

**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 - 2014-2015

Educational

- To continue to align curriculum that assesses specific Common Core standards. These data must track individual student growth in the standards.
- Develop and implement a four-year plan to align High School coursework and partnerships in specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) strands.
- Explore partnerships with local universities to offer certificate programs to our students during his/her senior year.
- Continue to develop and encourage students to engage in college level coursework
- Continue to assess the District's Strategic Objectives and report on progress toward those objectives

Facilities

- Explore the feasibility of green technologies as part of the projects associated with our Capital reserve expenditures

Finance

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

DATE: June 4, 2015

LOCATION: Willis Avenue School

OPEN WORK SESSION

7:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Board Room

Board of Education

Arthur Barnett, President
Christine Napolitano, Vice President
Patricia Navarra
Nicole Matzer
Margaret Ballantyne-Mannion

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 - 7:05 pm

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Reading of Mission- Christine Napolitano

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

Christine Napolitano thanked the community for coming out to vote on May 19th, passing the budget and electing her to a third term. Ms. Napolitano reported that STEAM night was incredible. She thanked everyone involved for doing a great job. This is one of her passions and she loves that it keeps getting bigger. Ms. Napolitano was very impressed with the students and their knowledge on their topics. She hopes that the adults that attended the event could see the excitement of these children.

Patricia Navarra congratulated Brian and Chris on winning the election. She also congratulated the Boys Lacrosse team for making the playoffs. Ms. Navarra reported that she submitted a proposal on Career Readiness to be presented at the NYSSBA conference. Ms. Navarra attended Ms. Burns' Professional Planning and stated that it was very interesting to attend.

Nicole Matzer thanked the community for passing the budget. Ms. Matzer attended the Senior Service Breakfast. She also attended the District wide Science Symposium and reported that the kids did a great job. She also attended many concerts and the art show and enjoys seeing the progression of the children from year to year. Ms. Matzer congratulated the National Honor Society Inductees. She is looking forward to the Senior Awards Breakfast.

Margaret Ballantyne attending STEAM Night gave her ideas for other future district wide events. Dr. Ballantyne thanked the community for passing the budget. She thanked Dr. Nagler for the I pad Initiative article. Dr. Ballantyne is thinking about the upcoming senior week and all of the exciting events.

b. Comments from Board President

Artie Barnett thanked the community for passing the budget. He thanked Jack Waters and his team for all of the hard work that went into this budget. Mr. Barnett thanked Brian Widman for stepping up and taking on this responsibility. Mr. Barnett noted the enthusiasm of the kids at STEAM Night and added that the event was amazing.

c. Comments from Superintendent

Dr. Nagler attended many concerts and described them as spectacular. His two favorites were the 3rd grade concert and the 11/12 grade concerts. He sends his congratulations to Joe Owens and the music teachers. Dr. Nagler attended the Art Show with his son and had a great time. He added that the variety of the types of work was amazing. He attended the Student Service Breakfast. Students are recognized for all that they do for others, which is a very important part of education. Dr. Nagler is very proud of the students. Dr. Nagler spoke about the National Honor Society Inductions and stated that students are not just judged by academics but also character and service. They are the epitome of what we do. The Science Symposium was expanded this

year to include 3rd grade through 12th grade, including the Intel Research projects. He congratulated everyone involved in the event. Dr. Nagler reported that the Boys Lacrosse team went to the finals this year, unfortunately they lost but it was a great run. There were many of the other successes as well for other teams. Dr. Nagler congratulated Mr. Amitrano and the coaches. He reported that an alumni survey went out and can be found on the web page and twitter. It was sent to any alumni for whom the district had an address, but the problem is that many can not be reached. Dr. Nagler congratulated Andrew Desiderio on his Eagle Scout project, which he built flower boxes at Meadow and Hampton. Dr. Nagler stated that this was a nice beautification project for which he thanks Andrew. It was reported that Pat Burns is working with the local libraries to partner on our summer reading program. According to Dr. Nagler, 115 students in third grade have signed up for summer Ipads. It was reported that the Middle School has high numbers as well. Dr. Nagler gave an update on building projects and stated that he toured the buildings today with Mr. Romano. The HVAC project is underway at Hampton and Meadow and is on track for a completion date of August 14th. Brick pointing is almost complete at Hampton and then they will be moving on to Meadow. Also at Hampton Street, wiring is well underway and a pad has been laid for the transformer. Windows were ordered for Jackson, Hampton and Meadow and are due to arrive in August. This work will be phased in once the delivery schedule is known. Dr. Nagler stated that there was a transfer to capital for the rest of the building projects. Bids will be sought for the windows at Cross Street and masonry at the High School, Middle School, Jackson Avenue, Cross Street and Willis Avenue. The hope is to award these projects at the Reorganization Meeting. The masonry would take place this summer but the window project would take time due to the order time. Dr. Nagler reported that the policy books are up at Erie Boces for printing and should be ready for July. He added that the next task for the Board will be to complete a regulation book to coincide with the policy book.

H. Old Business

Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there was any old business. Christine Napolitano stated that shortly after the election, she approached Dr. Nagler about holding "coffee meetings" with parents representing the refusal group. She was also contacted by two parents who had questions regarding procedures. Ms. Napolitano and the Superintendent met with these two parents and according to Ms. Napolitano it was a very positive and productive meeting. She would like to propose having one of these "coffee meetings" on June 16th with the Board and members of the community. She asked for the District Council to put out the invites. Ms. Napolitano would like these meetings to be a series of conversations and sharing of information. She stated that it would be called "Mineola so much more than the Common Core". The meeting will take place Tuesday, 6/16/15 at 7:00pm in the Middle School Music Room. Ms. Napolitano asked Dr. Nagler if he would like to comment. Dr. Nagler added that he feels that it is very important that we communicate and work together, so that everyone is on the same page. He stated that when they met with the parents, he promised that he would make the following statement- "He and the Board acknowledge that refusing to take an exam is not an attack on the District". But, Dr. Nagler added that he and the Board cannot and will not take a position regarding not taking the test. However, they respect a parent's decision to do so. He respects the parent's choice for their child. Mr. Barnett stated that he wanted to make some clarifications on this meeting. He stated that the meeting is an informal, non-business meeting to be held on June 16th at 7:00pm in the Middle School Music Room. Mr. Barnett asked the Board if they are in favor of holding this informal meeting. All Board members gave their approval.

Mr. Barnett stated that he had one piece of old business. He stated that as most people are aware, he has raised many concerns about the residential construction that is taking place in Mineola. Mr. Barnett stated that the Comptroller has released his report on IDAs and the Nassau County IDAs did not come out looking okay and issues were raised. Mr. Barnett is glad that our County Comptroller has validated the Board's opinion. There was no additional old business.

I. New Business

Mr. Barnett asked the Board if there was any New Business. Ms. Matzer stated that the registration is now open for the NYSSBA Annual convention, which is being held in NYC again this year. She would like to see what is being offered this year and stated that she may be interested in attending. Ms. Matzer also recommends that Brian Widman consider attending the convention 10/18- 10/20. There was no other New Business, so Mr. Barnett moved on to resolution #54.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE RESOLUTION OF MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, NEW YORK, ADOPTED JUNE 4, 2015, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF TAXES TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

RESOLUTION # 54- BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTY OF NASSAU, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called "Notes") of Mineola Union Free School District, in the County of Nassau, New York (herein called "District"), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$15,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law").

Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.

(b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.

(c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.

(d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute arbitrage certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion: Margaret Ballantyne

Second: Patricia Navarra

Discussion; Mr. Waters explained that this is done by the District every year; we borrow money to cover expenses until we get the tax levy payments. The amount will not exceed the amount listed. There was no further discussion.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

J. Consensus Agenda

RESOLUTION # 55 -BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the consensus agenda items J.1.a. through J.4.a., as presented.

Motion: Nicole Matzer
Second: Christine Napolitano

Discussion: Dr. Nagler noted that there is a full house tonight because it is the celebration of the milestone of tenure. He compared tenure to a marriage and we do not want to get a divorce. There are three teacher candidates for tenure this evening; two have changed tenure area and one candidate has been here for a long time but her situation has changed several times. Dr. Nagler invited Matt Gaven, Middle School Principal, to come up and speak about the first candidate.

Mr. Gaven stated that Courtney Serio is enthusiastic and hard-working. Courtney is a reading teacher whose students are struggling. According to Mr. Gaven, Courtney is passionate about what she does, loves her students and helps them meet their goals. She helps her students triumph. Mr. Gaven is pleased to recommend Courtney Serio for tenure.

Next, Ed Escobar, High School Principal, spoke about the next candidate, Stacey Biondi-Andrzejewski. Mr. Escobar explained that Stacey came in as a literacy teacher and has changed her tenure area to English. He described Stacey as a kind spirit who is very passionate about teaching students. Mr. Escobar gave an example of how Stacey kept her students engaged during a lesson on "Of Mice and Men". He also stated that Stacey volunteered to take over one of the clubs at the High School, which was in need of an advisor. She did an excellent job running an event which took place on a Saturday. Mr. Escobar is pleased to recommend Stacey Biondi-Andrzejewski for tenure.

Dr. Janet Gonzalez, Jackson Avenue Principal, spoke about Cheryl Lippert, tenure area Special Education. Dr. Gonzalez described Cheryl Lippert as hard working, dedicated and truly knows her students. According to Dr. Gonzalez, Ms Lippert has high expectations for her students and they have grown socially as well as academically. She helps her students utilize technology in the classroom. Dr. Gonzalez is pleased to recommend Cheryl Lippert for tenure.

Dr. Ballantyne thanked the three teachers for their portfolios and stated that she was very impressed with their creativity and thoughtfulness. She was so happy to have the chance to read all of them. Dr. Ballantyne also thanked those individuals who had completed the teachers' evaluations.

Dr. Nagler stated that he had a few things to say about the three candidates. He first spoke about Cheryl Lippert. Dr. Nagler stated that he is so happy that after all of the ups and downs and many changes, Cheryl Lippert landed where she is now. It is truly the right place for her. Next, Dr. Nagler spoke about Courtney Serio. He stated that her passion is evident and Courtney makes the Middle School a better place. Dr. Nagler stated that he is happy that Stacey is now teaching High School English. Dr. Nagler stated that for each of these three candidates, he does not have a single reservation. He recommends all three for tenure.

The next two candidates for tenure are administrators. Dr. Nagler spoke about Catherine Fishman, Director of Pupil Services. He stated that we are lucky to have Ms. Fishman at the helm of the most difficult job that most people don't know about. Dr. Nagler stated that she must deal with the parents of children with all different disabilities and many emotions as well. He stated that Ms. Fishman has changed the face of Special Education at Mineola. She goes out and meets with staff; speaks about data and its meaning and constantly pushes the envelop. Dr. Nagler read from a reflection that Ms. Fishman had written previously. Finally, Dr. Nagler stated he recommends Catherine Fishman for tenure with pride and without any jokes. Next, Dr. Nagler spoke about the final candidate for tenure, Matthew Gaven. Mr. Gaven started as the principal at Jackson Avenue, then was the Director of PPS and finally ended up as the Principal of the Middle School. During his time at the Middle School, it earned the distinction of Apple Distinguished School. Matt Gaven oversaw the whole process leading up to the award. According to Dr. Nagler, Mr. Gaven leads the process of making students happy. There have been many visitors to the Middle School and they frequently say that they cannot believe the work that is taking place and how the kids speak their minds. The students at the Middle School enjoy coming and the work is both challenging and fun. Dr. Nagler is very happy that Mr. Gaven is the Middle School Principal and highly recommends him for tenure.

Comments from the Board: Nicole Matzer expressed her congratulations to all of tonight's candidates for tenure. Christine Napolitano stated that she knew that Catherine Fishman was the right person for the job, right from the start. When speaking about Matt Gaven, Ms. Napolitano stated that buildings don't happen without good leadership. Ms. Napolitano also stated that she is confident in the ability of the three teachers. Mr. Barnett stated that he first met Mr. Gaven as the principal of Jackson Avenue and stated that he has done a great job at the Middle School. He described Catherine Fishman as the guardian of PPS, who does what is right not what is popular. Mr. Barnett stated that each of these teachers has passion and enthusiasm for their students and job. He told them to keep this throughout their career.

There was no additional discussion or comment, so the board was polled on Resolution #55.

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne

No: None

Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthur Barnett

Passed: Yes

1. **Instruction**

a. Resignation(s)

1. That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Maureen E. Connolly, English Teacher, effective June 30, 2015.

b. Appointment(S) Sub Teacher per diem

The Board of Education accepts the following individual(s) as Per Diem Substitute Teacher(s) for the current school year, at a daily rate of \$100.00 per day; and retirees at a daily rate of \$125.00 per day.:

	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION</u>
1.	Kristina Swerdloff	Childhood Ed(1-6), ESL
2.	Samantha Stavish	Childhood Ed (1-6), SWD (1-6)
3.	Christina Castello	Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)

c. Appointment(S) Tenure

That the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint the following Teachers and/ or Administrators to tenure:

	<u>EMPLOYEE NAME</u>	<u>TENURE AREA</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
1.	Cheryl M. Lippert	Special Education	05/06/2015	Jackson Ave School
2.	Stacey Biondi- Andrzejewski	English	09/01/2015	Mineola High School
3.	Courtney E. Serio	Reading	09/01/2015	Mineola Middle School
4.	Matthew C. Gaven	School Adm/Supervisor	07/01/2015	Mineola Middle School
5.	Catherine Fishman	School District Leader	07/01/2015	Central Office

2. **Instruction: Contracted**

- a. That the Board of Education approves the Translation Services Agreement between AFSS (Absolute Family Support Services) and the Mineola UFSD for the period of March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

3. **Civil Service**

a. Leave(s) of Absence

1. That the Board of Education extend the paid Medical Leave of Absence to Vivian Depascale, 12 month Bus Driver, effective May 14, 2015 through June 23, 2015.

2. That the Board of Education approve a paid Medical Leave of Absence to James Gallagher, 10 month Bus Driver, effective May 12, 2015 through June 19, 2015, due to surgery.

b. Resignation(s)

1. That the Board of Education accept, with regret, the resignation for the purpose of retirement, of Margaret Roach, part time Teacher Aide at the High School, effective June 12, 2015.

4. **Business/Finance: Bids**

a. That the Board of Education approves the awarding of a Special Transportation bid opened May 14, 2015 to First Student Bus Company, the lowest responsible bidder, to transport a student to Friends of the Bridge Program from May 26, 2015 through June 26, 2015.

K. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent of Schools' Reports for 6/4/15

Presentations:

1. Tenure Presentations- can be found under Consensus Agenda.

Superintendent Comments

The Superintendent stated that he would like to discuss with the Board the use of fields and facilities. The District has begun to computerize the process using "School Dude". The District has not changed the fee schedules for groups and there are various sets of rules (insurance and fees) for each group. Dr. Nagler asked the Board if they would like to take this opportunity to clarify the rules and the Board is in favor of doing so. He stated that every district handles fees differently. One item that the Board has requested clarification is when an employee uses our facilities in a for profit role, other than a school role. They would like a legal opinion on this topic and if it is a conflict of interest. Dr. Nagler will put together information for the Board regarding groups using the fields and facilities and the fees associated with the usage. Mr. Barnett emphasized that we are not looking to make a profit. He feels that it makes sense to take this opportunity to clarify this now.

L. Executive Session Time: 8:30 p.m.

At 8:30 pm, a motion was made for the Board of Education to go into Executive Session to meet with the auditors.

Motion: Christine Napolitano

Second: Patricia Navarra

Yes: Margaret Ballantyne
Nicole Matzer
Patricia Navarra
Christine Napolitano
Arthue Barnett

No: None

Passed: Yes

M. Adjournment Time: _____ **p.m.**

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Passed: _____

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea M. Paggi