

MINEOLA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MINEOLA, NY

**Special 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 – 2008-2009**

- *Educational Expectations and Improvement*
- *School Quality*
- *Operations*
- *Fiscal Management/Stability*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DATE: March 26, 2009**

**LOCATION: Willis Avenue School**

**OPEN WORK SESSION**

**7:00 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR CAFETERIA**

**Board of Education**

Stephen Siwinski, President  
Laraine Salvatore, Vice President  
John McGrath  
William Hornberger  
Terence Hale

**Central Office**

Dr. Lorenzo Licopoli, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Michael Nagler, Deputy Superintendent  
Sherri Goffman, Asst. Supt. of Curr. & Inst.  
John Waters, Asst. Supt. of Finance & Oper.  
Donna Martillo, District Clerk

**A. Call to Order**

At 7:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Siwinski.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Reading of Mission – Stephen Siwinski**

**D. Moment of Silent Meditation**

**E. Dais & Visitor Introductions**

Also present: Maureen Judge, Assistant Business Manager.

**F. Old Business**

**1. Adoption of 2009-2010 Educational Plan and Budget**

**RESOLUTION #61** – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves the adoption of the 2009-2010 Educational Plan & Budget in the amount of



William Hornberger  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Stephen Siwinski

**Passed:** Yes

2. **Use of Facilities Request**

**RESOLUTION #62** – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Use of Facilities Request by the Mineola Middle School PTA for the 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of the Middle School.

**Motion:** Terence Hale

**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Discussion:** Mr. Hornberger inquired as to who would be responsible for clean-up and security. The Superintendent of Schools responded an arrangement between PTA and Newton; the school district would incur no cost. It will be a totally funded PTA event. Mr. Hornberger further inquired about conflicts with field usage during the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. The Superintendent responded before a Building Usage Permit is granted they make sure there are no conflicts.

**Yes:** Terence Hale  
William Hornberger  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Stephen Siwinski

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

G. **New Business**

1. **District/PTA After-School Recreation Program**

**RESOLUTION #63** – **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves a self-funded District/PTA After-School Recreation Program as per the attached proposal.

**Motion:** John McGrath

**Second:** William Hornberger

**Discussion:** Mr. Siwinski requested further clarification as to this resolution. The Superintendent of Schools explained that this is a joint program between District Council of PTAs and the District to implement a self-funded program to provide recreational activities for 2 sessions. District teachers would be paid at the After-school Rate and District Council would cut a check (\$4,000.00) to be placed into the general fund. Mr. Siwinski inquired about insurance. The Superintendent of Schools responded it

would be fully supported by District Council. Ms. Salvatore inquired about the district contributing to TRS for the teachers. The Superintendent of Schools responded that there would be a miniscule amount at the time of retirement. Ms. Salvatore inquired as to why PTA could not directly pay the teachers. The Superintendent of Schools responded that part of their Bylaws prohibit them to provide educational/recreational activities.

A resident inquired about Custodial overtime. The Superintendent of Schools responded that PTA would have to pay for that.

**Yes:** Terence Hale  
William Hornberger  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Stephen Siwinski

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

Ms. Salvatore requested clarification regarding a letter from District's Counsel to the Board directing Mr. McGrath to work with Counsel on Dr. Nagler's contract. Mr. Siwinski responded that he was not available and asked Mr. McGrath to contact Mr. Feldman. Ms. Salvatore asked why the insurance company was not defending the district regarding the Salvatore lawsuit. Mr. Siwinski stated to Ms. Salvatore he had to check on the status of the Licopoli vs. Salvatore with the Attorney. Ms. Salvatore inquired about the several executive sessions as mentioned in the same letter. Mr. Siwinski responded that Ms. Salvatore was there. Ms. Salvatore stated she asked the District Clerk about the number of executive sessions where she was present and was told there were none. Ms. Salvatore responded she remembers only 1. Mr. Siwinski responded that there were 2 or 3 and Ms. Salvatore was present. Ms. Salvatore requested the District Clerk review all minutes from February 5<sup>th</sup> to the present as to the number of executive sessions and get back to her. Ms. Salvatore also inquired about the date the Board voted allowing District's Counsel to speak with Ostrove. Ms. Siwinski responded he thought Ms. Salvatore was asked to leave that meeting. Mr. Siwinski asked the Board if anyone remembers the event. Mr. Hornberger, Mr. Hale, and Mr. McGrath stated no vote was taken.

## H. Consensus

### 1. Accepting of Minutes

- a. That the Board of Education accepts the minutes of the February 5, 2009 (Workshop) Meeting as presented.

**RESOLUTION #64 – BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education approves Consensus Agenda Items H.1.a. as presented.

**Motion:** William Hornberger  
**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Yes:** Terence Hale  
**No:** None

William Hornberger  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Stephen Siwinski

**Passed:** Yes

**I. Superintendent's Reports**

The Superintendent of Schools stated there were no reports for this evening's meeting. But he informed the audience of the High School Musical (Thoroughly Modern Millie) performances for this evening, tomorrow and Saturday.

**J. Public Session**

A motion was made to open up a session for the public to comment.

**Motion:** John McGrath

**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Yes:** Terence Hale  
William Hornberger  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Stephen Siwinski

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

Public comments were:

- ❖ A resident inquired about the status of the Star Rebate. The Superintendent of Schools responded that he has been told that it will be a tough time passing the elimination of the program. Mr. McGrath stated that Senator Craig Johnson informed him that moving the EI (Early Intervention) funding responsibility from the County to individual school districts would not pass the legislature. The resident inquired what if the County does not have the funding. Mr. McGrath responded that the increase will not be reflected in school taxes.
- ❖ A resident inquired about the self-funded District/PTA After-School Recreation Program costing \$1,000.00 per school. Ms. Goffman responded that the schools team up by grade bringing elementary kids together to participate in activities. Ms. Goffman further stated that the program would couple with the Parent University where the students would attend an activity. Mr. Hornberger inquired if the district expects adding more sessions. Ms. Goffman responded that 4 sessions were scheduled for this year and 8 next year where students would visit different buildings.
- ❖ A resident asked Mr. McGrath to further discuss the State not cutting funding for Early Intervention. Mr. McGrath stated that the County wanted the burden shifted to school districts and it was not cutting funds. The resident inquired if the children were very young. Ms. Goffman responded Zero to three years old and noted the types of services, i.e. speech, occupational therapy, etc. The resident inquired as to the additional cost. Dr. Nagler stated 15% or approximately \$150,000.00. Dr. Nagler

noted three areas of change the State was proposing: Elimination of Star; shift cost to school districts for Early Intervention; 4% cap. Mr. Waters also commented on the MTA proposal in raising fares, tolls and LIRR; based on school districts' payrolls for private and public schools. The Superintendent of Schools stated that homeowners would be assessed and it is a huge undertaking in order to generate money for the State. The district was told that it would not happen.

The Superintendent of Schools had 2 closing remarks: Mr. McGrath and Ms. Napolitano were in attendance at the County Office to talk about the traffic light and he received a call from Senator Johnson and believes the light will be approved.

Mr. Siwinski noted that it is a traffic light for the High School. Mr. McGrath noted that Legislator Richard Nicoletto was instrumental in this endeavor and Mayor Martins also accompanied them to the County Offices for support.

The Superintendent of Schools discussed energy conservation plans. He further stated that Mr. Hornberger will also accompany him on a visit to an upstate school district to observe what types of energy conservation procedures they have instituted. Mr. Hale also expressed an interest to attend.

The Superintendent of Schools thanked the Board for unanimously approving the budget and stated the document will be completed by next week for posting onto the website as well as distribution throughout the district, i.e. public libraries and schools.

#### **K. Adjournment**

At 7:49 p.m. a motion was made to adjourn this meeting of the Board of Education.

**Motion:** Terence Hale

**Second:** Laraine Salvatore

**Yes:** Terence Hale  
William Hornberger  
John McGrath  
Laraine Salvatore  
Stephen Siwinski

**No:** None

**Passed:** Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Martillo  
District Clerk