

July 21, 2014

A special Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Monday, July 21, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Michael Pomerico, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Those present were: Mr. Michael Pomerico, President
Mr. Anthony J. Miller, Vice President
Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
Ms. Vilma Lancaster, Trustee
Ms. Debra Mulé, 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. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of
Operations

Also absent were: Mr. Gerard Poole, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Louis S. Frontario, Assistant Superintendent for
Business

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 6.

Items for Action

On a motion by Ms. Mulé and a second by Ms. Lancaster the following items were approved on a Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé 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: July 1, 2014.

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:

Ruth Hindley, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective July 3, 2014, relocation out of state.

Krista Pitman, Elementary Teacher, effective July 8, 2014, for personal reasons.

Mauricio Riveros-Villanueva, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective August 31, 2014, to accept another position in the District.

Appointment of Instructional 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 individuals listed in the attached Appointment of Staff Report, 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.

Probationary

Robin Newberg, Reading Teacher, (new) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014, with anticipated tenure on September 1, 2017.

Compensation for this position will be on Step 1-2A of the U4D Schedule at \$63,301. Assignment: Atkinson.

Lisa Provenzano, Art Teacher, (replacing J. Elias, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014, with anticipated tenure on September 1, 2017. Compensation for this position will be on Step 1-2A of the U4D Schedule at \$63,301. Assignment: Archer.

Kathryn Hoffman, Health Teacher, (replacing D. Mulvey, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014, with anticipated tenure on September 1, 2017. Compensation for this position will be on Step 1-2A of the U4D Schedule at \$63,301. Assignment: Dodd.

Lindsey McClain, Elementary Teacher, (replacing L. Muchnick, resigned) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014, with anticipated tenure on September 1, 2017. Compensation for this position will be on Step 1-2A of the U4D Schedule at \$63,301. Assignment: Bayview.

Angelique Scarpinato, Reading Teacher, (new) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014, with anticipated tenure on September 1, 2017.

Compensation for this position will be on Step 1-2B of the U4D Schedule at \$65,282. Assignment: Archer.

Maurico Riveros-Villanueva, Elementary Teacher, (bilingual, new) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014, with anticipated tenure on September 1, 2017. Compensation for this position will be on Step 1-1B of the U4C Schedule at \$55,130. Assignment: Atkinson.

Temporary

Blanca Adames, 2/5 Foreign Language Teacher, Return from Preferred Eligibility List, a temporary appointment effective September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015. Compensation for this will be on step 9-2A on the U4D Schedule at \$34,113.20. Assignment: FHS.

Appointment of Non- Instructional Staff

Rosa Nunez, Food Service Worker (4 hour), (replacing V. Buckles, resigned) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2014 for a period of 26 weeks

upon Civil Service approval. Compensation for this position shall be according to the Food Service Salary Schedule at \$10,505.60. Assignment: Archer.

Appointment of Summer School 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 individuals listed below in accordance with the rules of the Board of Regents. These individuals shall possess appropriate certification allowing them to serve as staff in the public schools of New York

Name	Position	Salary
Mindy Ein	Clerical	\$2,604.80
Thelma Zambrano	Clerical	\$2,604.80

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: May 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 2014; June 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 2014; July 10, 2014.

Other Items for Action

On a motion by Mr. Miller and a second by Ms. Mulé the following item was approved:

Approval of a Resolution to End the Gap Elimination Adjustment

Whereas: The NY State Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was implemented in 2010 as a one-time reduction in education aid to help NY State balance its budget and the GEA has continued in every budget since then; and

Whereas: The GEA since its inception has reduced state aid to the Freeport Union Free School District by \$34,720,981; and

Whereas: The **reduction** in aid associated with the GEA has resulted in a cost shift to the local property tax payer in the Freeport Union Free School District; and

Whereas: This cost shift has resulted in unsustainable measures being implemented to balance the Freeport Public Schools budget, including the reduction and **elimination** of school programs, personnel, and services, and the reductions of school district reserve funds; and

Whereas: Efforts by the Freeport Public Schools to sustain programs and services and contain budgets are simultaneously constrained by Property Tax Cap Legislation, unfunded and underfunded mandates, state mandated increases in pension costs, and mandated implementation of Common Core Learning Standards and

teacher/principal performance reviews; and

Whereas: State **Funding** is constitutionally mandated and is essential to meet all mandates and obligations and to maintain the quality of education in the Freeport Public Schools; and

Whereas: New York State touts recent aid increases as generous support to schools, although overall, school districts are receiving very little additional aid when compared to 2008-09; and

Whereas: Some school districts have even experienced state aid decreases from 2008-09 to 2014-15;

Resolved, That the Freeport Public Schools Board of Education calls upon the New York State Legislature to end Gap Elimination Adjustments when they adopt New York State's 2015-16 Annual Budget.

Passed and adopted this 21st day of July, 2014 during a Board of Education meeting by the following vote:

The resolution was approved unanimously, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

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

Approval of a Resolution to Reform the Allocation of School Aid in New York State

Whereas, all New York State public school students have a state constitutional right, upheld by the Court of Appeals in its 2006 ruling on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) suit, to a "sound, basic education", and

Whereas, the State of New York has "frozen" implementation of the Foundation Aid formula it agreed to execute to **satisfy** the Court of Appeals decision rendered in the CFE suit, and

Whereas, a comparative study of our nation's fifty state school funding systems ranks New York State second nationally, with a letter grade of A for **Funding Adequacy**, but condemns our state's flawed **and** inequitable approach to allocation of school aid with a letter grade of F, and a bottom-tier national ranking of 42nd in **Funding Distribution**, and

Whereas, the State of New York has shifted a significantly larger share of the costs of PK-12 education back onto local tax payers over the past decade, thus disproportionately hurting low property wealth school districts, and the students attending those districts, and

Whereas, New York State has enacted Local Property Tax Levy Cap legislation that virtually assures that existing per pupil funding disparities will widen each year, and

Whereas, the costs of resolving New York's school funding equity problem are,

based on past state legislative performance, highly likely to continue to increase in every year that school funding allocation decisions remain in the hands of the state legislature, and

Whereas, New York's highly politicized system for allocating school funds places great pressure upon even the most conscientious state legislator to act in a selfish manner for the benefit of residents of their own **legislative** district even in violation of the state constitution's guarantee, upheld by the Court of Appeals, that ALL children receive a "sound, basic education" with the consequence being that students of other legislative districts and regions have their educational opportunities curtailed,

Therefore, the School Board of **the** Freeport Union Free School District calls for the immediate establishment of a non-political **School Funding Equity Commission** that follows the model used by New York State when it established the Berger Commission to resolve the politically sensitive issue of hospital closure and repurposing,

Specifically, our Board of **Education** endorses the plan calling for the following actions to occur:

1. Education funding allocation decisions be de-coupled from the legislature by empowering a team of nationally recognized school finance experts to design a new school finance system that is research based and fair to all New York students and school districts,
2. That this team of nationally recognized school finance experts be charged to operate independently of political influence, and design a system for allocating school funds that is equitable, predictable, sufficient, transparent and readily comprehensible by New York residents,
3. That the recommendation of this **School Funding Equity Commission** become law at a date certain unless that recommendation were to be specifically turned down by a vote of both houses of the legislature,
4. That the **School Funding Equity Commission** be charged to develop a plan with a three year phase-in to cushion districts from any dislocation a new funding system might impose, and
5. That after six years (three year phase-in and three years operation) a similar **Commission** be charged to review the impact of the new funding approach and make recommendations for improvements.

The resolution was approved unanimously, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

The Superintendent and Board President welcomed the new staff members to the Freeport Family and presented them with a pin.

Adjournment

At 8:10 a.m., with no other business, on a motion by Ms. Mulé and seconded by

Mr. Ellerbe, the Board adjourned the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

The Board immediately convened for their Board Retreat.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako,
Clerk of the Board