size based on the guidelines.

- ❖ A resident inquired about the cap for class size. The Superintendent of Schools responded that class size is different by grade: K through 2 is 22; 3 to 4 is 24; 5 to 6 is 26; and Middle School is higher. The district very rarely approaches the guideline numbers. The resident inquired as to the guarantee is there that her child won't be in a class of 27. The Superintendent of Schools responded that when class size approaches guidelines, and when you split a class of 22, you pay a salary of a teacher for 14 students. When there are 200 students on a grade level and a teacher is hired all 200 benefit. The problem the district has when there is a number not easily divisible by 20 or 24. The district is not recommending class sizes of 30; it wants to deliver what it currently has, but better. The resident commented that clustering has not been scientifically proven and there is no research to support it. The Superintendent of Schools stated that it is one of the challenges the committee will have.
  
- ❖ A resident commended and thanked the Board on a very difficult decision. She noted the following: the thought process was amazing; the amount of time spent; and soul searching in order to provide a financially fair and educationally equitable experience for the children.
  
- ❖ A resident inquired what the community will be voting on. The Superintendent of Schools stated that they will be presenting the first draft of the 2010-11 budget later on this evening and, at this time; the budget is independent of the school closing conversation. The Superintendent of Schools further stated the following: that the new configuration may not have building costs incurred; trying to fast track committee to have 4 meetings in March for an April 8<sup>th</sup> presentation to the Board; and a failed budget does not help anyone. The resident inquired if the budget passes will schools still be reconfigured. The Superintendent of Schools responded that in order to maintain a 2.5% tax levy for multiple years, staff must be reduced, and the only way to reduce staff without reducing programs is school closings. The resident stated that she is opposed to configuration and feels there are other ways to consolidate class size. The Superintendent of Schools responded that construction may not be necessary if the 5<sup>th</sup> grade goes to the Middle School and 8<sup>th</sup> to the High School. The resident inquired as to what the voters will get a chance to vote on. The Superintendent of Schools stated the following: vote on a budget proposal; and possibly a proposition to start a capital reserve; and the Board will receive several options from the committee with pros and cons of each option, including costs; and Administration will look for further direction from the Board. The resident inquired as to how the district will meet State mandates regarding gym (3 times a week). The Superintendent of Schools responded that they all won't get it on the same day, and there can be two classes together in the gym. The resident requested clarification if 50 students were allowed in the gym at the same time. The Superintendent of Schools responded yes.

- ❖ A resident expressed concern about the Board's decision without all of the information. The resident inquired as to why a more thorough report was not given to the Board. The Superintendent of Schools outlined the types of information available in the last 4 years: consultants coming in; different scenarios and surveys going out; no action taken other than to continue programs that were expensive and if the community was willing to pay year in and year out there was no problem. The resident stated he does not have a problem with the closing of Meadow. The resident stated he does have a problem with closing Meadow Drive, but has a problem with the Board voting on something without it fully being vetted. The resident asked of the individual Board Members if they received all adjustments and changes to the budget. Mr. Hornberger responded that he will address the question from the aspect of the process: the Board could have given the Superintendent of Schools direction to close 2 buildings and reconfigure today, and the board would have heard the same comments from Mr. McGrath and the community. The resident stated that the Board already made the decision before the plans were vetted. Mr. Hornberger stated everyone has the information from the school consolidation study. The Board could have done it for this coming year, but the Board extended the time frame 18 months in order to allow for community input, expert advice, and make decisions in the proper way. If the Board waited there is the potential in losing programs and the Board is not looking for short term solutions. The resident inquired as to why close 2 schools. The Superintendent of Schools responded that a full FTE position will not be fully realized if only 1 school closes. The resident commented that all schools except Jackson are underutilized even the Middle School. The Superintendent of Schools explained the need to make up revenue losses in the next 2 years and offered to share that information with him.
  
- ❖ A resident commented that this was a hard decision for the Board to make. The resident complimented how well the teachers in Pre-K and Kindergarten work pooling resources and everyone being on the same page. The resident is confident that the Board would not do anything to harm the students. The community voted for the Board for a reason.
  
- ❖ A resident commented that she has been attending Board meetings regularly and has seen all the information presented and understands the Board's decision tonight. She feels that making cuts is not what she wants for the school district.
  
- ❖ A resident thanked everyone tonight for their hard work, and is concerned about clustering, if the Board would consider not having 2 year clusters.
  
- ❖ A resident stated that Ms. Goffman will be missed. The resident inquired as to the percent increase between steps the teachers get each year according to their contract as well as the percentage increase. The Superintendent of Schools responded a little less than 3% between steps. Mr. Hornberger responded 3.5% contract increase. The resident also stated the following: he has not had a raise in 3 years; parents cannot pay for sports; the Board is trying to make things even; feels clustering will be better; the State has no money; there should be no increase pay to 2012; and asked how much did the district spend on the consultant. Mr. Hornberger responded \$58,000. The resident felt this should have been acted on years ago, because there are people in the community that cannot sell their homes.

- ❖ A resident thanked the Board for standing up to make the right decision and thanked the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for laying everything on the line. The resident stated he will be proactive in supporting this budget.
- ❖ A resident is concerned as to what will happen to the property of a closed school as it relates to Meghan's Law, if a pedophile can now move near a closed school. The Superintendent of Schools responded that it is our property and we have to maintain it. He further stated the following: there is a market for buildings; to move forward regarding conversations with interested parties; rent to best renters; and there should be no gap time.
- ❖ A resident inquired if the community still had use of the fields. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the district writes the lease and will not be giving anything up.

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

- Comments from Board President

President Hornberger thanked everyone for their comments and questions. Mr. Hornberger stated he knows that all their energies will be put forward to offer the best program for all.

Mr. Hornberger announced that District Council will work with Administration and faculty; 30 individuals part of this committee and District Council requested that the Board not be part of the committee for a freer exchange of ideas. Mr. Hale stated that the Superintendent will be there and keep them in the loop. The Superintendent stated it is his committee. Mr. Hornberger polled the Board and there will be no representation from the Board. The Superintendent stated next Tuesday is the first meeting, meetings will be held Tuesdays in month of March in order to make presentation to the Board on April 8.

Board Committee Report

- Superintendent of Schools' Reports & Comments
  - Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent of Schools stated the first draft presentation of the 2010-11 budget will be given by Mr. Waters. This draft represents what we currently have and what they took out (Retirees salaries). There are very basic reductions of staff numbers and will speak about what is in the budget. The Superintendent of Schools described that he put out to the teachers, because it applies to them, a new law 5525 on the floor of the NYS Senate for those teachers 55 years of age who are unable to retire for not having 30 years in right now. TRS has a new Tier and there is a very short window for people to take advantage without penalty until March 15 if they intend to retire and he is hopeful to get a few more teachers.

The Superintendent of Schools reported on the Hampton Blood Drive; High School Blood Drive; HS Multi-Cultural Night; presentation of Spanish exchange to the Board on March 18; and the Superintendent of Schools stated he was in need of an executive session for the purpose of the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment,



appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of 2010-2011 Educational Plan and Budget

Mr. Waters presented the first draft of the 2010-11 budget. He discussed the following: what the budget includes (All curricular & extra-curricular program, \$500,000 facilities upgrades, \$315,000 new bus/van leases, \$240,000 new equipment purchases, \$100,000 year 5 of Technology Plan); excludes (\$900,000 salaries & benefits for 7 retirees, reduction in BOCES expenditures is not available as yet); pension costs; budget-to-budget increase of 4% with a 2.90% tax levy increase; debt service; loss of revenue (State Aid & Federal Aid); and major expense categories; and additional adjustments will be made for the second presentation. Mr. Hornberger inquired if the district is looking to rehire back. The Superintendent of Schools responded, no; 5 teachers and 2 clerical absorbing, it's a true reduction. Mr. Hornberger inquired about the decrease in tax levy due to the \$900,000. The Superintendent of Schools stated the difference in roll over is taking \$900,000 out, looking at 4.5% tax levy and a 2.9% budget increase.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about \$315,000 for buses. The Superintendent of Schools stated the \$315,000 needs to be adjusted; 2 buses and 3 vans and that may change that since next year no additional monies to maintain; 19 vehicles are over 15 years old with substantial mileage. Mr. Hornberger inquired as to how many buses. The Superintendent of Schools responded 48.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about \$100,000 in technology plan. The Superintendent of Schools stated most of it will be for infrastructure, servers, Middle School needs new computers, and this will be the last piece of where all equipment will be upgraded and the following year replacing older equipment, where we have finally gotten into a cycle of keeping it new and current.

Mr. Hornberger inquired about the HS Science Labs. The Superintendent of Schools stated until we know what plan we are using i.e., if 8<sup>th</sup> grade goes to HS Science Rooms will be on the first floor and with that still be able to refurbish the Middle School. Other issues: Press box needs to be bid, bleachers at HS, and Jackson's PA system are outstanding, making final recommendations as we progress with the discussion. Mr. Hornberger when. The Superintendent of Schools responded we have to spend the money in this school year. Mr. Hornberger another budget presentation on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Superintendent of Schools stated Mr. Waters will be meeting with the principals as to equipment needs the next meeting will have staff reductions we are going to initiate.

Mr. McGrath inquired as to the difference in % between TRS and ERS. The Superintendent of Schools responded that ERS is higher than TRS this year, it has just hit us early. TRS has a 4 year projection.

The Superintendent of Schools received a suggestion about putting all the information in one place. There is a link on his blog about school closing discussions.

- 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
- ❖ A resident inquired about reductions in State Aid how much is federal stimulus money. The Superintendent of Schools responded that the Governor rolled it over into his State projections. The resident inquired if the number could go higher. The Superintendent of Schools responded he doesn't believe so, the legislature is trying to reduce it; there will be no cuts until they pass a budget.
  - ❖ A resident inquired how STAR will be gotten back. The Superintendent of Schools responded that if the Governors plan goes through no STAR; also 20% shift of money in CPSE, the County wants the school districts responsible for the 1.5 million expense. The State still has not made good on paying back the MTA payroll tax for this year.

**L. Executive Session**

At 9:35 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:** William Hornberger  
**Second:** Terence Hale

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

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

At 10:47 p.m. Ms. Salvatore left the meeting.

At 11:00 p.m. the Mineola Board of Education returned to open session.

**M. Adjournment**

At 11:00 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Mineola Board of Education.

**Motion:** Terence Hale  
**Second:** William Hornberger

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

**No:** None

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Martillo  
District Clerk