

**February 11, 2015**

The regular Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, in the Auditorium of Leo F. Giblyn School. Michael Pomerico, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Those present were: Mr. Michael Pomerico, President  
Mr. Anthony J. Miller, Vice President (arrived 8:13 pm)  
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. Gerard Poole, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Louis S. Frontario, 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 114.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Kuncham welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Student Government to present their report.

Under the direction of Mr. Josh Levitt, the Student Government, presented their report on the activities at Freeport High School.

The Superintendent then made the following remarks:

- With 30 Robotics Teams from 19 different School Districts, the largest Vex Robotics Tournament on Long Island was hosted by the Freeport Red Devil Robotics Club on February 7, 2015 at Freeport High School. The Red Devils won the prestigious Judge's Award. John W. Dodd and Caroline G. Atkinson sent a robotics team to the tournament for the first time and the Dodd team made it to the quarter finals. Congratulations to all who participated.

- The Scripps National Spelling Bee was held at Hofstra University February 8, 2015. Congratulations to all of our students from the Magnet Schools and Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School who participated.
- Congratulations to our Varsity Wrestlers who have qualified for the Nassau County Championships.
- Boys' Winter Track member, D'Monte Woody, set a new school record as he won the 55 Meter event at the Nassau County Championship Meet. The FHS 200 Meter Relay team also placed 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Superintendent then gave a brief overview of the 2015-2016 budget and made the following points:

- The Budget to Budget increase is 3.19% or \$5.1 Million.
- The Tax Levy Cap Limit is 1.62%.
- Tentative Allowable Tax Levy Cap for Freeport is 1.51% or \$1.3 Million.
- Proposed Budget Gap is \$3.8 Million, with the State Aid unknown.
- Freeport will not pierce the cap.

Dr. Kuncham continued by saying that because the Governor has not released the State Aid figures for the first time in memory, all New York State Districts are unable to plan their budgets. He urged everyone to continue to advocate for our schools and push to eliminate the GEA.

Dr. Kuncham congratulated Board President Michael Pomerico and Board Vice President Anthony J. Miller for receiving Board Achievement Awards from New York State School Boards Association.

The Superintendent requested that the Board amend the agenda to include a resolution to grant early tenure to Consuelo Velez, Principal of Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School.

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Mulé, a resolution regarding granting of early tenure was added to the agenda. The vote passed unanimously, the vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster, Mulé and Pomerico.

The Superintendent then introduced Mrs. Amanda Muldowney, Principal of Leo F. Giblyn School. She introduced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade children of Giblyn. The children presented a video and song reflecting their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) program, done in conjunction with Adelphi University.

## **Board of Education Committee Report**

The Board of Education reviewed the Budget/Legislative Committee Report. The report was accepted by the Board as written.

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## **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 Ms. Mulé and a second by Mr. Miller, 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 grants a request for leave of absence as listed below:

**Linda Gooden**, Security Aide, effective February 1, 2015 through February 28, 2015, unpaid LOA for health reasons.

**Portland Lawson**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 27, 2015 through February 1, 2015, unpaid LOA for family illness under FMLA.

**Alfonso Jamieson**, Security Aide, effective January 12, 2015 through January 25, 2015, unpaid LOA for health reasons.

**Brenda Floyd**, Security Aide, effective January 26, 2015 through March 1, 2015, unpaid LOA for health reasons.

**Allison Leone**, Special Education Teacher, effective January 9, 2015 through February 8, 2015, unpaid LOA for childcare under FMLA.

**Madeline Game**, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective February 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015, unpaid LOA for student teaching.

**Maria Garcia**, Cleaner, effective February 2, 2015 through April 12, 2015, unpaid LOA for health reasons.

**John Johnson**, Security Aide, effective January 8, 2015 through February 23, 2015, unpaid LOA for health reasons.

**Dawn Daniele**, Elementary Teacher, effective February 13, 2015 through June 30, 2015, unpaid LOA for childcare under FMLA.

**Tia Williams**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 31, 2015 through June 30, 2015, unpaid LOA for health reasons.

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### **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:

**Gerard Toughey**, Physical Therapist, effective January 23, 2015, for personal reasons.

**Anabel Lopez**, Permanent Substitute, effective January 23, 2015, to accept another position in the District.

**Jillian Onorato**, Permanent Substitute, effective January 23, 2015, to accept another position in the District.

**Yaniris Suarez**, Permanent Substitute, effective January 23, 2015, to accept another position in the District.

**Rachel Kugelmass**, Teaching Assistant, effective February 6, 2015, to accept another position in the District.

### **Change of Status**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, hereby approves the following change of status as listed below:

**Adita Zdunczyk**, part-time R.N., effective February 2, 2015, change of status to full-time, annual salary \$44,100. Assignment: District-wide.

**Cara Reiss**, Math Teacher, a probationary appointment effective January 26, 2015, with anticipated tenure effective September 1, 2017. Assignment: FHS.

**Kate Catechis**, ESL Teacher, a probationary appointment effective January 26, 2015, with anticipated tenure effective October 20, 2017. Assignment: FHS.

**Carmen Bernier Rodriguez**, Science Teacher-Bilingual, a probationary appointment effective January 26, 2015, with anticipated tenure effective October 27, 2017. Assignment: FHS.

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### **Appointment of Instructional Staff – Probationary**

**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 – Probationary, 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.

**Yaniris Suarez**, ESL Teacher, (replacing F. Calleo, resigned) effective January 26, 2015, with an anticipated tenure date of January 26, 2018. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the U5D Schedule at \$63,776 (pro-rated). Assignment: Bayview.

**Patricia Perez**, full-time Teaching Assistant, (replacing K. Quelix, resigned) effective January 26, 2015 with an anticipated tenure date of January 26, 2018. Compensation will be according to the FTAA Contract at \$19,713. Assignment: Atkinson.

### **Appointment of Instructional Staff – Temporary**

**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 following Appointment of Staff Report – Temporary, 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.

**Jillian Onorato**, Elementary Teacher, a temporary appointment effective January 26, 2015 through August 31, 2015. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the U5D Schedule at \$63,776. Assignment: Atkinson.

**Anabel Lopez**, Elementary Teacher, a temporary appointment effective January 26, 2015 through August 31, 2015. Compensation will be on step 1-1A of the U5D Schedule at \$53,998. Assignment: Giblyn.

**Nicole Gatto**, Permanent Substitute, effective January 26, 2015 through June 26, 2015, compensation will be at the Substitute Pay Rate of \$125 per day. Assignment: New Visions.

**Anna Manolakis**, Permanent Substitute, effective January 28, 2015 through June 26, 2015, compensation will be at the Substitute Pay Rate of \$125 per day. Assignment: Bayview.

**Christina Barcelo**, part-time Teaching Assignment, (replacing L. Jannetto, change) appointment effective February 2, 2015. Compensation will be according to the FTAA Contract at \$12, 550 (pro-rated). Assignment: Bayview.

**Rachel Kugelmass**, Elementary Teacher, a temporary appointment effective February 9, 2015 through August 31, 2015. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the U5D Schedule at \$63,776. Assignment: New Visions.

### **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 5, 17, 2014

January 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 26, 29, 30, 2015

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

### **Other Items for Action**

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Mulé, the following item was approved.

### **Granting of Tenure**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants early tenure to Consuelo Velez as Principal, effective February 12, 2015.

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

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Mulé, the following item was approved.

### **Adoption of the 2015-2016 School Calendar**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the attached School Calendar for the 2015-2016 school year (as attached).

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

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Mulé, the following item was approved.

### **Budget Transfer-General Fund**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves a Budget Transfer within the General Fund for February, 2015.

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

### **Executive Session**

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for two specific matters of personnel.

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

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

At 9:00 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Lancaster 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 9:01 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and seconded by Mr. Miller, the Board adjourned the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed.D.  
Clerk of the Board