

**March 5, 2014**

The regular Budget Workshop of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, in the cafeteria of the Atkinson School. Debra Mulé, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She then led the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were: Ms. Debra Mulé, President  
Ms. Vilma Lancaster, Vice President  
Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee (arrived 7:50 pm)  
Mr. Anthony J. Miller, Trustee (arrived 7:51 pm)  
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  
Mr. Gerard Poole, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of Operations  
Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business

Also absent were: none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 35.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kuncham welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Ms. Anna Marie Hudley Simmons, Principal of Columbus Avenue School on her wonderful and extensive celebration to commemorate Columbus Avenue's 100 Year Anniversary. The Superintendent also congratulated the Odyssey of the Mind 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students of Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School upon their 1<sup>st</sup> place win. He wished them well as they head to Albany to compete at the State level.

Dr. Kuncham gave a short overview of the various issues impacting the budget and informed the Board and public that the next three weeks will be crucial to our budget process and we must increase our advocacy. The New York State Budget will be adopted on time April 1<sup>st</sup> and we will know exactly where we are at that time.

The Superintendent then introduced Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business. Mr. Robinson gave a power point presentation as attached.

Mr. Gerard Poole, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, gave an update on educational issues that impact our schools.

Dr. Kuncham addressed the Board of Education questions and then remarked that he and the Board continue to meet with Policy Makers and various groups and

Associations which have been very helpful. The focus has remained on the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), overhauling the funding formulas, the Tax Cap and to redirect the Pre-K funds to the K-12 students.

The Superintendent announced March 12, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. a Public Hearing will be held to discuss the proposed Tax Exemption for Veterans.

### **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.

### **Executive Session**

At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for one matter of negotiations and one specific matter of personnel.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Pomerico and passed unanimously.

The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

At 10:15 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Miller the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

The vote was; Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

### **Adjournment**

At 10:16 p.m. with no other business on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and seconded by Mr. Pomerico, the Board adjourned the meeting.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Action meeting of the Board of Education will be on March 12, 2014, 7:30 p.m., at Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed. D.  
District Clerk