
Freeport Public Schools
235 N Ocean Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520-2135

Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of
May 20, 2004

The special action meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Thursday, May 20, 2004, in the Cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson School. Dr. Cattano, President of the Board called the meeting to order at 9:00 p.m.

Those present were:

- Dr. Joseph Cattano, President
- Mr. Michael Raab, Vice President
- Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee (arrived 9:15 p.m.)
- Ms. Carmen J. Piñeyro, Trustee

Absent were:

- Ms. Sunday F. Coward, Trustee

Also present were:

- Dr. Eric L. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Mr. Robert Harris, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, School Improvement, Professional Development and Planning
- Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Clerk of the Board
- Mr. Michael Singleton, Interim Executive Director of Operations

Also absent were:

- None
- The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 25.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Eric Eversley, discussed the defeat of the 2004-2005 School Budget. The Superintendent urged the Board to move to adopt the "re-proposed" budget. He discussed the items that might be cut should the budget re-vote fail. The cuts would involve a total of \$3.4 million and might include items such as:

- No Interscholastic Athletics
- No After School/Extracurricular Activities
- Reductions in instructional and non-instructional staff
- No regular summer school, elementary or secondary
- No field trips
- No late buses, including private and parochial schools
- No community school
- No driver education
- No building improvement
- Cutbacks in supplies (by law)
- Elimination of all non-mandated instructional and non-instructional equipment including classroom computers

Michael Singleton, Interim Executive Director of Operations, reported on the meeting of the Project SAVE/School Safety Committee. The Committee is required to do an annual review of the Code of Conduct. He reported that the District has received a good report, and the committee recommended no changes to our current Code of Conduct.

Dr. Eversley reported that The Middle States accreditation team had made a recent visit to Freeport High School. The Superintendent further remarked that he was complimented by the head of the team for the help and hospitality of the Freeport staff. Dr. Eversley thanked the faculty. He added that the draft report of the visit would be available in 30 days.

Questions/Comments from the Public

The public was then given the opportunity to address the Board of Education. Each speaker was allowed to address the Board for six minutes. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

Items for Action

- On a motion by Ms. Piñeyro and a second by Mr. Raab the following items, on a consent agenda, were approved unanimously. The vote was; Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Acceptance of the Minutes

Resolved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the following meetings as written:

April 14, 2004 ; April 21, 2004 ; April 27, 2004

Leave of Absence

Resolved that the Board hereby grants a request for leave as listed in the following:

- **Amy Ferris**, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, for childcare.
- **Eleanor Barry**, Art Teacher, effective September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, for childcare.
- **Colleen Vazquez**, Elementary Teacher, effective May 19, 2004 through June 30, 2004, for FMLA and childcare.
- **Caryn Stein**, Special Education Teacher, effective April 28, 2004 through June 30, 2005, for health reasons.
- **Natalia Veksler**, ESL Teacher, effective September 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, for childcare.
- **Susana Gonzalez**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective April 19, 2004 through June 30, 2004, FMLA.
- **Giuseppa Sofia-Borrello**, Foreign Language Teacher, effective April 27, 2004 through June 30, 2004, for health and FMLA.
- **Elizabeth Kilduff-Smith**, Elementary Teacher, effective April 28, 2004 through June 1, 2004, for FMLA and childcare.
- **Laura Randazzo**, Lab Facilitator, effective April 15, 2004 through May 14, 2004, for health reasons.
- **Christine Meloni**, Library Media Specialist, effective June 10, 2004 through January 31, 2005, childcare.

Resignation of Staff

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letter(s) of resignation from the following staff members as listed:

Change of Status

RESOLVED that the Board of Education for the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants a request for a change of status as listed in the following Change of Status Report:

- **Corinne Lacey**, part-time Teaching Assistant, change to probationary full-time Teaching Assistant effective April 28, 2004 through April 27, 2007, full-time
- **Theresa Logatto**, Teaching Assistant, extension of a leave to May 25, 2004 for health reasons.

Resignation of Staff

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letter(s) of resignation from the following staff members as listed in the following Change of Status Report - Resignation.

- **Rychelle Weseman**, Guidance Counselor, effective July 1, 2004.

- **Eric Bertrand-Loesch**, Earth Science Teacher, effective July 1, 2004.
- **Shari Wool, Guidance** Counselor, effective July 2, 2004.
- **Pedro Rodriguez**, Food Service Worker, effective June 30, 2004.
- **Tanya Delucca**, Foreign Language Teacher, effective June 30, 2004.

Termination of Staff

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby terminates the services of the following employee as listed in the following termination report.

- **Barbara Latham-Speller**, 12 Month Cleaner, effective April 26, 2004, according to Section 71 of the Civil Service Law.
- **Layfayette Skinner**, Security Aide, effective April 30, 2004, due to inappropriate behavior.

Appointment of Staff Report

Temporary

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints the individuals listed in the attached Appointment of Staff Report - Temporary, in accordance with the rules of the Board of Regents. These individuals shall possess appropriate certification allowing them to serve as teachers in the public schools of New York.

- **James Treloar**, Summer High School Principal, a temporary appointment effective April 26, 2004 through August 31, 2004. Compensation for this position is according to the Summer School Salary Schedule at \$10,001.
- **Antonia Okeke**, Special Education Teacher, (replacing C. Stein, LOA) a temporary appointment effective April 28, 2004 through June 30, 2004. Compensation for this appointment will be on step 1-2D of the U5D Schedule pro-rated for \$54,837. Assignment: FHS.

Appointment of Non-Instructional Staff

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby appoints the individuals as listed in the attached Appointment of Staff Report - Civil Service, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulation.

- **James Taylor**, Head Custodian I, (replacing D. Rodriguez, deceased) a temporary provisional appointment effective April 22, 2004. Compensation will be on step 4 of the Custodial Salary Schedule. Assignment: Bayview.
- **Christopher Thompson**, Custodian, (replacing W. King, retired) a probationary appointment effective May 3, 2004 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation for this position will be according to the Custodial Salary Schedule at \$31,443. Assignment: FHS.

Acceptance of the Minutes on the Committees on Special Education and Preschool Special Education

Resolved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the meetings of the committees on special education and preschool special education for the following dates:

March 26, 2004; April 1, 2004; April 15, 2004; April 16, 2004; April 19, 2004; April 21, 2004; April 22, 2004; April 23, 2004; April 26, 2004; April 27, 2004; April 28, 2004; April 29, 2004; April 30, 2004; May 3, 2004; May 4, 2004; May 5, 2004; May 6, 2004; May 10, 2004; May 12, 2004.

Acceptance of a Gift

Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts, with gratitude, a donation of \$200 from RE/MAX Action Real Estate to be used for the Early College Awareness Day.

Adoption of the Calendar

On a motion by Mr. Raab the following motion was adopted:

Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the attached Meeting Calendar for the 2004-2005 School Year.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and unanimously approved.

Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab

Adoption of the Revised Parental Involvement Policy

On a motion by Ms. Piñeyro the following motion was adopted:

Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the Revised Parental Involvement Policy (as attached).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab and approved. The vote was:

Yeas; Cattano, Piñeyro and Raab.

Nay; 0

Abstentions; Ellerbe.

Resolution To Adopt The 2004-2005 Proposed Expenditure Budget

Resolved, by the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, that the proposed Expenditure Budget for the 2004-2005 School Year in the amount of **\$112,772,779** is hereby adopted and shall be presented to the voters at the Budget re-vote to be held on June 15, 2004.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and approved. The vote was:

Yeas; Cattano, Piñeyro and Raab.

Nay; 0

Abstentions; Ellerbe.

Establishment of the Annual Meeting, the Budget Hearing and The Annual Budget Vote

On a motion by Ms. Piñeyro the following motion was adopted:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby establishes the Annual Meeting, the Budget Hearing and the Annual Budget RE-Vote as prescribed in the FOLLOWING resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board shall, and is hereby directed, to have notices of the Annual Budget Re-Vote to be held on June 15, 2004, published in the Official Papers of the District. These papers shall be *The Freeport Baldwin Leader* and *The Long Island Graphic*, two newspapers having general circulation within the District. Said publications shall be at least two times and on the dates as listed for each newspaper. *The Freeport Baldwin Leader* shall be May 26, June 2 and, or an alternate date within the required notification period. *The Long Island Graphic* shall be May 27 and June 2, or an alternate date within the required notification period, and the Clerk of the Board of Education shall have notices of the June 2, 2004 Budget Hearing published in the Official Papers of the District. Said publications shall be at least two times and on the dates as listed for each newspaper. *The Freeport Baldwin Leader* shall be on the dates as listed for the notice of the annual budget vote or an alternate date within the required notification period. *The Long Island Graphic* shall be on the dates as listed for the notice of the annual budget vote or an alternate date within the required notification period.

AND BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District shall hold a budget hearing on June 2, 2004 at 7:30 PM.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Registration shall be open in accordance with the Laws of the State of New York every school day in the Administration Building, 235 North Ocean Avenue, between the hours of 8:30 o'clock a.m. and 3:30 o'clock p.m. (local time) until June 11, 2004, for the Annual Budget Vote to be held on June 15, 2004. In addition the Board of Registration will be open June 8 th, 2004 and June 10 th, 2004 from 6:00 o'clock p.m. until 9:00 o'clock p.m. for residents to register to vote for the Annual Budget to be held on June 15 th, 2004.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Education determines that voting machines are to be used for the purpose of recording the vote at said meeting of the District to be held on June 15, 2004, between the hours of 6

o'clock a.m. and 9 o'clock p.m. (local time), pursuant to the provisions of the Education Law, and the Clerk of the District is hereby directed to procure such machines as may be necessary for use at said meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED that absentee ballots will be provided for the Budget Vote, in accordance with Education Law of the State of New York, §2018-a.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab and unanimously approved.

Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab

Executive Session

- At 10:22 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Raab to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Negotiations with the Freeport Administrators Association.
- The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and the motion passed.

The vote was: Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

At 11:10 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second Mr. Raab, the Board returned to open session. The vote was: Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Adjournment

At 11:11 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Raab and seconded by Ms. Piñeyro, the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako
Clerk of the Board

FREEPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy # 1900

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The Freeport Union Free School District Board of Education believes that positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement, and is committed to engaging parents in the schools through on-going, meaningful parental involvement.

To ensure compliance with state and federal regulations and guidelines, the Board directs the administration to involve parents and guardians in all educational programs that require parental involvement.

Parent involvement programs are intended to strengthen the relationship between home and school, with the primary goal of raising academic achievement. Programs are designed to foster parent involvement through parent education in understanding curriculum, instruction and assessment. As advocates for education, parents are encouraged to participate in site-based school decision making, and other school activities.

Parent involvement may take place in the classroom, during extra curricular activities, and through involvement at home (e.g., planned home reading, informal learning activities, and/or homework contracts between parents and children).

The Board also encourages the administration and instructional staff to involve parents and guardians in other activities intended to strengthen student academic progress, direct student behavior, resolve problems and disputes, strengthen school climate and enhance school safety.

Ref: 20 USC 2726, 2731 (a)(4)

34 CFR §§ 200.4; 200.34

8 NYCRR §§100.3(b)(3); 100.4(f); 100.5(d)(4); 149.3(16)

1100/1110, Public Information Program/School Sponsored Publications

1200, Community Involvement

4532, School Volunteers

4714, Parent Conferences

Revised 05/20/04

BACK TO TOP