

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

Workshop Meeting MINUTES

The Mission of the Mineola Union Free School District is to inspire each student to be a life-long learner, pursue excellence, exhibit strength of character and contribute positively to a global society.

Board Goals – 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.*

DATE: March 4, 2010

LOCATION: High School

OPEN WORK SESSION

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
Lori Dolan, Asst. District Clerk

A. Call to Order

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

- E. **Dais & Visitor Introductions**
- F. **Old Business**
- G. **New Business**

- H. **Consensus Agenda**

1. **Acceptance of Regulations**

RESOLUTION #56 – BE IT RESOLVED that the Mineola Board of Education waives the formal reading of the following Regulations (Cell Phone Usage - 3655-R; and Code of Conduct – 5300-R), due to their availability on the information table, and directed they be placed on file.

<u>Regulation #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3655-R	Cell Phone Usage
5300-R	Code of Conduct

Motion: Laraine Salvatore
Second: Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Mr. Hornberger inquired as to the details of the Cell Phone Usage Regulation. The Superintendent of Schools responded that this is to amend the current use of cell phones in the district. There are currently approximately 100 cell phones with walkie talkie direct connect features with the bus drivers, custodians and some administrators. They have a pool of cellular minutes that we are looking to eliminate so that there will only be the walkie talkie feature unless the person wishes to keep their phone and then they would be billed separately for their personal use. Although the district owns the phones, the employee pays for the calls. The Superintendent added that the other part of this is who do you want to have a phone with cellular minutes. In the past there had been an issue with personal calls, so he is recommending that the person line item their bill and pay for their personal calls. He further recommends that the persons that should have cellular phones at the Director of Facilities, the Supervisor of Transportation, the Athletic Director and The Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Nagler added that he would like a Smart Phone so that he is able to see e-mails, and that he would pay for personal use and the district would pay for the business portion. Overall this would result in a reduction in what the district currently does. Mrs. Salvatore asked if there would be insurance on the phones and the Superintendent responded that he would check to see what we currently have, but that it only costs \$1 to replace the phones. Mr. Hornberger asked how the district was going to regulate personal use, and the Superintendent responded that the Internal Claims Auditor could be appointed to review the invoices. Mr. Hornberger stated that he was comfortable with the recommendation that Dr. Nagler had presented.

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

2. Civil Service

a. Leave of Absences

1. That the Board of Education approve the paid medical Leave of Absence for Christine Amagrande, full time Teacher Aide, for surgery, effective February 24, 2010 through March 15, 2010.
2. That the Board of Education approves the unpaid medical Leave of Absence for Louise Fernandez, part time Teacher Aide, effective February 19, 2010.
3. That the Board of Education approves the unpaid medical Leave of Absence for Thomas Hughes, Cleaner, effective February 23, 2010. Return date at doctor's discretion.
4. That the Board of Education approves the Family Medical Leave of Absence for Janet Ross, full time Bus Attendant, effective March 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010. At that time, she requests a continuation of her medical leave until September 1, 2010.

RESOLUTION #57 – BE IT RESOLVED that the Mineola Board of Education approves of Consensus Agenda Item H.2.a.1. through H.2.a.4. as presented.

Motion: Terence Hale

Second: Laraine Salvatore

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

I. Superintendent's Reports

• **Draft 2 Presentation of the 2010-11 Budget**

Mr. Waters presented Draft 2 of the 2010-2011 Budget, stating that the revised budget reflects a \$500,000 reduction from what was previously presented. The 2010-2011 includes all curricular and extra-curricular programs, \$500,000 in facilities upgrades, \$126,000 for bus and van leases, \$130,000 in new equipment purchases, and \$100,000 on technology. It excludes \$1.1 million in salaries and benefits. He also stated that the total 2010-2011 budget would be \$81,000,000, compared to the 2009-2010 budget of \$79,200,000, resulting in a budget to budget increase of 2.27% and a tax levy of 3.79%.

The Superintendent of Schools presented a Facilities Upgrade Status Report, stating the proposed spending for Athletics: High School bleachers, Hampton Press Box, refurbish tennis courts, repair High School and Middle School gym mats, new wrestling mats for the Middle School, winches and window shades for the High School Gym, a baseball backstop and showers in the High School Boys' Locker Room. Proposed spending also includes improvements to the Middle School stage floor, stage painting and new curtains for the auditorium. Dr. Nagler then explained how Bullet Aid from Senator Johnson would be spent: 2 Science Labs in the Middle School and 2 in the High School, and a new public address system at Jackson. Mr. Hornberger asked when the next draft of the budget would be presented and the Superintendent replied on March 18th. Mr. Hornberger stated that he hoped that at the next presentation there would be a number more towards what they were looking for, and the Superintendent replied that by that time, two pieces of the puzzle would be in, specifically possible additional retirements as well as results of discussions with the MTA regarding wage freezes. Mr. Hornberger stated that the Board was comfortable with the projects as presented by Dr. Nagler and that he had direction to move forward.

Public Comment:

- ❖ A member of the public asked how it could be more cost effective to outsource the Hampton Press Box if there is staff available on hand. The Superintendent replied that he would not want district staff to work on a steel platform 2 stories high, but the structure on the steel platform, yes.
- ❖ A member of the public asked if, when the decision is made on which school will close first, will the decision also be made by then as to what the second school will be. The Superintendent replied that at that time the plan will be complete and will specify which buildings will close, how children are moving, etc.
- ❖ A member of the public stated that the budget as presented was being reduced from 3.79% to 2.5%, resulting in an overall savings to the taxpayer of 1.49%, adding that he did not feel this justified closing a school. He also expressed concern regarding changing the current configuration and the number of transitions resulting from a change in configuration. He stated that the positive impact of neighborhood schools is reflected in the test scores and that research on grade configuration is inconclusive. Mr. Hornberger stated that the Board's decision to close schools had a financial piece to it, but that the goal is to strengthen the educational process at a time when expenses are increasing and revenue is decreasing. The Superintendent of Schools added that the Community Committee on Consolidation had met last Tuesday and had discussed how we should restructure going forward, and that we are dealing with all of the issues this member of the public had expressed. Two major priorities were surfacing, number of transitions and equity in class size. The Superintendent stated that they had done the research, and that all presentations, including the consultants' work, is on line. He further stated that the goal continues to be to deliver the best system we possibly can with closing two buildings, and that there is nothing in place, merely a proposed scenario, and if there is a better plan out there, that is the one they will adopt. Triple C was meeting every Tuesday this month and will present on April 8th. The Superintendent further stated that year after year for the next 3 years we will lose state aide, adding that 80% of district expenses is salary and benefits, and the only way to reduce expenses to the extent necessary is by reducing staff. In order to do this without effecting program, it is necessary to close schools.

- ❖ A member of the public suggested a transition plan of PreK-1 at Willis, 2 elementary schools with grades 2-4, the Middle school with grades 5-7 and the High School with grades 8-12. She then distributed copies of the plan to the Board, and Mr. Hornberger thanked her for her suggestion.
- ❖ A member of the public stated that in 1994 the budget was \$42 million and now it's \$82 million, and that something has to be done with regard to checks and balances. He further stated that it is obvious to him that we can no longer operate 7 school buildings. This member of the public also stated that he felt comfortable that the Triple C Committee will come up with an option that will save the district money and preserve programs.
- ❖ A member of the public inquired as to the maximum class size per grade. The Superintendent responded that the class size guidelines have been the same for quite a while: K, 1, 2 = 22 students, grades 3,4 = 24 students, grades 5,6 = 26 and the secondary grades are different. This member of the public expressed concern that once the reconfiguration is in place, is there going to be a maximum standard set by the Board. The Superintendent stated that Willis is a good example, that they recently had to add a class, making the average class size 21 students, adding that is the advantage to having all the children in the same building.
- ❖ A member of the public expresses concern that the decision to close schools was not in the best interest of the children, and asked that the Board come up with a reconfiguration plan that does not include clustering, keeping neighborhood schools intact.

J. Executive Session

At 8:30 p.m. a motion was made to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing 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: John McGrath
Second: Christine Napolitano

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

K. Adjournment

At 9:45 a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion: John McGrath
Second: Terence Hale

Yes: Christine Napolitano
 John McGrath

No: None

Terence Hale
Laraine Salvatore
William Hornberger

Passed: Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Dolan
Assistant District Clerk