
Freeport Public Schools
235 N Ocean Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520-2135

Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting of

March 10, 2004

The regular planning/action meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, in the Cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson School. Dr. Cattano, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. He then led in the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were:

- Dr. Joseph Cattano, President
- Mr. Michael Raab, Vice President
- Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
- Ms. Carmen J. Piñeyro, Trustee (arrived 7:42 p.m.)

Absent were:

- Ms. Sunday F. Coward, Trustee

Also present were:

- Dr. Eric L. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Mr. Robert Harris, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, School Improvement, Professional Development and Planning
- Mr. Michael Singleton, Interim Executive Director of Operations

Also absent were:

- Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Clerk of the Board

Guests were:

- None

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 31.

Dr. Cattano polled the Board on the issue of allowing the public 3 minutes to address the Board on the 2004-2005 budget. Dr. Cattano then announced that the public would have 3 minutes to address the Board on the 2004-2005 budget.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools, announced that the first meeting of the newly reformed Special Education Parent Teacher Association was a success and had a very good turn out.

The Superintendent announced the wonderful success of the Boys and Girls Basketball Teams as well as the success of other Freeport sports teams.

Mr. Michael Singleton gave a report to the Board regarding the issue of Student Membership on the Board of Education. He informed the Board that 6 districts had some form of student representation. The Board decided they needed to discuss this issue further.

Mr. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business, discussed the Budget for 2004-2005.

Dr. Eversley discussed with the Board the BOCES Budget Vote and Trustee election.

The public was given the opportunity to address the Board. As agreed to by the Board, the public was given 3 minutes.

Items for Action

Approval of CSE and PSE Meetings

Mr. Ellerbe offered the following resolution for adoption:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the meeting of the committees on special education and preschool special education for the following dates:

February 2, 2004; February 9, 2004; February 12, 2004; February 23, 2004; February 24, 2004; February 25, 2004; February 26, 2004 ; February 27, 2004; March 3, 2004; March 4, 2004

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab and unanimously carried: Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Resolution to Re-Adopt the Voluntary Desegregation Plan to Qualify the Freeport Public Schools for the 2004-2007 Magnet Schools Assistance Program

Mr. Raab offered the following resolution for adoption:

WHEREAS the Freeport Board of Education desires to provide the best education to all the children served by the District; and

WHEREAS the Board is committed to equal opportunities for all students in schools throughout the District; and THAT the Board is committed to addressing the issue of racial composition in schools that have disproportionate representation of minority students; and

WHEREAS the Board wishes to provide educational choices to students throughout the District so that they may select themes and instructional approaches that are more appropriate to their interests and ways of learning; and

WHEREAS the Board wishes to continue to develop and revise the magnet schools, designed to attract students from throughout the District, to improve the quality of education for students while reducing minority group isolation in all the elementary schools throughout the District;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Freeport Board of Education that the Archer Street School , the Bayview Avenue School , the Leo F. Giblyn School , and the New Visions School of Exploration and Discovery, continue their development as magnet schools and implement revisions for the purpose of further reducing minority group isolation and improving student achievement in these schools.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and unanimously carried: Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Board Discussion

The Board discussed Comprehensive Policy Manual Development.

The Board then reviewed the tentative agenda for the March 24, 2004 meeting.

Board Comments

Ms. Piñeyro informed the other Board Members that she had attended Exhibit Night at Bayview Avenue School .

Mr. Ellerbe informed the Board that he had attended the REFIT meeting.

Executive Session

At 10:30 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to Executive Session for matters of Personnel.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab and unanimously carried: Cattano, Ellerbe Piñeyro and Raab.

At 11:45 p.m., Mr. Raab moved to adjourn to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe Piñeyro and Raab.

Adjournment

At 11:48 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and seconded by Ms. Piñeyro, the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Cattano, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be an Action Meeting on March 24, 2004 at Freeport High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wayne Harris
Clerk Pro Tem

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