

## August 4, 2010

The regular Planning/Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, August 4, 2010, in the gymnasium of the New Visions School. Debra McQuillan, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:50 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  
Mr. Michael Pomerico, Trustee  
Ms. Carmen Piñeyro-Mendoza, Trustee

Absent were: None

Also present were: Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for  
Personnel & Special Projects  
Dr. Wafa Westervelt, Assistant Superintendent for  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of  
Operations

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 8.

At 7:56 p.m. Ms. Carmen Piñeyro-Mendoza made a motion to appoint Dr. Mary Bediako District Clerk pro tem. The motion was seconded by Ms. Debra Mulé and passed. The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent announced the following:

- Elementary Summer School ended at the end of July and was very well attended by students despite the hot weather. The students in the Summer Arts Academy gave a wonderful performance to parents to crown another successful summer.
- Secondary Summer School is also well attended and graduation for the seniors will be held on August 19, 2010, at 6:00pm in the High School Auditorium

- State Budget was finally adopted, but there was no additional state aid to schools. Hence, the district will be using additional fund balance to cover the shortfall of the projected state aid. The tax levy will remain the same as projected during the budget process, 5.45% increase.
- Freeport High School cohort graduation rate as of June, 2010 increased from 63% to 73% compared to June of 2009. Likewise the District cohort graduation rate (including out of district students) increase from 61% to 71% compared to June 2009.
- The State Education Department finally released the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Assessment results on July 28, 2010. As announced by State Education Department, the cut scores for these tests were set according to new proficiency standards redefined to align them to college-ready performance. As a result of raising the cut scores fewer students including Freeport students met or exceeded the new Math and ELA Proficiency standards in 2010 than in previous years.
- Dr. Kuncham and Dr. Westervelt gave a power-point presentation to further explain the new terminologies being adopted by the State Education Department and comparison of what the district's results might have been if the cut scores were not changed, as attached.
- Dr. Kuncham wanted the public to understand that the current ELA and Math scores do not reflect our students' abilities or that of our teachers. This is a new reality that was introduced after the students took the exams. The district will do everything to make sure that our students are meeting the new challenges.
- Dr. Kuncham announced that beginning the 2010-2011 school year, the district will be using North West Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress tests in pre-K through 10 grades. These are computerized tests that allow for quick feed back based on individualized student's ability.

## **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.

### **Items for Action**

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

### **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:

April 28, 2010; May 13, 20, 27, 2010; June 3, 8, 7, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 2010; July 15, 16, 2010.

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

### **Personnel**

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

### **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:

1. **Adriana Cagno**, Science Teacher, effective September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, for child care.
2. **Erica Ruge**, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2010 through January 30, 2011, for child care.
3. **Francisco Arias**, Cleaner, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, extension of a leave for health reasons.

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

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

**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:

1. **Christopher Farrell**, Special Education Teacher, effective August 31, 2010, to accept another position in the district.
2. **Jerrold Miller**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective August 31, 2010, for personal reasons.
3. **Scott Balara**, Science Teacher, effective July 5, 2010, for personal reasons.

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

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

**Resolution to Abolish a Position and Excess Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby abolishes one teaching position within the Health tenure area effective September 1, 2010; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that **Brooke McKenna**, as the least senior professional staff member in the Health tenure area is hereby excessed from said positions effective September 1, 2010, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said excessed professional staff member shall be placed on a preferred eligible list as per Education Law §3013.

The vote was unanimous: 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 motion was approved:

## **Appointment of Staff – Instructional**

### **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.

1. **Shannon Abramovitz**, Music Teacher, (replacing D. Gorin, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013. Compensation will be on step 2 of the U1D Schedule at \$63,566. Assignment: Giblyn.
2. **John Duggan**, Social Studies Teacher, (replacing A. Basile, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013. Compensation will be on step 1 of the U1D Schedule at \$64,840. Assignment: FHS.
3. **Christopher Farrell**, Elementary Teacher, (replacing D. Blum-Brown, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2012. Compensation will be on step 3-2A of the U1D Schedule at \$66,142. Assignment: New Visions.
4. **Sean Caldwell**, Special Education Teacher, (replacing C. Farrell, resigned) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013. Compensation will be on step 4-2A of the U2D Schedule at \$68,732. Assignment: Atkinson.
5. **Juliette Mason**, Art Teacher, (replacing C. Butterfield, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the U1D Schedule at \$60,988. Assignment: Giblyn.
6. **Ilona Fiola**, School Psychologist, (replacing P. Murray, retired) ) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2015. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the U1A Schedule at \$77,803. Assignment: New Visions..
7. **Amanda Mizel**, Speech Teacher, (replacing J. Birnbaum, retired) a probationary appointment effective September 1, 2010 through August 31,

2013. Compensation will be on step 2-2A of the U1D Schedule at \$\$63,566.  
Assignment: Archer.

### **Appointment of Non-Instructional Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby appoints the individuals as listed, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

1. **Miriam Warren**, Registered Nurse, (replacing M. Willdigg, retired) effective September 1, 2010 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation for this appointment is on step 9 of the T1B Schedule at \$52,701. Assignment: Dodd.

The vote was unanimous: 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 motion was approved:

Education

### **Resolution to Approve Student Travel to Orlando, Florida**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes Freeport High School to conduct a field trip to Orlando, Florida from [April 29 through May 2, 2011](#) for the purpose of providing the senior class an opportunity to participate in the Disney “Graduate Night” program which recognizes students who have stayed in school to complete their high school program.

**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 Administrative Procedures.

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

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

**Acceptance of the First Reading of the Professional Development Plan 2010-2012**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts, as a first reading, the Professional Development Plan 2010-2012.

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

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

**Finance**

**Approval of a Service Agreement**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves the Service Agreement between the Labor Education & Community Service, Agency Inc. Employee Assistance Program and the Freeport Union Free School District for the 2010-2011 school year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Service Agreement.

The vote was unanimous: 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 motion was approved

**Resolution to Establish the Tax Levy**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, that the following budget of the necessary claims and expenditures in FREEPORT UFSD (#9) in the Town of HEMPSTEAD for the School year 2010-2011, amounting to \$146,286,027 School Purpose, and the amount of \$5,692,319 for Library Purpose, for a total of \$151,978,346 is hereby accepted; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the sum of \$78,891,812 for School Purposes, and \$5,190,043 for Library Purposes, for a total of \$84,081,855, being the remainder of the budget adopted as above and the amount which must be RAISED BY TAXATION (\$84,081,855) for FREEPORT UFSD (#9) of the Town of HEMPSTEAD, Nassau County, New York for the year 2010-2011 be levied upon the taxable property of the said school district as said property has been certified to by the Board of Assessors for the school year 2010-2011; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the District Clerk of this School District be and she is hereby authorized and directed, pursuant to Section 6-20.0 and amendments thereto of the Nassau County Administrative Code to file a certified copy of these resolutions with the Nassau County Legislature and the Board of Assessors, Mineola, New York, on or before August 15th, 2010.

The vote was unanimous: 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 motion was approved:

**Acceptance of the 2010-2011 Pizza Bid**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby awards the following bid as listed in the attached Bid Award Report and as recommended in the attached bid recommendation, accepting the lowest responsible bid as per bid specifications, and reserving the right to increase or decrease quantities of each item as needed. (as attached)

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



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

### **E. Other Action**

#### **Appointment of a District Clerk**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby appoints Dr. Mary Bediako as an Officer to the Board and District Clerk for the 2010-2011 Year in accordance with Education Law. This appointment is effective from August 4, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

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

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

#### **Stipulation of Settlement**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, having reviewed a certain Settlement Agreement concerning a non-instructional employee in executive session, hereby approves the terms of the Settlement Agreement and authorizes and directs the Board President and Superintendent of Schools to execute such agreement on behalf of the Board.

The vote was unanimous: 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 motion was approved:

#### **Appointment of a School Public Relations Firm**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves the appointment of **Syntax** as the District's Public Relations Firm in accordance with the District's Request For Proposal (RFP) for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

### **Executive Session**

At 9:00 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for one particular matter of personnel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mulé and passed unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

At 9:30 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Mulé and a second by Mr. Ellerbe, the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico

### **Adjournment**

At 9:31 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Ms. Piñeyro-Mendoza and seconded by Ms. Mulé the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Ellerbe, McQuillan, Mulé, Piñeyro-Mendoza and Pomerico.

Respectfully submitted,

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