

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

Business Meeting Minutes

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

Board Goals - 2011-2012

- ***Educational***
 - *To increase the use of assessment data (NWEA) to inform differentiated instruction thereby increasing individual student achievement*
 - *To continue our growth as professional learning communities focusing on common formative assessments to demonstrate individual student growth*
 - *Re-engage the community in the District's Strategic Plan with a specific focus on the quality indicators that define Mineola's expectations of academic excellence*
 - *Increase opportunities for participation in science and math research at the elementary and middle school levels*

- ***Facilities***
 - *Continue projects that incorporate "green" technologies that over time will decrease our dependency on fossil fuels*

- ***Finance***
 - *To continue the district initiative to actualize a five year plan to maintain a stable tax levy while minimizing loss of program*

DATE: January 19, 2012

LOCATION: Willis Ave. School

OPEN WORK SESSION 7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Board Room

Board of Education

Christine Napolitano, President
William Hornberger, Vice President
John McGrath, Trustee
Irene Parrino, Trustee
Terence Hale, Trustee

Central Office

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

- A. Call to Order- 7:00pm**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reading of Mission- William Hornberger**
- D. Moment of Silent Meditation**
- E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

F. High School Student Organization Report

Mathias Penaherrera, the SO representative, gave an update of what is going on at the high school. Mathias reported that second quarter is ending and the mindterms and regents will take place next week. The Student Organization will have their Valentine Sale and will be selling carnations and chocolate. Mathias stated that it is an exciting time at the high school for seniors, who have started to receive their acceptance letters from colleges. The SO met with the head of the lunch program and it was very productive with many of the students questions being answered. Student had a chance to communicate their concerns. Upcoming events include the SO Bake Sale and Reggie Carter Night.

Ms. Napolitano thanked Mathias for his report. She asked Dr. Nagler if he would introduce tonight's special performance. Dr. Nagler stated that this evening there would be a preview of the Middle School musical "Annie" under the direction of Mr. DeLuca. Six of the actors did a short performance for the Board and the audience. After the performance, Dr. Nagler thanked the girls and Mr. DeLuca for coming tonight and he encouraged everyone to attend- 2/3 at 7:30pm and 2/4 at 2pm and 7:30pm.

G. Old Business

Ms. Napolitano asked the Board if they had any old business to discuss. Mr. Hale, Ms. Parrino, and Mr. McGrath had nothing for discussion. Mr. Hornberger asked for the status of the school calendar. Dr. Nagler stated that there would be a presentation tonight. Mr. Hornberger had no other old business.

H. New Business

RESOLUTION #49b- BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District accepts the donation of \$2,000.00 from the Thomas & Jeanne Elmezzi Private Foundation to purchase kitchen equipment in the Life Skills classroom.

Motion: Terence Hale

Second: John McGrath

Discussion: The Superintendent stated that last year this foundation donated \$5000 to build a new kitchen and they came back to visit and see the work that was completed. The foundation was pleased with what they saw and have decided to donate additional money for kitchen equipment.

Yes: Terence Hale

Irene Parrino

John McGrath

William Hornberger

Christine Napolitano

No: None

Passed: Yes

I. Consensus Agenda

RESOLUTION #50-BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items I.1.a. through I.7.c.2., as presented.

Motion: John McGrath

Second: Terence Hale

Discussion: The Superintendent stated that tonight one of the teachers, Alaina Tutrone, will be receiving tenure. The Superintendent invited Ms. Molloy, principal of the Jackson Avenue School, to come up and speak. Ms. Molloy started by saying that Mr. Gaven wanted to be here but was unable to attend due to a conflict. But he wanted Ms. Molloy to convey to the Board that he thinks very highly of Ms. Tutrone. Ms. Molloy stated that Ms. Tutrone is a very special person. She was originally hired at Cross Street School and Ms. Molloy stated that she always heard about this special education teacher. Ms. Tutrone has a special way with the children and is truly in tune to their needs. Ms. Molloy stated that it is wonderful to watch her with her students. Ms. Molloy added that she is also very good with adults and serves as one of Jackson Avenue's data specialists for NWEA. Ms. Tutrone made the goal sheets accessible for all students. Ms. Molloy stated that it is an honor to recommend Ms. Tutrone for tenure and is thrilled to have her as part of the team.

The Superintendent stated that one of the biggest jobs he has is recommending teacher's for tenure. He stated that he looks for individuals who have a strong work ethic, love children and see teaching as a profession. It is his hope when giving tenure that the teacher will be with the district for thirty years. The teacher is asked to capture themselves in their portfolio. Mr. Hale added that he had read Ms. Tutrone's portfolio and he is always interested to see the individual's philosophy of education. Mr. Hale was struck by Ms. Tutrone's words "fair is not equal, fair is what you need". Mr. Hale stated that this philosophy is truly in line with the district mission. Mr. Hale stated that he was truly honored to vote "yes" for tenure. Mr. McGrath stated that he has read many tenure recommendations over the years, but he has never seen one where all areas are rated exemplary. He feels that this should be acknowledged and Mr. McGrath also votes yes for tenure. Ms. Molloy stated that she had just received a message from Matt Gaven and he stated that Ms. Tutrone is a truly dynamic individual and a wonderful teacher. Dr. Nagler congratulated Ms. Tutrone on receiving tenure.

Ms. Napolitano stated that she also wanted to acknowledge the retirees and all of their contributions to the children. Ms. Napolitano stated that Mr. Barth, principal of the Middle School, possesses a true love of the students; Ms. Bernstein who will leave her mark at the high school; Mrs. Hasan and Ms. Haque who took care of our children's cuts and bruises. Ms. Napolitano stated that she will always remember Mr. Burgreen for his creativity and how he inspired her daughter to love science. Ms. Napolitano thanks all of these individuals for their service.

Yes: Terence Hale
Irene Parrino
John McGrath
William Hornberger
Christine Napolitano

No: None

Passed: Yes

a. **Accepting of Minutes**

That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of December 1, 2011 Workshop meeting as presented.

2. **Instruction**

a. **Leave(s) of Absence/Child Rearing**

1. That the Board of Education grants a request to Lisa Fiocco, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately March 30, 2012.
2. That the Board of Education grants a request to Vanessa Lealand, for a Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, using accumulated sick days, starting approximately April 15, 2012.

b. **Appointments Instruction**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Mineola Union Free School District hereby appoints Cheryl Lippert to the position of Special Education Teacher as a .5 FTE for the period of January 3, 2012 through June 30, 2012 and continues her appointment as .5 Pre-Kindergarten teacher for the balance of the 2011-2012 school year.

c. **Appointment(S) Sub Teacher per diem**

The Board of Education approves the addition of the following candidates to the Per Diem Substitute Teacher List at a daily rate of pay, \$90.00:

	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION</u>
1.	Casey K. Tierney	Pre-K through Grade 6
2.	Karyn Franz	PreK - Grade 6

d. **Retirement(s) Instruction**

1. That the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Hilary B. Bernstein, for the purposes of retirement, effective June 30, 2012.
2. That the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Donna M. Hasan, for the purposes of retirement, effective June 30, 2012
3. That the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Sidney W. Burgreen for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2012.
4. That the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Lois Haque, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2012.
5. That the Board of Education accepts, with regret, the resignation of Mark Barth, for the purposes of retirement, effective June 30, 2012.

e. **Appointment(S) Tenure**

That the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint the following Teachers to tenure:

	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>TENURE AREA</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
1.	Alaina C. Tutrone	Special Education	02/01/2012	Jackson Ave School

f. Appointment(s) Coaches

That the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following coaches for 2011-2012 year:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>STEP</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Baseball-Varsity	Helmut Bohringer	3	\$8,291.00
Baseball-Varsity-Asst	Barry Silverstein	3	\$5,638.00
Baseball-JV	Daryl J. Whitmer	2	\$5,076.00
Baseball-Junior High	William G. Digennaro	3	\$5,406.00
Baseball-Junior High	Dominick J. Tolipano	3	\$5,406.00
Lacrosse-Varsity	Michael B. Perro	3	\$8,283.00
Lacrosse-Varsity Asst	Matthew Antoniou	3	\$5,635.00
Lacrosse-Junior Varsity	Thomas J. Oswald	3	\$5,741.00
Lacrosse-Jr. High	Mark Miller	3	\$5,388.00
Lacrosse-Jr. High Asst	Joseph P. Cerulli	1	\$3,896.00
Track-Varsity Spring	John E. Fretz	1	\$6,251.00
Track-Varsity Spring	Thomas J. Leninger	3	\$7,770.00
Softball-Varsity	Anthony Tramonte	3	\$8,283.00
Softball Varsity Asst	Caitlin T. Orlando	2	\$4,944.00
Softball-Junior Varsity	Hilary Pavels	1	\$4,559.00
Softball-Jr. High (7th/8th)	Vanessa Ricci	3	\$5,025.00
Lacrosse-Varsity	Frank J. Massaro	3	\$8,283.00
Lacrosse-Varsity Asst	Katherine P. Bennett	3	\$5,635.00
Lacrosse-Junior Varsity	Meghan Nelson	3	\$5,741.00
Lacrosse-Jr. High	Danielle E. Adams	2	\$4,740.00
Lacrosse-Jr. High	Diana R. Kohl	3	\$5,388.00

g. Appointment(s) Club/Stipends

That the Board of Education approves the following Club/stipend recommendations for 2011-2012 year:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Equipment Manager	Daniel Guido	\$4590
5th Grade Drama Club	Matthew Deluca	\$1019
HS Spring/Fall Music	Joseph Owens	\$3913

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

- a. That the Board of Education approves the CSE/CPSE/SCSE recommendations for programs and services for students with IEPs for the time period from 11/1/11 to 11/30/11.

4. **Instruction: Contracted**

a. That the Board of Education accepts the IDEA Flow- Through Allocation Contracts between the following list and the Mineola UFSD for the 2011- 2012 School Year:

1. Association for Children with Down Syndrome
2. Bilinguals Inc.
3. Brookville Center for Children's Services
4. Center for Developmental Disabilities
5. Cooper Kids Therapy Associates
6. The Hagedorn Little Village School
7. Harmony Heights School
8. Henry Viscardi School
9. Hicksville Pre-School
10. ICCD- Interdisciplinary School for Child Development
11. Kids First Evaluation & Advocacy Center
12. Kidz Therapy Services, LLC
13. Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf
14. New York Therapy Placement Services
15. S.E.E.D.S. of Willistons, Inc.
16. Variety Child Learning Center

b. That the Board of Education accepts the Speech Therapy Services Contract between North Shore Speech-Language Associates and the Mineola UFSD for the 2011- 2012 school year.

c. That the Board of Education approves the Special Education Services Contract between Bethpage UFSD/ Mineola UFSD for the 2011- 2012 school year.

5. **Instruction: Student Actions**

a. That the Board of Education approves the following out of state and/or overnight field trips:

1. Winter Guard Competition- South Brunswick, NJ- March 24-25, 2012- for the Mineola High School Rockettes Winter Guard
2. 7th Grade Trip- Boston, MA- May 31- June 1, 2012

6. **Civil Service**

a. **Appointments**

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Jill Braster, to the position of part time Classroom Aide, to replace Camile Gentile at Meadow Drive School, effective January 23, 2012. Salary will be \$13.74 per hour (2008/09 Teacher Aide Salary Schedule) on Step 1. Probation is 26 weeks.

7. **Business /Finance**

a. **Treasurer's Report**

That the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's report for the period ending November 30, 2011 and directs that it be placed on file.

b. **Approval of Invoices and Payroll**

That the Board of Education accepts the Invoices and Payroll for the period ending December 31, 2011

Warrant #11	\$ 692,817.71
Warrant #12	\$ 183,798.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 876,616.68

PAYROLL #11 & #12

General	\$4,042,170.10
Fund F	\$ 56,881.75

TOTAL PAYROLL \$4,099,051.85

c. **Budget Appropriation Adjustment**

1. That the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer for \$50,000.00 from Employee Pension account 9010.800.00.8096 to Workers' Compensation account 9040.800.008.8096, to cover a one time payment of \$45,860.00 mandated by NYS Workers' Compensation Board to settle an individual's claim.

2. That the Board of Education approves the following budget transfer for \$7,000.00 from the Willis Ave. Materials and Supplies code 2110.500.05.1011 to the Willis Ave. Textbook code 2110.480.05.0000, in order to purchase additional Reading Books.

J. Public Comments

Ms. Napolitano opened the meeting for public comments. A parent stated that he would like to know if the rumors that recess is being eliminated are true. He stated that he has spoken with many parents about this issue and that everyone is very upset. He added that he understands that test scores are important however children need recess. The Superintendent stated that recess is not being eliminated; however he is proposing shortening the time. The Superintendent stated that this is necessary because in order to add all of the following: PE, Spanish and art, the time must be adjusted. But, recess will not be eliminated. He added that Kindergarten and 1st grade are changing and there is much more testing then in the past. The Superintendent is not in agreement with all of it but this is what is happening. The Superintendent stated that he is looking for a solution to provide the children with everything, but he also needs to address that a large number of students are not performing at a proficient level. This year's first graders have a limited recess, and it will be looked at how this goes. The Superintendent is looking for feedback regarding the recess proposal of 10 minutes daily and 30 minutes one time per week. The parent also asked about the Spanish program. He stated that his child in kindergarten is receiving Spanish however his older child is not. He would like to know if there are plans to expand the program. The Superintendent stated that this year students in K-1 receive Spanish and other grades do not pick up the language until 8th grade. He stated that we are looking how to introduce it to 3rd and 4th grades. Mr. Hornberger asked if there any consideration of extending the school day. The Superintendent stated that that is something that would have to be negotiated in contracts. Another parent had a comment; she stated that there are many parents here tonight all about the rumor of recess being eliminated. She stated that many would be interested in having a meeting with the Superintendent to give feedback and wanted to know when a meeting will be held. The Superintendent again stressed that recess is not being eliminated, it is just being reduced. He added that he will put out a date for a meeting. Ms. Parrino asked if the Superintendent could also schedule a parent meeting for the AGP program. The Superintendent stated that he can also do that.

K. Board of Education Reports

Comments from Board President

Board Committee Report

Superintendent of Schools' Reports & Comments

Superintendent Comments

Capital Updates

Table Reports

Finance and Operations Report

Monthly Financial Report

Building and 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 & Operations Functions); and Special Report

Ms. Napolitano stated that she would like to read a letter that she had composed. Ms. Napolitano stated that at the beginning of the school year she sent a letter to all staff asking them to step up their game. She explained that this year there are many new directives from the State and the district implemented NWEA. Ms. Napolitano stated that we went through the difficult decision to close buildings. Ms. Napolitano stated that she has heard many complaints regarding recess and an increase in homework. She stated that everyone is working hard and she understands that change is difficult. Ms. Napolitano stated that everyone will have to make sacrifices, but she is asking parents to be understanding. Ms. Napolitano stressed that the Board's #1 goal is to provide our children with a quality education.

Following Ms. Napolitano's comments, Dr. Nagler introduced the first presentation of the evening *(all presentations can be found on the website on the Board of Education page). The Superintendent introduced Veronica Burns of H2M to present "Building Addition to the Meadow Drive School".

Ms. Burns presented drawing of the new library addition at Meadow Drive and explained that the new space will be adjacent to the gym. There will be table seating for two classes, a story telling area that will accommodate 22-24 students, a curriculum garden and the circulation desk will be moved to allow the librarian to see the entire space. It was explained that students art work would be incorporated into the space. The Architect presented the cost of the project. The total project cost opinion is \$806,293.00. The Superintendent stated that we already have \$500,000 in the budget for this project and next year it will be budgeted in capitol projects. Dr. Nagler stated that this is an appropriate library space for a school the size of Meadow Drive. Mr. Hale stated that he likes what the addition looks like. Mr. McGrath asked if there is a projected cost for utilities. Those numbers were not available tonight. The Superintendent gave a possible time line for this project; there is a 7 week review time, approval date in June, potential bids in June and start work on library while children are not in building. Mr. McGrath asked which projects will be placed on the back burner and the Superintendent stated the Jackson Avenue Bus loop. The Superintendent stated that we must also start to plan to replace windows and doors at Jackson Avenue, as many of the windows are in bad shape. Mr. McGrath asked if water damage occurring due to the condition of the windows. The Superintendent stated that this is not occurring. Mr. McGrath asked why do the Meadow Drive project rather than the windows. The Superintendent stated that people approved the library project and the money was earmarked for the project. Mr. Hornberger asked if there is a safety concern with the Jackson Avenue windows. The Superintendent stated that there is no threat to staff or students at this time. Dr. Nagler stated that he will be having a meeting with a parent group from Meadow Drive next week in order to get their feedback on the project. He stated

that hopefully, contracts will be awarded in this school year.

The next presentation by H2M was "Building Addition to the Hampton Street School- Construction Progress". The Architect stated that there was a hiccup on the project, three drywells were found approximately 8' below grade. The project is progressing and the footings have been formed. It was reported that the contractors are conscientious about keeping the area clean. Mr. Hale asked if it is too cold to pour the concrete. The Architect stated that all steps are being taken to ensure that things are done appropriately and it is safe to pour at this time.

The Superintendent made the next presentation "Meadow Drive and Hampton Street Pre-K - 2 Maps". The Superintendent presented maps of the two schools in order to show how Pre-K through 2 will fit within each of these buildings. Dr. Nagler stated that both maps show 15 classrooms for K-2 and 1 classroom for Pre-k (which will accommodate 4 classes), as well as additional rooms for Special education, Music, Art, and ESL. In addition to the maps, the Superintendent presented the work that will take place in the two buildings over the summer. At Meadow Drive, the following will take place: new wall and door in the book room, add sink in art room, remove wall on stage and construct new library space. At Hampton Street, the following will take place: current library- remove rug and install new floor and remove shelving and paint.

The final presentation of the evening was the "2012- 2013 School Calendar". The Superintendent presented some relevant facts prior to presenting the two possible options: NYS requires 180 days of attendance for students; Mineola has 182 as per MTA contract; the 180 days MUST be within Labor day and the last day of regents week or you will lose aid 1/180 per day; we have been informed that regents week for June 2013 will be moved up at least 3 days. The Superintendent presented the two possible drafts of the calendar. Draft Calendar One: return to school 2 days in August (we will have 182 so we will still get full State aid); Election day is Superintendent conference day; Friday, May 24 off- snow make up day; can move the two days in August to June 24 and 25- 2 days after regents week. Draft Calendar Two: start after Labor day; remove May 24- NO snow make up days; 1/2 day of school for elementary students on Election day- MS, HS report for a full day or have school on June 24, after last day of regents (East Williston calendar). The Superintendent stated that the calendar does not have to be adopted now or it could be adopted and let people know that it may need to be amended. The Superintendent stated that he feels Draft 1 is a better plan because it gives the district a little wiggle room. Ms. Napolitano stated that she does not like having the children in the building on Election day with strangers coming in, especially because it will be a presidential election. Mr. McGrath feels that we should wait for word from the State before voting on the calendar. He asked if the decision from the State is imminent. The Superintendent stated he hopes so but no word yet. Mr. Hornberger asked if there is a mandate to adopt the calendar now and if no, why some schools are adopting now. The Superintendent stated that there is no harm not to adopt now, however, people would like to know and he feels that we should not wait past the meeting on 2/16.

The Superintendent stated that he had a few issues to bring to everyone's attention. Dr. Nagler reported that there was a ruling against school district recently, that if appeals lose would impact the budget negatively. He stated that according to the ruling, when residents and businesses challenge their tax bills, the school districts would now have to pay the county for the reassessment amount. If appeals fail, then we would have to begin to commit money to a fund for these costs. Also, it was reported that Mineola is one of the school districts that will be getting less state aid. Mr. Waters explained the reason for the cut in funds. He stated that on the ST3 it is compared what your actual expenses are and what we expect to spend, as a result BOCES aid will go down. The Superintendent explained we spend less, we get less. Mr. Waters stated that in the State's eyes, the district became wealthier. The Superintendent stated that we are still investigating all of this and he has contacted Senator Martins to complain. the Superintendent would like him to state our case.

The Superintendent stated he was looking at the mobility that takes place within the district and he stated that

many student are not here throughout the entire 13 years. The Superintendent obtained the documentation for the class of 2012 and the results show that only 62% of the students were in district for the full 13 years. He would like to find out if there would be higher achievement if students were here for the entire time and also compare these numbers to local districts as well.

Lastly, the Superintendent stated that he would like to say a few words about two of the district retirees- Ms. Bernstein and Mr. Barth. Dr. Nagler stated that Ms. Bernstein has been in the district for 28 years and she will be sorely missed. Mr. Barth has had a long career in Mineola, 34 years. Dr. Nagler stated that Mark is old school and it is apparent that for him the children always came first. Mr. Barth mission was to help in their development. He will be truly missed.

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

L. Executive Session Time: 9:10 p.m.

At 9:10 pm, 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: John McGrath
Second: Christine Napolitano

Yes: Terence Hale
Irene Parrino
John McGrath
William Hornberger
Christine Napolitano
No: None

Passed: Yes

M. Adjournment Time: _____ p.m.

Motion: _____
Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Passed: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Paggi