

**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 - 2013-2014**

***Educational***

- To continue to integrate the Common Core standards with an emphasis on new grade level assessments which measure student progress in specific standards
- Develop and implement a plan to encourage HS students to challenge AP and/ or College level coursework with the goal of every student gaining this experience before they graduate
- Develop a system to assess the District's Strategic Objectives and report on progress toward those objectives
- Explore the feasibility of 5 day Pre-K for all students

***Facilities***

- Explore the feasibility of green technologies as part of the projects associated with our Capital reserve expenditures
- Implement and maintain a comprehensive security plan

***Finance***

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

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**DATE: December 5, 2013**

**LOCATION: Willis Ave. School**

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

**Board of Education**

Arthur Barnett, President  
Christine Napolitano, Vice President  
Patricia Navarra, Trustee  
Nicole Matzer, Trustee  
William Hornberger, Trustee

**Central Office**

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

**A. Call to Order - 7:05pm**

**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**

There was no Student Organization report this evening.

**G. BOE Reports**

**a. Comments from Board Trustees**

Ms. Napolitano thanked Dr. Nagler and District Council for hosting the Town Hall Meeting and found it to be very productive. Ms. Napolitano also thanked all of the staff that attended the meeting and stated that it reinforced how hard everyone is working. Ms. Napolitano added that without staff commitment this process would not work. Ms. Napolitano stated that more than ever, communication between parents and teachers is the most important thing and she urges parents to tune in and ask questions. Ms. Napolitano is confident in the direction the District is following.

Ms. Navarra was also thankful for the Town Hall meeting and was happy to see all of the principals in attendance. She was also happy to see the number of parents who took part in the meeting.

Ms. Matzer thanked Dr. Nagler for the Town Hall meeting and said that we had a very good turnout. Ms. Matzer thanked Pat Burns and her staff for their participation in the meeting. Ms. Matzer stated that she enjoyed the production of "The Heiress"; it was a depressing play but the students were fabulous. Ms. Matzer attended the 7th grade concert and was very proud of all of the students. Finally, she is looking forward to tonight's presentation.

Mr. Hornberger stated that he feels the communication at the Town Hall meeting is the start and the action on this communication is the key to driving the District forward.

**b. Comments from Board President**

Mr. Barnett feels that it is very important for parents to communicate their issues with their children's teachers and principals. He stated that an open line of communication is the key to success. Mr. Barnett stated that the concert last night was wonderful. He said "The Heiress" was a great show and work on the production started back in June. Finally, Mr. Barnett thanked Pat for all she does, including her many trips to Albany. He reminded the group that we are one of only three school districts that send a representative in person.

**c. Comments from Superintendent**

The Superintendent said that he blogged about the Town Hall Meeting. He stated that the math curriculum came out late and it is expected that there will be growing pains. Dr. Nagler stated that at the meeting, no one complained about the ELA curriculum, which is in its second year of development. People do not seem to be experiencing the same anxiety with ELA as with the Math curriculum. He added that the Math is very

different now and the only way for us to do better is by listening to concerns of parents. We are trying to follow up on all suggestions. Dr. Nagler stated that no one wants to torture children. The Superintendent stated he is proud of work that the teachers are doing. He added that all of these changes in curriculum are more of a shock in grades k- 2. Dr. Nagler said we are committed to doing what is right for the children. He encouraged parents to speak with teachers and principals if they are frustrated. He stated that there is a link on the website from the blog to find the Town Hall Meeting on You Tube.

The Superintendent stated that he attended the concert last night and that this is the beginning of the concert season. The following are the various concert dates: 12/12- 6th grade, 12/18- 5th grade, 12/13- Jackson Avenue, 12/10 and 12/17- High School. Dr. Nagler enjoyed "The Heiress" and stated that it was a very depressing play but very well acted.

The Superintendent stated that he had a few points of information for the Board. The NAPE exam is a national exam administered to high school students across the country which focuses on civics and government. Our students will participate during Regents week in January. Also, the Superintendent recommends that our students participate in the PISA (OCED), an international exam. He stated that several schools on Long Island will take part in the exam. The test is administered every three years to 15 year olds. A total of 85 students out of 188 from the high school will be randomly chosen to participate. Dr. Nagler stated that he feels that we will receive powerful data from this test; which will help determine the direction for curriculum and identify our shortfalls. The Superintendent asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Navarra asked the duration of the test and Dr. Nagler stated that he would find out that information. Mr. Barnett stated that he had a comment regarding the OCED exam. He stated that the group that will be tested in three years will be the first group of students in the I Pad initiative and feels that it will be nice to see the impact of the various initiatives on students performance. Ms. Napolitano asked how the students are chosen and Dr. Nagler replied that we are asked to supply them with some basic information and they randomly select the students. Ms. Navarra asked if students, who are non-ESL students, but speak other languages at home, are selected in the same manner. Dr. Nagler stated that they are just like any other student and could be selected at random. There were no additional comments.

## **H. Old Business**

Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there was any old business. Mr. Hornberger asked for the status of all security protocols and if we are fully operational. The Superintendent stated that we are fully operational as far as visitor procedures, but card access for staff will not be operational until next week. Mr. Hornberger asked if there have been any large events during the school day since these security measures have been put in place and how the event ran. Dr. Nagler stated that procedures have run smoothly, but he added that in some cases the event was staggered so that all parents were not entering at the same time. Dr. Nagler gave an example to the Board to show that protocol is being followed by staff and stated that issues will be worked out as they arise. Ms. Napolitano asked for clarification of how, in case of emergency, police can get in the building with the man-traps. Dr. Nagler stated that they will be able to get in and he also explained that the security is wired into BOCES, which is very similar to the police monitoring system. Dr. Nagler stated that a Memorandum of Agreement will be put in place between the Mineola UFSD and the police station, which will give them the ability to go into our cameras in case of emergency.

Mr. Barnett asked for an update of the Jackson Avenue kitchen. The Superintendent stated that the project is packaged and ready to go and the District will go out for bids in February. The job will be completed over the summer. There was no additional old business.

## I. New Business

There was no new business this evening.

## J. Consensus Agenda

**RESOLUTION #31** -**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.2.b.4., as presented.

**Motion:** Christine Napolitano

**Second:** Nicole Matzer

There was no discussion.

**Yes:** William Hornberger

Nicole Matzer

Patricia Navarra

Christine Napolitano

Arthur Barnett

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

### 1. **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 April 23, 2014, followed by an unpaid leave of absence for the 2014-2015 school year.

#### b. Appointments Instruction

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Robert Mendes, to the position of Leave Replacement Teacher for Sherry Scarcella, starting approximately December 18, 2013 to on or before June 30, 2014. Salary: MA, Step 1, \$67,942 pro-rated.

#### c. Appointment(S) Perm Sub

1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Alyssa Puccio, to the position of Permanent Substitute Teacher at Jackson Avenue, effective December 2, 2013 to May 31, 2014. Salary: \$100.00 per day.

### 2. **Civil Service**

#### a. Resignation(s)

1. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Josephine Yackubowski, part time Teacher Aide at Hampton Street School, effective October 31, 2013.

#### b. Appointments

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Tim Natale, to the position of Student Worker at the High School, effective November 20, 2013. Salary is \$8.00 per hour.

2. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Leo Gorry to the position of Student Worker at the Middle School, effective November 20, 2013. Salary is \$8.00 per hour.
3. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Carol Behan, to the position of part time Teacher Aide at Hampton Street School, to replace Josephine Yackubowski, effective December 1, 2013. Salary is \$16.89 per hour on Step 7.
4. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Esmirna Pena, to the position of Greeter, part time, at Hampton Street School to replace Carol Behan.effective December 1, 2013. The salary is \$10.00 per hour on Step 1; Probation is 26 weeks.

## **K. Superintendent's Report**

### Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 12/5/13

#### Presentations:

#### 1. Dual Language Presentation- Devra Small and Dual Language Teachers

The Superintendent stated that one of the deliverables this year was to have presentations on the new curriculum and instructional initiatives. Tonight's presentation is the "Dual Language Program" at Hampton Street School. Dr. Nagler stated that he and Ms. Napolitano visited Hampton Street and had the opportunity to visit the classrooms. He reported that in one second grade science class, the children were learning about solids, liquids and gases all in Spanish. Children were responding and grasping the content of the lesson. Dr. Nagler stated that he is very excited about the program and feels that we have finally found a program that fits the needs of all children, both ELL and English speaking. He stated that he found the program to be very refreshing and exciting. Dr. Nagler turned the presentation over to Devra Small, Hampton Street principal. \*\* (This presentation can be found on the District website on the Hampton Street page). Ms. Small stated that there are 6 teachers in the Dual Language Program: Kindergarten team- Denise Maynard and Ronelody Pingitore; 1st grade team- Rosemary Capelle and Charyn Restituyo; and 2nd grade team- Carmen Vasquez and Hope Resta. Ms. Small stated that all six teachers helped with the presentation and three of the teachers are here tonight (the Kindergarten team and 2nd grade teacher Carmen Vasquez). Ms. Small gave some background information on the Dual Language program and stated students participating in this program speak in two languages. By law, a District is required to provide instruction in a student's native language if there are 20 or more students in the same grade. Hampton falls into this category with the Spanish language. Ms. Small discussed some of the advantages of a Dual Language program; it offers peer models, each student is a language model and a learner and students develop reading and writing proficiency in two languages. Research shows that the dual language benefits all students. The teachers went to Chicago to receive training at a seminar and came back very excited and with many ideas for the program. The teachers learned a great deal at the seminar and were given the opportunity to play the role of students and they found this very helpful. Ms. Small briefly discussed the stages of second language acquisition. Ms. Small presented the goals of the program which include: all students achieve at or above grade level; all students meet the common core standards; language proficiency in both English and Spanish and high level of cross cultural understanding. The program is made up of 50% Spanish ELL students and 50% English speaking opt-ins. The classes are well balanced. There are two classes that share 2 teachers- one who teaches in English and one who teaches in Spanish.

Devra Small introduced the Kindergarten Team to present- Ronelody Pingitore and Denise Maynard. It was stated that time management is very important in these classes and color differentiation is used for the children. The students always know what is going on based upon the color being used- A/B class. Students have mastered this task. The use of color differentiation is a technique learned during the training in Chicago. Math is the only subject taught only in English. In the program, students learn phonics in both languages (Foundations). At this time, a video was shown of Kindergarten students doing Foundations in both language and they were also using sign language. This video was followed by a video of the first grade class demonstrating dual language at work. Ms. Small introduced Carmen Vasquez to present on the second grade class and a video was shown of a sample science lesson. Ms. Vasquez stated that it was very important to bridge content in both languages. She stated that the color coding is also used to distinguish words (blue or green). Ms. Vasquez stated that another very important technique used is motion while teaching. These motions are made up by the teachers and are passed on from one grade to the next. Ms. Vasquez stated that she is very confident that the students understand and grasp the content of all of the lessons.

Mr. Barnett asked if the students of each language communicate with one another. Ms. Vasquez responded

that she sees a great deal of "community" in class. Ms Maynard added that the students see themselves as one group and they celebrate in both languages. Ms. Pingitore stated that the children communicate with one another in social settings and the children help each other. She said that while the teacher must speak in Spanish the whole time, the children can speak in English if needed. Ms. Navarra asked what the parent response has been to the program. All teachers agreed that parents have been happy overall. Ms. Maynard added that at the parent conferences, they expressed their happiness and stated that the children are using both languages. Ms. Vasquez stated that she has seen tremendous growth. Mr. Hornberger thanked the teachers for their presentation. He stated that he was a member of the Board that asked for a language program and this program is what he envisioned. Mr. Hornberger is happy to hear that the children have the confidence to ask questions and are learning new things. The Superintendent stated that this is the start-up year and it is only at Hampton Street. Currently, at Meadow Drive, student are still receiving language class twice a week. He stated that the key to expanding the program is finding the right teacher. Dr. Nagler stated that the priority now is planning for a third grade team; after that they will explore the number of same language speakers and the number of interested opt-ins. The Superintendent stated that these staff members were very enthusiastic after attending the seminar in Chicago and all three teams have worked out very well. Ms. Vasquez added that teamwork is critical in this program and staff must be truly invested in the program. Ms. Matzer stated that she looks forward to visiting the classes and requested that Mrs. Small post the presentation on the website. Mr. Barnett asked if this group of students will be the same group in the third grade program next year and was told they would be. Ms. Napolitano stated that she has been on the Board for 5 years and she is blown away by this program. She stated that she is incredibly proud. There was a lot of joy in the classroom and the children were very engaged. Ms. Napolitano thanked the staff for their work. Ms. Maynard added that the children in the class are very proud of their heritage. Dr. Nagler thanked the teachers and Mrs. Small for coming tonight and presenting on the program.

### Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent had no additional comments. He stated that he was in need of an executive session to discuss matters of litigation.

### **L. Executive Session    Time: 8:25 p.m.**

At 8:25pm, a motion was made for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of litigation.

**Motion:**    Nicole Matzer

**Second:**    Patricia Navarra

**Yes:**        William Hornberger  
                Nicole Matzer  
                Patricia Navarra  
                Christine Napolitano  
                Arthur Barnett

**No:**        None

**Passed:**    Yes

**M. Adjournment Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **p.m.**

**Motion:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Second:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**No:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Passed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi