

November 3, 2010

The regular Planning/Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, November 3 , 2010, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson School. Debra McQuillan, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. She then led the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were: Ms. Debra McQuillan, President
 Ms. Debra Mulé, Vice President
 Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
 Ms. Carmen Piñeyro-Mendoza, Trustee (arrived 7:53 p.m.)
 Mr. Michael Pomerico, Trustee

Absent were: none

Also present were: Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel,
 Special Projects & District Clerk
 Dr. Ken Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Business
 Mr. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of Operations

Also absent were: Dr. Wafa Westervelt, Assistant Superintendent for
 Curriculum and Instruction

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 6.

Superintendent's Report

- The college fair was a huge success. Everyone was extremely excited and more than 170 colleges participated, as well as more than 1,000 students along with their parents attended. There were parents and students from the Elementary and Middle Schools also in attendance. The college representatives were very impressed with the quality, behavior and questions that the Freeport students asked them. The parents and children were eager to speak with the college representatives and learn all they could for their future options.
- The Superintendent along with Ms. McQuillan, Board President, Mr. Ellerbe, Board Trustee and Dr. Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Business attended the Nassau County Legislature Budget Hearing on the “County Guaranty” issue on October 29, 2010. Mrs. McQuillan spoke eloquently on the

issue and represented Freeport in an outstanding way. The District estimates that this change in the “County Guaranty” will add approximately 2 million to the annual levy beginning with the 2013-2014 budget. The District is taking this threat very seriously. Thanks for support from our local Legislators, Dave Denenberg and Kevan Abrahams.

- The superintendent thanked Marnie Katzman and everyone associated with the Long Island Arts Council of Freeport for Arts Education Award. He also thanked the performing staff and students for their wonderful musical performances. Special thanks to MJ3 Jazz Quartet and Freeport High School Jazz Combo, Anne-Marie Hudley-Simmons, Michael Singleton, Mr. & Mrs. McQuillan, David Denenbrg, faculty and staff who attended this wonderful event.
- The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the school tax rates and explained that there were many factors that go into the calculation of tax rates. The tax rates are set by the County using a complex formula. It is agreed by all that the system Nassau County uses to set tax rates is broken and has been broken for many years.
- The Superintendent congratulated Adam Rubin’s Dodd Middle School Band, who were invited to play with Dr. Boonshaft’s Middle Schools Honor Band Festival. Special congratulations to Amanda Roque, Cameryn Miller, Christopher Fludd, Darien Brizil, Justin Tucker and Clarisol Rodriguez. This was an outstanding opportunity for our students who have excelled in their performance skills.

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

- The report cards and accountability status of schools and districts based on 2009-2010 data will be released to the public on November 4, 2010. The accountability statuses will be shared with the media and posted to SED website, but there will not be a press conference. The District’s Accountability status continues to be in “Good Standing” although we did not make AYP for certain subgroups. The release of the complete report cards other than the accountability information is being embargoed until the press release in the future. Accordingly, a public presentation of our School Report Card will take place at one of our future Board meetings.
- The first round of the playoffs for the Football team will be November 5, 2010 against Baldwin at home. The Nassau County Commissioner’s Office is supplying the lights at no charge!

- Anti-Bullying week is November 15 through 19, 2010. Freeport Union Free School District wishes to send a clear and positive message that bullying will not be tolerated. It is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools or community.
- Dodd's National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be Thursday, November 4, 2010.
- The launch of our Students mentoring Program is scheduled for November 9, 2010, 6:00 p.m., at Atkinson School.

Questions from the Public

The public was given the opportunity to address the Board of Education. Each speaker was allowed to address the Board for four minutes on any topic. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

Items for Action

On a motion by Ms. Mulé and a seconded by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza the following item was approved:

CSE/CPSE Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the minutes of the meetings of the committees on special education and preschool special education for the following dates:

September 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 2010; October 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 2010.

The vote was unanimous, McQuillan, Ellerbe, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

Executive Session

At 8:41 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for two particular matters of personnel and two legal matters. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pomerico and passed unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

At 10:15.p.m, on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Mulé the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

Adjournment

At 10:16 p.m. with no other business on a motion by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza and seconded by Mr. Ellerbe the Board adjourned the meeting.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Action meeting of the Board of Education will be on November 17, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., at John W. Dodd Middle School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed.D.
District Clerk