

**May 25, 2011**

The regular Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, in the Cafeteria of Caroline G. Atkinson School. Debra McQuillan, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:33 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  
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. Wafa Westervelt, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Kenneth Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for  
Business  
Mr. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of  
Operations

Also absent were: None

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 23.

Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools welcomed everyone to the meeting. He began his report by announcing the sudden death Mrs. Kathy Hynes, a retired Principal of New Visions Schools. Mrs. Hynes had served the children of Freeport in various capacities for more than 37 years. She was a dedicated teacher and administrator who worked tirelessly to provide quality education for all children as well as provide support and guidance for her staff and parents. She will be dearly missed. The Superintendent announced that Freeport Public Schools would fly the flags at half-staff the following day in her honor. He then asked for a moment of silence.

Dr. Kuncham thanked everyone for their efforts in supporting the District and Library Budgets, the Capital Reserve Fund Proposition and the Trustee elections. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Ron Ellerbe and Ms. Vilma Lancaster for their successful election to the Board.

The Superintendent announced the following administrative appointments::

- Laura Holder-Gibbs, Assistant Principal, Dodd Middle School
- Alice Kane, Director of Pupil Personnel Services,

- James Robinson, Director of School Facilities and Operations.

He also announced the following administrative transfers effective for the 2011-2012 School Year:

- Alma Rocha, Assistant Principal, Bayview Avenue School
- Paulette Acquavito, Assistant Principal, Dodd Middle School.

### **High School Student Government Presentation**

Dr. Kuncham then invited members of the Student Government to report on the activities and news at Freeport High School. The students were, Kayla Cruz, Victoria Mule, Charisse Rosario and Kiana Bierria-Anderson. The students announced that this was the last meeting of the school year that they would be able to present reports to the Board of Education. All of them are graduating and moving on to college. The Superintendent thanked the students for their service to the Board and presented them with a pin.

The Superintendent announced that Rachel Lalmansingh, the Salutatorian of the Class of 2011, received an award from the Long Island Science Congress. Also the Dodd Chamber Orchestra had received a rating of Gold with Distinction from NYSMA.

### **Motion to Amend Agenda**

On a motion by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza and a second by Ms. Mulé the agenda was amended to include a Board of Education Committee Report. The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

Mr. Ellerbe presented the Budget/Legislative Committee report for the meeting held on May 24, 2011.

### **Qualified Student Construction Bond**

Dr. Kuncham informed the public that Freeport Union Free School District was awarded 5 million dollars from New York State Qualified Student Construction Bond Project. This bond is available at no interest for High Needs Districts to use for capital projects. Over the life time of this bond, the taxpayers will save over a million dollars in interest costs. However, the bond has to be approved by the voters of Freeport. Due to the short turn-around time of approval from the state, it is being proposed that a Bond Referendum be held September 20, 2011. The Superintendent will form a Bond Committee to evaluate the projects being recommended for this bond.

### **Motion to Amend Agenda**

On a motion by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza and a second by Ms. Mulé a resolution was added to the agenda to oppose the proposed Tax Cap. The motion was unanimously approved and the vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-

Mendoza and Pomerico.

### **Items for Action**

On a motion by Ms. Mulé and a second by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza the following items were approved on a Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

### **Acceptance of the Minutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the minutes of the following meetings as written:

April 13, 2011, April 27, 2011, May 4, 2011 and May 17, 2011

### **Personnel**

#### **Leave of Absence**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants a request for leave of absence as listed below:

**Donna Tropeano-Tirino**, School Nurse, effective April 26, 2011 through May 30, 2011, for health reasons.

**Jennifer Ford**, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective April 4, 2011 through April 25, 2011, for health reasons.

**Alicia Smith**, Elementary Teacher, effective May 2, 2011 through June 30, 2011 for child care.

**Lisa Callahan**, Speech Teacher, effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, for child care.

#### **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 member(s) as listed below:

**Adriana Cagno**, Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2011, for personal reasons.

**Sherina Wright-Butler**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective May 20, 2011, to accept a teaching position in another district.

#### **Termination of Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free

School District hereby regretfully terminates the employment of the individual as listed below:

**Amy Smisek**, 10 Month Clerk-Typist, effective April 24, 2011.

### **Abolishment of a Position and Excessing of Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District abolishes the position of Social Studies Coordinator effective July 1, 2011; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Laura Holder-Gibbs is hereby excessed from said position and shall be placed on a preferred eligible list as per Education Law §3013.

### **Administrative Appointments**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints **Laura Holder-Gibbs**, to the position of Assistant Principal (replacing G. Smith, resigned), as a probationary employee effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. The tenure area in which **Laura Holder-Gibbs** shall serve is "Assistant Principal", a district wide tenure area. Compensation for **Laura Holder-Gibbs** will be paid pursuant to step 1 of the Junior High Assistant Principal Salary Schedule at \$117,533, set forth in the labor agreement between the Freeport School District and the FSAA. **Laura Holder-Gibbs** shall be initially assigned to the John W. Dodd Middle School.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints **Alice Kane**, to the position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services (replacing J. Albert, retired), as a probationary employee effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. The tenure area in which **Alice Kane** shall serve is "Director of Pupil Personnel Services". Compensation for **Alice Kane** will be paid pursuant to step 3A of the Directors Salary Schedule at \$121,906 set forth in the labor agreement between the Freeport School District and the FSAA.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints **James Robinson**, Director of School Facilities and Operations, an interim appointment effective May 31, 2011. Compensation will be \$95,000 plus \$2,980 annual travel allowance. Assignment: District-wide

### **Appointment of Co-curricular Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints the individual(s) listed below as Co-curricular School Staff.

NAME	POSITION	STIPEND
KEITH BROWN	SUMMER WEIGHT TRAINING	\$2,064.00

### **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 Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the following dates:

March 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2011

April 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 28, 29, 2011

May 2, 3, 4, 5, 2011

### **Other Items for Action**

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

#### **Retirement of Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following staff member as listed:

**Umberto Romano**, 12 Month Cleaner, effective July 29, 2011, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 10 years.

**Louis Domashevich**, Assistant Head Custodian, effective August 1, 2011, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 33 years.

**Nelly Afanador**, 12 Month Cleaner, effective July 22, 2011, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 23 years.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

### **Education**

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Pomerico, the following item was approved:

#### **Setting of the Annual Reorganization Meeting Date**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby sets the date of the Annual Reorganization Meeting to Thursday, July 7, 2011 as allowed and set forth by School Law §1707(2). This

meeting will take place in the gymnasium of the New Visions School at 7:30 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

**Education**

On a motion by Mr. Pomerico and a second by Mr. Ellerbe, the following item was approved:

**Adoption of the 2011-2012 Board Meeting Calendar**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the attached meeting calendar for the 2011-2012 school year.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

**Board of Education  
Freeport UFSD  
2011-2012 Meeting Calendar**

*All Planning/Action meetings will be held at Atkinson School unless otherwise noted.*

July	7	Annual Reorganization/Planning Meeting at New Visions School ( <i>please note this is a <b>Thursday</b></i> )
August	10	Planning/Action Meeting at Caroline G. Atkinson School
	24	Action Meeting at Caroline G. Atkinson School
September	7	Planning/Action Meeting
	21	Action Meeting at Atkinson School
October	5	Planning/Action Meeting
	26	Action Meeting at Bayview Avenue School
November	2	Planning/Action Meeting
	16	Action Meeting at Dodd Middle School
December	7	Planning/Action Meeting
	21	Action Meeting at New Visions School
January	11	Planning/Action Meeting
	25	Action Meeting at Columbus Avenue School
February	1	Planning/Action Meeting
	15	Action Meeting/Budget Meeting at Giblyn School
March	7	Budget Workshop
	14	Budget Workshop/Planning/Action Meeting
	28	Action Meeting/Budget Meeting at Freeport High School
April	4	Budget Workshop/Planning/Action Meeting

	17	Action Meeting Adoption of School Budget and BOCES Administrative Operations Budget Vote and BOCES Trustee Election at Archer Street School ( <i>Please note this is a <b>Tuesday</b></i> )
May	2	Annual Budget – Public Hearing/Planning Meeting at Atkinson
	15	a) Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election 6 am-9pm (Annual Meeting) b) Certification and Acceptance of the Vote results – 9:30 pm at Atkinson
	23	Action Meeting at Atkinson
June	6	Planning/Action Meeting
	20	Action Meeting at New Visions School

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

## **Education**

### **Resolution to Approve Student Travel to Norfolk, VA**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes the Freeport High School to conduct a field trip to Norfolk, VA from May 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for the purpose of learning the different classes of military ships and their respective roles in US military strategy. Students will travel to Norfolk by bus and will be housed overnight on a US Navy ship on the return trip to New York as the ship participates in the annual Fleet Week observance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said authorization is subject to availability of chaperones and to Freeport High School's compliance with all insurance, health, safety and financial guidelines as indicated in the Administration Procedures.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

On a motion by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza and a second by Mr. Ellerbe, the following item was approved:

## **Finance**

### **Acceptance of Donations**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the donation of a stone memorial for the William "Bill" Ashley Sports Complex from Joseph Presti of Presti Stone & Mason Corp. The value of the stone memorial is \$1,500.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts a generous donation from Dr. Albert Renken for the “William Ashley Memorial” in the amount of \$1,000 for the beautification of the existing garden.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Pomerico, the following item was approved:

#### **Acceptance of a Gift**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts with gratitude the generous gift of \$150 from the Xerox Community Involvement Program in recognition and to support the Peace March held on April 30, 2011.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

On a motion by Mr. Pomerico and a second by Mr. Ellerbe the following item was approved:

#### **Transportation Contracts Extension**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves an annual extension of transportation contracts with First Student, WE Transport, and ACME Bus Corporation with an increase to be approved by the New York State Education Department based upon the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

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

#### **Approval of BOCES Cooperative Transportation Agreement:**

**WHEREAS**, a number of public school districts in Nassau County wish to jointly solicit proposals, together with the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services (“BOCES”) for pupil transportation services for the 2011-2012 school year (and any renewal period) in accordance with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law;



**WHEREAS**, the public school districts and the BOCES have agreed to form a Cooperative (the “Cooperative”) for this purpose;

**WHEREAS**, the Freeport Union Free School District is desirous of participating in the Cooperative for joint solicitation of proposals for pupil transportation services as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Inter-Municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement attached hereto; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Freeport Union Free School District to participate in the Cooperative.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Cooperative transportation Agreement attached hereto and authorizes the Board President to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

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

**Authorization to Participate in Long Island Food Service Cooperative Bids**

**WHEREAS**, it is the plan of a number of public school districts in Nassau//Suffolk Counties, New York to bid jointly on selected Food Service Commodities, Food and Food Service Supplies for the 2011-2012 school year.

**WHEREAS**, Freeport Union Free School District , is desirous of participating with other districts in Nassau/Suffolk Counties in the joint bidding of the commodities mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and,

**WHEREAS**, Freeport Union Free School District, wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specification, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, reporting the results to the boards of education and making recommendations thereon; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Freeport Union Free School District hereby appoints Long Island School Nutrition Directors Association Cooperative Bid Committee to represent it in all matters related above, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District authorizes the above-mentioned committee to

represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above-mentioned commodities, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District agrees to assume its equitable share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District agrees to (1) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected it will award according to the recommendations of the committee; and (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Pomerico, the following item was approved:

#### **FHS HVAC Bid Award**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby awards the Base Bid and the Alternative # 2 bid to upgrade the mechanical HVAC systems for the auditorium at the Freeport High School to ACS System Associates, Inc., their being the lowest responsible bidder as per bid specifications in the negotiated amount of \$304,000.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

On a motion by Mr. Pomerico, and a second by Mr. Ellerbe, the following item was approved:

#### **RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING A NEW YORK STATE TAX CAP**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor, the Majority Leaders of the New York State Senate, and the Speaker of the New York State Assembly have announced an agreement in principle for passage of legislation establishing a tax cap to be imposed on school districts effective the 2012-13 school year;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has previously denounced such efforts;

**WHEREAS**, Freeport Public Schools has recently suffered substantial reductions in state aid. Commitments under the Campaign for Fiscal Equity Settlement have been deferred. In 2010-11, the District's state aid loss was \$4.5 million, and next year the loss will be \$8.8 million, totaling \$13.3 million, 5% to 10% of the District's annual tax levy;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed tax cap will inflict significant "collateral damage" on

Freeport and other high needs districts;

**WHEREAS**, the imposition of a tax cap in the percentage amount equal to the annual increase in consumer price index, not to exceed 2%, will be insufficient to meet projected increases in mandated and unfunded costs imposed on school districts by the State of New York;

**WHEREAS**, the State has repeatedly used the ruse of transferring State costs to local school districts and municipalities to avoid increases in State income taxes and has increased costs of local school districts such as those related to employee pensions, which have increased dramatically and are beyond the control of local school districts and municipalities;

**WHEREAS**, the State has refused to consider amendment of the Taylor Law of the State of New York removing the mandate that teacher salary increment be granted even after a contract expires;

**WHEREAS**, a property Tax Cap as proposed will inescapably lead to drastic cuts in essential local school district programs and services as well as significant layoffs of school district employees;

**WHEREAS**, Tax Cap Legislation would permit school district voters to approve school budgets containing increases that exceed the tax cap, thereby effectively establishing minority rule in matters of school funding such that the votes of 40% of voters count more than the votes of a majority;

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Cap Legislation perpetuates the inequities in educational funding since poorer districts will start with few resources and will generate less revenue than with the same percentage tax increase as their wealthier counterparts;

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Cap Legislation does nothing to reduce costs such as pension and health insurance that are significant factors in driving local property tax increases; and

**WHEREAS**, 80% of school costs arise from personnel, it is likely that a significant number of jobs will be lost as districts make necessary cuts to avoid exceeding the tax cap.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Freeport Union Free School District that the Governor of the State of New York and the members of the NY State Senate and NY State Assembly must reform the cost drivers that lead to high property taxes in New York – including unfunded mandates, the funding of pension benefits and health insurance.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, the Chair of the Education Committee of the Senate, the Chair of the Education Committee of the Assembly, and to the members of the State Senate and Assembly officials who represent the Freeport Public Schools.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

### **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. There

were no comments or questions from the public.

### **Executive Session**

At 8:44 p.m. Mr. Pomerico moved to adjourn to executive session for one specific matter of personnel and one student matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe and passed unanimously.

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

At 9:15 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza 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.

On a motion by Mr. Pomerico and seconded by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza, the Board unanimously upheld a decision by the Superintendent in a matter of a student with the initials M.E. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

### **Adjournment**

At 9:25 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Ms. Mulé and seconded by Mr. Ellerbe, the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed.D.,  
District Clerk