

**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.

DATE: March 6, 2014

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- Dr. Nagler

D. Moment of Silent Meditation

E. Dais & Visitor Introductions

F. High School Student Organization Report

There was no SO report this evening.

G. BOE Reports

a. Comments from Board Trustees

Ms. Napolitano attended Choral Night which was wonderful and noted that each of the patriotic numbers performed received standing ovations.

Ms. Navarra stated that she had just dropped off her daughter at the high school for the vigil for the two students, who graduated in June that died on Wednesday morning in a car accident. Ms. Navarra reflected on the joy of students just few months ago at graduation and how tonight they come together in sadness to support one another.

Ms. Matzer sends her condolences to the families of the two boys as well. On a lighter note, Ms. Matzer attended Hampton Street Bingo and Choral Night at the High School which was a great night.

b. Comments from Board President

Mr. Barnett stated that he read about the proposed changes for the SAT. The College Board is teaming with the Khan Academy. The current 9th graders will be the first group to take the new SATs. Mr. Barnett attended Bingo Night at Hampton and it was a full house. He stated that he also attended Choral Night and it was a great show and was standing room only.

c. Comments from Superintendent

The Superintendent sends his condolences to the families of the two boys who died yesterday. He stated that the High School always rallies together with love and support during these difficult times. Dr. Nagler added that Mr. Escobar shows great leadership at times like these, even though he is hurting as well.

The Superintendent stated that Choral night was great. He added that the 4th grade did a great job. Dr. Nagler stated that he would like to see the Treble Chorus to sing "Let It Go" from Frozen in upcoming shows. At this time Dr. Nagler introduced Mr. DeLuca for a special presentation. Mr. DeLuca stated that the High School production of "The Wedding Singer" will take place on 3/21 at 7:30pm and 3/22 at 2:00 and 7:30pm. He stated it is a happy show which is a party from start to finish. Mr. DeLuca introduced the 2 lead actors from the play, who performed two numbers: "Linda" and "I Could Grow Old With You". After the performance, Mr. DeLuca stated that he encourages the community to go to the school shows and support the program. This is his mission and stated that he attends shows for the local high school in his neighborhood. He finished by stating that this is really a fun show. Mr. Barnett thanked the actors for their performance and wished them good luck. The Superintendent stated that he would like to echo Mr. DeLuca's challenge for community members to attend the shows. He stated that the theater program has grown a great deal and is truly a labor of love.

Dr. Nagler stated that students will have a snow day to make up on Friday, May 23rd. The Superintendent stated that on March 21st, there will be a special event at the Middle School in which they will receive the Apple Award and there will be approximately 40 guests. Dr. Nagler stated that the County Art Show at Adelphi will take place on Sunday and about a dozen Mineola students will participate.

H. Old Business

Mr. Barnett asked if there was any old business but the Board members had none at this time. Mr. Barnett stated that a date has been set for the Policy Review meeting and it will take place on March 27 at 7:00pm in the Willis Avenue 2nd fl. Board Room.

I. New Business

Employee Agreement

RESOLUTION # 45- BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute an Employment Agreement with Jack Waters, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, the terms of which have been reviewed by the Board in Executive Session.

Motion: Nicole Matzer

Second: Patricia Navarra

Discussion: The Superintendent stated that this Employee agreement as well as the next one are being settled before the budget is finalized, which gives an accurate picture of the salaries. They are both three year agreements and reflect a 2% increase and the option for buying back days has been eliminated from each agreement. There was no further discussion.

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

Employee Agreement

RESOLUTION # 46- BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute an Employment Agreement with Patricia Burns, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the terms of which have been reviewed by the Board in Executive Session.

Motion: Patricia Navarra
Second: Christine Napolitano

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

J. Consensus Agenda

RESOLUTION # 47-BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.4.a.2., as presented.

Motion: Christine Napolitano
Second: Nicole Matzer

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

No: None

Passed: Yes

1. Accepting of Minutes

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the January 30, 2014 Business Meeting as presented.

2. Instruction

- a. Appointment(S) Perm Sub
 1. That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Dana N. McDonough, to the position of Permanent Substitute Teacher, at Hampton Street, effective March 7, 2014 to May 31, 2014.
Salary: \$100 per day

3. **Civil Service**

a. **Appointments**

1. That the Board of Education approve the appointment of Renee Ryan, to the position of Clerical Substitute, effective March 3, 2014. Salary is \$12.32 per hour.

b. **Leave(s) of Absence**

1. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence to Henry Holler, Cleaner at Jackson Avenue School, effective January 13, 2014 through March 12, 2014.

4. **Business /Finance**

a. **Budget Appropriation Adjustment**

1. That the Board of Education approves the acceptance of revenue from (Instrument Rentals) in the amount of \$43,570.00 and makes an appropriation increase adjustment to the following Budget Code: A2110.416.00.2330.
2. That the Board of Education approves the transfer of funds, in the amount of \$170,000 from Budget code: 2630 408 00 2930 to Budget code: 2630 498 00 2930 to move the remaining CORE contract to BOCES; CORE Technology is now part of Boces contract.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 3/6/14

Presentations:

1. Budget Highlights
2. Strategic Objective Report

The first presentation tonight by the Superintendent is the "Proposed 2014- 2015 Budget Highlights". *This presentation can be found on the website, on the Board of Education page, under the heading presentations. The proposed budget for the 2014- 2015 school year is \$87,569,041, with a budget to budget increase of 1.65%. The allowable tax levy increase is 1.46% and the proposed levy is 1.46% (use \$250,000 of fund balance achieved through teacher contract settlement). The State Aid, according to the Governor's proposal is \$5,623,800. The Superintendent highlighted some items from the proposed budget. All current educational and co-curricular programs will be continued as well as all extra-curricular and athletic programs. It maintains staff and professional development and continues the expansion of the district technology program. The proposed budget contains the following curricular enhancements: expand existing pre-k program to 5 day 1/2 day for all students; outsource UPK to offer 54 full day seats; expand dual language into Meadow and Jackson; continuation of Kid Knowledge Science program in pre-k through grade 2 and continuation of science lab for grades 3-7; and full implementation of Common Core Curriculum in ELA and math. The following are Operational items in the proposed budget: continue 5 year Bus Replacement program- replace 2 large buses and a new truck for facilities including a new plow and sander. The facilities upgrades include: new seats and flooring for the MS auditorium; new public address system for Hampton Street; expand district wide monitoring to include water, temperature and boiler alerts; and air conditioning for non-instructional spaces at Meadow, Hampton and Jackson; and maintain 4% fund balance. The proposed budget also allocates \$217,000 for equipment. The Superintendent will present a list of equipment at the next meeting.

The second presentation this evening is "Mineola School District Strategic Objectives 2013- 2014" by Patricia Burns. * This presentation can be found on the District website on the Board of Education page, under the heading presentations. Ms. Burns displayed the Strategic Objectives for the district and briefly explained each one. The District will establish benchmark measures for each student in Math and ELA. Using these individual benchmark scores, students in conjunction with teachers and parents, will be required to set academic goals that will demonstrate growth. The District will establish a list of positive character traits. Schools will establish programs that recognize and record students that exhibit these traits. The District will provide opportunities for students to contribute to their community and encourage them to do so. In conjunction with the District's K-12 research guide, students will continually seek and access information from a variety of sources related to questions about which they are curious. The District will continue to value technology as a tool to foster 21st Century skills. The District will aspire to implement technology K-12 as a means to engage students in content curriculum.

Ms. Burns discussed the second objective which deals with positive character traits. At Meadow Drive and Hampton Street, all students participate in an ELA unit designed to encourage kind and considerate behavior; Bucket filling activities throughout the year; anti-bullying workshops and students at Hampton created a mural about kindness for their cafeteria. At Jackson Avenue, all PE classes incorporate virtues of good character into their program; student council representatives planned an opening assembly and provided examples of outstanding character; and each class created "medals of character" and pledged to demonstrate these traits. At the Middle School, every student in the students participates in ROCK! (Recognizing Outstanding Character in Kids!). At the High School, approximately 100 students participated in the Anti-Bullying Program and all students have an opportunity to spread the "message" through artwork, photographs

and quotes displayed throughout the building.

Next, Ms. Burns discussed contributions to the community. Students in grades K-2 in Meadow and Hampton participate in the following: donate food baskets, clothing, books and toys to needy families through events such as the Giving Tree and Book Fairies. Students create Valentines for Vets, Jump Rope for Heart and collect Pennies for Patients. At Jackson Avenue, students participate in community service projects, UNICEF, Thanksgiving food drive, and Food for the Heart. Students create Valentines for Vets and donated hundreds of books through Book Fairies. The third grade students created an Environmental Club and spend time beautifying their school. At the Middle School, approximately 20% of students belong to one of the afterschool clubs that promote tolerance, good character and raise awareness about building healthy relationships with others. At the High School, 50% of the students make connection with others in a variety of ways through clubs and the Student Service Center.

Ms. Burns next presented on Research Projects in grades K-4 at Hampton, Meadow and Jackson. Research projects are aligned with CCS and embedded in the ELA units of study. In grades 3 and 4, students create projects in Keynote, I Movie, Doceri and Show Me. Every Grade 2 and Grade 4 student, in conjunction with their classroom teacher and the school librarian, learn to create a research guide, navigate databases, write keyword notes, pose and answer questions about a topic, create and present a final project. The students are picking their own topics. Ms. Burns reported that she attended training in Albany which stressed the importance of students doing research on topics of their choice. At the Middle School, all students are required to incorporate multiple sources to write essays on specific grade level topics; every student in 7th grade will complete a research project on the topic of their choice; and students in Humanities classes research an extraordinary American in order to create a Weebly. At the High School, all grade 12 students must complete a senior project and examples of projects were given.

The Superintendent stated that Strategic objectives were adopted in June and we are very committed to keeping track of the progress on each of the objectives. Dr. Nagler will be addressing the fifth objective of technology in April and will recap all that has occurred this year. The Superintendent presented on the first objective of benchmark measures in Math and ELA. The benchmarking process for the district utilizes the NWEA, which tests the students three times during the school year. Students are tested at the beginning of the year to determine where we are starting; the middle (which was recently completed) in order to get a pulse of how students are progressing and in the spring to determine the progress for the year. He reported that there was a challenge this year because NWEA stopped the quadrant reports. Dr. Nagler stated that we contracted with NWEA to produce these reports for us. The problem is that NWEA does not do a mid-year report. The Superintendent stated that this year NWEA did a linking project to determine the correlation between NWEA and the State scores. They needed to adjust the percentiles to match the State scores for example, the reading average percentile is 73%. Dr. Nagler displayed the NWEA scores and stated that the good news in these charts is that there is very good percentage of growth (# of students meeting target mid-year). He added that the growth number is very positive but is not a real indicator of proficiency. Both Meadow Drive and Hampton Street, show a high growth index. It was reported that Jackson Avenue, also had a high percentage of growth. At the Middle School, there was nice growth and the 7th grade is making gains and is ahead of pace. Dr. Nagler stated that we have met or exceeded expected growth for the end of the year at every grade level (according to mid-year testing). He cautioned that proficiency is not listed for mid year report. At each school, teachers are now working with students that are not meeting norms or showing growth. Mr. Hornberger asked how growth is defined. The Superintendent stated that National growth is based upon the scores of all student across the nation that took the NWEA's. The growth numbers are real and the District has embraced the NWEA's because they show student growth. Ms. Napolitano asked how many years the District has used the NWEA test and it was three years. Ms. Napolitano also inquired if we compare the same student over the years. Dr. Nagler stated that we can compare proficiency but not growth year to year. The Superintendent stated that currently we are looking into how this data translates into standards and how

growth in a standard can be show. Currently, a pilot is being run using one class per grade. It is a large process to change data points to meet the standards. Ms. Navarra commented that we are asking people to think in fundamentally different ways. The Superintendent stated that it is important that focus is on good teaching practices not test prep, because it is not know what will be tested. Mr. Barnett ended by thanking Pat again for putting the miles to bring all of this to the District.

Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent had no additional comments this evening, but stated that he was in need of an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

At 8:25 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: Patricia Navarra
Second: William Hornberger

Yes: William Hornberger
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett
No: None

Passed: Yes

M. Adjournment Time: _____ p.m.

Motion: _____
Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Passed: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi