

**Freeport Union Free School District
Freeport, New York**

**Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting
of September 10, 2003**

The regular planning/action meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, in the Cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson School. Dr. Cattano, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He then led in the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were:

- Dr. Joseph Cattano, President
- Mr. Michael Raab, Vice President
- Ms. Sunday F. Coward, Trustee
- Ms. Carmen J. Piñeyro, Trustee
- Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee

Absent were:

- none

Also present were:

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

Also absent were:

- none

Guests were:

- none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 15.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools, reported to the Board and public that the opening day of school was "spectacular." The work and hard planning by Teachers, Administrators, PTA Members and Staff made the First Day Celebration a wonderful success. On September 3rd, 2003, when the Teachers and School Staff returned "First Day," a Community Barbeque, was held. Attendance by the community was between 1,800 and 2,00 people. On September 4th, 2003, the first day of school for the students, parents were invited to attend school with their children. More than 1,500 parents were able to participate in the "Take Your Parents to School" day. Dr. Eversley thanked parents, staff, community and all the people who made it such a successful series of events. Dr. Eversley called upon Debra Mulé, PTA Council President, who gave a brief report on how the First Day Celebration came into being and how an idea became reality. She thanked everyone who helped make it a success and said she hopes it becomes a tradition.

Dr. Eversley welcomed Spiro Colaitis, Director of Facilities, back from Military Duty.

The Superintendent then introduced the new Administrators of Freeport Public Schools. They are:

- John O'Mard, Principal, J. W. Dodd Middle School, Vernex Harding, Assistant Principal, Columbus Avenue School;
- Estelle Weiss, Director of Adult Continuing /Community Education, Career Education and School, Business and Community Partnerships; and,
- Dr. Nicholas Tzimopoulos, Science Coordinator.

Dr. Eversley asked Dr. Bediako to report on other staff hiring for the 2003-2004 School Year.

Dr. Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Clerk of the Board, reported that to date Personnel had processed 95 individuals for employment for the current school year. These include Teachers, Administrators, Teaching Assistants, Clerical, Custodial, Guidance Counselors, Speech Therapists and School Psychologists. To date all classrooms have been staffed with the exception of two. The remaining 2 positions are one Special Education position (a late resignation) and one ESL Teacher at Bayview Avenue School (a late request for a leave of absence for child care). Dr. Bediako informed the Board that interviews are scheduled and these positions were expected to be filled by the end of the week.

Dr. Eversley reported to the Board that J. W. Dodd Middle School is on the [New York State list of Schools in Need of Improvement](#). He also stated that Freeport High School has been listed as a School in Need of Academic Progress.

Mr. Harris, Executive Director for Curriculum, School Improvement, Professional Development and Planning

discussed the Academic Intervention Services Plan (AIS).

Questions From the Public

At this time, the public was given the opportunity to address the Board of Education on items on the agenda. Each speaker was allowed to address the Board for 6 minutes.

Board of Education Committee Reports

Items for Action

Approval of CSE and PSE Meetings

Ms. Coward offered the following resolution for adoption:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the meeting of the committees on special education and preschool special education for the following date:

- August 27, 2003

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

First Reading of the 2003-2004 District Academic Intervention Services Plan

Ms. Piñeyro offered the following resolution for adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that as a first reading the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby acknowledges the receipt of and has had the opportunity to review the 2003-2004 District Academic Intervention Services Plan as attached.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Approval of a Capital Improvement and Type II Action

Mr. Raab offered the following resolution for adoption:

Whereas, the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District desires to embark upon a capital improvement project to extend the parking lot at the Administration Building, which involves no change to the building and, therefore, requires classification as Type II action pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon examination of all

information related to the extension of the Parking Lot at the Administration Building, hereby determines that the proposed project is an action classified as a Type II action, which, by definition, has no significant adverse impact on the environment and requires no further environmental review under SEQRA (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c) (1)).

The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Authorization for a Scope of Proposed Project

Mr. Ellerbe offered the following resolution for adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Scope of Proposed Project form in contemplation of the project to extend the Parking Lot at the Administration Building.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Coward and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab

Acceptance of a Bid

Caroline G. Atkinson, Bond Project, Heat Exchanger

Ms. Coward offered the following resolution for adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby awards the bids as listed in the attached Bid Award Report for Caroline G. Atkinson, Bond Project, Heat Exchanger as recommended in the attached bid recommendations. Freeport Public Schools reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities of each item as needed.

Mr. Raab seconded the motion, and it unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Acceptance of a Bid

Pizzeria Pizza 2003-2004 Bid #520

Mr. Raab offered the following resolution for adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby awards the following bids as listed in the Bid Award Reports and as recommended in the attached bid recommendations, accepting the lowest responsible bid as per bid specifications, and reserving the right to increase or decrease quantities of each item as needed.

Ms. Coward seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The vote was:

Yeas: Cattano, Coward, Piñeyro and Raab.

Nays: 0

Abstentions: Ellerbe.

Board Comments

Executive Session

At 9:34 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Raab to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a of personnel.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

At 11:03 p.m., Ms. Coward moved to adjourn to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Adjournment

At 11:04 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Ms. Piñeyro and seconded by Ms. Coward, the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be on September 24, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako
Clerk of the Board