

March 12, 2014

A regular Budget/Planning/Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School. Debra Mulé, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 8:50 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
Mr. Anthony J. Miller, Trustee
Mr. Michael Pomerico

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 53.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the Board to amend the agenda to include two resolutions.

1. Veterans Tax Exemption
2. A Stipulation of Settlement

In other remarks he was pleased to announce the following:

- A new Mentor Teacher grant has been received for \$43,000. This will be used to support 6 new teachers in the District.
- Smart Scholar Grant has been extended for another 2 years. The Smart Scholars Grant enables High School students to earn up to 27 college credits.
- The 5th and 6th grade students of Atkinson School won first place in the Odyssey of the Mind Nassau County Competition and will now compete on the State level.

Budget Overview

The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the 2014-2015 Budget and called upon Mr. James Robinson to go over the Program Component of the budget.

Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business, gave a Power Point presentation on the Program component of the proposed budget. (as attached)

Dr. Kuncham called on everyone to continue the Legislative lobbying and the next 15 days are crucial for schools. We are very hopeful that money for education will be restored. We hope to keep our programs intact and we continue to advocate for the elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) and unfreezing Foundation Aid. We are also advocating for the funds for full-time Pre-K to be re-directed to K-12 students, elimination of the 60% Super Majority and mandate relief.

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 the Agenda only. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

Items for Action

On a motion by Mr. Pomerico and a second by Mr. Miller the following item was approved. The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

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:

December 12, 2013

January 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 2014

February 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21, 23, 28, 2014

Other Items for Action

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

ALTERNATIVE VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, veterans have provided an invaluable service to this country by risking their lives

To protect the freedoms enjoyed by all citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this service and the sacrifices that it entailed, on December 18, 2013 Governor Cuomo signed a bill to allow school districts to partially exempt property owned by certain qualified veterans; and

WHEREAS, such bill requires the governing body of a school district to pass a resolution, after public hearings, to adopt such bill; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Freeport Union Free School District does hereby adopt the exemption provided for in Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") §458-a at the basic maximum exemption levels as defined by RPTL 458-a; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Freeport Union Free School District does hereby allow a cooperative corporation to be eligible to receive such exemption pursuant to RPTL §458-a(6)(d); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Freeport Union Free School District does hereby adopt the expanded definition of the term "qualified owner", as that term is defined under RPTL §458a, to include a "Gold Star Parent" as that term is defined under RPTL §458-a; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Freeport Union Free School District does hereby allow a qualified veteran under RPTL §458-a to transfer, on a pro-rated basis, his exemption to another home purchased within the Freeport Union Free School District.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico. On a motion by Ms. Lancaster and a second by Mr. Miller the following item was approved:

Stipulation of Settlement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves the terms of the Stipulation of Discontinuance between the School District and Courtesy Bus Company, Inc. in connection with outstanding invoices alleged to be due to Courtesy Bus Company, Inc. and authorizes legal counsel for the District, Ingerman Smith, LLP, to execute such agreement on behalf of the Board.

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

Executive Session

At 9:50 p.m. Mr. Miller moved to adjourn to executive session for one matter of negotiations and one matter of personnel.

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

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

At 10:44 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Miller and a second by Ms. Lancaster the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment

At 10:45 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Ms. Lancaster, the Board adjourned the meeting. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako
Clerk of the Board