

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

**Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting**

**February 12, 2003**

The regular action meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2003, in the Library of the Caroline G. Atkinson School, 58 West Seaman Avenue, Freeport, New York. Ms. Sunday Coward, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and she led in the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were:

- Ms. Sunday F. Coward, President
- Dr. Joseph Cattano, Vice President
- Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee (arrived 7:42 p.m.)
- Ms. Carmen J. Pineyro, Trustee (arrived 7:43 p.m.)
- Mr. Michael Raab, Trustee

Absent were:

- none

Also present were:

- Dr. Eric L. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools
- Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Clerk of the Board
- Mr. Robert Harris, Executive Director for Curriculum, School Improvement, Professional Development and Planning
- Dr. Joshua Starr, Executive Director of Operations

Also absent was:

- Mr. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business

Guests were:

- none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was approximately 100.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed Doug Martinez, our new Audio-Visual Technician and his assistant Michael First. Dr. Eversley also offered his congratulations to Paula Lein, Principal, Archer Street School, for their Math Night on February 11, 2003. He praised them for a great publicity campaign and the terrific turnout. Hundreds of parents and students were in attendance with a great time enjoyed by all!

Dr. Eversley also recognized Ms. Joyce Lisi and Mr. Frank Tucker for their outstanding work for the Nassau County Regional Board of PTA.

The Superintendent was delighted to inform the Board and public that Archer Street School was named as one of the most improved schools for the 4th Grade Math assessment tests. He was further pleased to inform everyone that Giblyn and Bayview were also cited for being on the most improved list for Nassau County on the English Language Arts test for the years 1999-2002. He also announced that New Visions School has received a call from New York State informing them that they will be recognized for student success on the 4th Grade ELA tests.

Dr. Eversley announced to the public that due to the increased level of the terrorism alerts all field trips to New York City are temporarily suspended. All trips will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

The employees who have worked for Freeport Public Schools for twenty years were also honored. The Principals introduced the twenty-year employees from their buildings and congratulated them on their service to the children of Freeport. Ms. Sunday Coward, President of the School Board, and Dr. Eversley, presented pins and certificates of recognition to staff members who have been with the district for twenty years. Those employees recognized for their service were:

- Florence Bell
- Marion Bencivenga
- Judy Birnbaum
- John Cassidy
- Maria Duran
- Colleen Gallo
- John Pizzo
- Patricia Quinton
- Joann Trub
- Diane Wahlers

- Catherine Whritenour

The Superintendent and the Board of Education also honored the Honor Society and their new inductees. Dr. Eversley administered the oath and Ms. Sunday Coward congratulated the new inductees and asked them to continue their good work. The new members of the National Honor Society are:

- Ifetayo Blissett
- Sybil Ferguson
- Rosemary Hernandez
- Tricia Ramnarine
- Lauren Triplett

Dr. Eversley introduced Dr. Michael Courtney, Principal, Freeport High School, to the Board of Education and the assembled public. Dr. Courtney gave a brief overview on the topic of Middle States Accreditation.

Dr. Eversley took a moment to recognize two teachers from the Archer Street School, Sylvia Moreira and Christine Vargas. These teachers were honored by the New York State Academy for Teaching and Learning, whose mission is to improve the achievement of all students by enhancing teachers' abilities to provide quality instruction based on the New York State learning standards. The teachers become members of the Academy through the Statewide Peer Review Process during which their classroom practice is validated.

At this time a short discussion was held to change the order of the meeting and allow the public to ask their questions or express their concerns.

### **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 6 minutes. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

*At 9:30 p.m. the President of the Board called for a brief recess.*

*At 9:51 p.m. the meeting was called back to order by the President of the Board, Sunday Coward.*

The Superintendent continued with his report to the Board. Dr. Eversley discussed the Resolution to Establish the Annual Meeting. Dr. Bediako explained the different propositions which need to be submitted 60 days before a vote and propositions which need to be submitted 30 days before a vote.

The Board again discussed the issue of public participation at planning meetings. It was affirmed that questions will be limited to action items only at planning meetings.

There were no committee reports.

## **Items for Action**

On a motion by Mr. Raab and a second by Dr. Cattano the following items, on a consent agenda, were approved:

### ***Acceptance of the Minutes***

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the following meetings as written: January 22, 2003

### ***Leave of Absence***

**RESOLVED** that the Board hereby grants a request for leave as listed in the following:

- Rosa Malley, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 31, 2003 through February 24, 2003, for health reasons.
- Jeanne Dipolito, part-time Teaching Assistant, extension of a leave , February 3, 2003 through February 24, 2003, for health reasons.
- Sheryl Anglim, Physical Education Teacher, effective February 3, 2003 through February 24, 2003, for child care.

### ***Retirement of Staff***

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letters of retirement from the following staff member:

- John Cassidy, Maintenance Supervisor, effective June 30, 2003, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 22 years.

### ***Granting of Tenure***

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants tenure status to the following individual:

- Marie Codispoti, Elementary Teacher, effective March 6, 2003.

### ***Resignation of Staff***

Resolved that the Board of Education the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letter(s) of resignation from the following staff members as listed:

- Matthew Yatsyla, Permanent Substitute, effective January 31, 2003.
- Victoria Garcia, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 6, 2003.

- Sharon Power, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 22, 2003.
- Jennifer Mattes, Elementary Teacher, effective January 22, 2003.
- Lisa Brown, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 27, 2003.

### ***Appointment of Staff***

#### **Probationary**

**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:

Cynthia Partee, Science Teacher, (replacing N. Holland, resigned) a probationary appointment effective January 31, 2003. Compensation will be on step 10 of the MA+15 Schedule at \$69,349. Assignment: FHS.

#### **Temporary Assignment**

**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 - Teacher Category, 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:

Matthew Yatsyla, Elementary Teacher, (replacing M. Taboada, LOA) a temporary appointment effective February 3, 2003 through June 30, 2003. Compensation will be on step 1-1A of the U3C Schedule at \$41,163. Assignment: Atkinson.

#### **Teacher Assistant and Permanent Substitutes**

**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 - Teacher Assistant Category, 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:

- Roberta Rizzo, Permanent Substitute, (replacing M. Yatsyla, resigned) a temporary appointment effective February 3, 2003 through June 30, 2003. Compensation will be \$125 per day according to the Permanent Substitute Pay Rate. Assignment: Archer.
- Lisa Brown, full-time Teaching Assistant, (replacing D. Bediako, resigned) a probationary appointment effective January 28, 2003 through January 27, 2006. Compensation will be according to the FTAA Schedule at \$12,073. Assignment: Atkinson.
- Janice Ziglar, full-time Teaching Assistant, (replacing S. Power, resigned) a probationary

appointment effective February 6, 2003 through February 5, 2006. Compensation will be according to the FTAA Schedule at \$12,073. Assignment: Columbus.

- Diane Russini, Part-time Teaching Assistant, (replacing V. Garcia, resigned) this appointment is effective February 6, 2003. Compensation will be according to the FTAA Contract at \$6,899. Assignment: Columbus.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby appoints the individuals as listed in the attached Appointment of Staff Report - Civil Service, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations: Arthalia Brown, Information Technology Specialist, (replacing K. Birmingham, retired) a provisional appointment effective January 6, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be according to the Clerical Salary Schedule at \$35,000. Assignment: Administration.

- Douglas Martines, Audio Visual Helper, (replacing R. Gempel, retired) a probationary appointment effective January 29, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be on step 6 according to the Custodial Unit Salary Schedule at \$41,986. Assignment: Districtwide
- Pedro Rosa, 12 Month Cleaner, (new) a probationary appointment effective January 29, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be on step 1 of the Custodial Unit Salary Schedule at \$25,584. Assignment: FHS.
- Rosa Caceres, 12 Month Cleaner, (replacing D. Julian, termination) a probationary appointment effective January 29, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be on step 1 of the Custodial Unit Salary Schedule at \$25,584. Assignment: FHS.
- Timothy Smallwood, 12 Month Cleaner, (new) a probationary appointment effective January 29, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be on step 1 of the Custodial Unit Salary Schedule at \$25,584. Assignment: FHS.
- William Vasquez, Cleaner, (new) a probationary appointment effective January 29, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be on step 8 according to the Cleaner Salary Schedule at \$34,788. Assignment: New Visions.

### **CSE/CPSE Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the meetings of the committees on special education and preschool special education for the following dates:

January 8, 2003, January 13, 2003, January 24, 2003, January 31, 2003, February 5, 2003

### **Adoption of the School Calendar 2003-3004**

**Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the attached School Calendar for the 2003-2004 school year

#### **Acceptance of a Gift**

**Resolved** that the Board of Education for the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts a gift of \$400.00 to provide scholarships for ten students in the SPACE program from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

#### **Acceptance of Bids**

Cafeteria Installation Bid #516

**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.

The motions carried unanimously: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro, and Raab.

#### **Individual Action Items**

After some discussion Mr. Raab moved to amend the motion to Establish the Annual Meeting to include evening hours for registration on May 6, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on May 8, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pineyro and unanimously passed.

The vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

#### **Resolution to Establish the Annual Meeting**

On a motion by Dr. Cattano the following motion was adopted:

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby establishes the Annual Meeting, the Budget Hearing and the Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election as prescribed in the *FOLLOWING* resolution.

**WHEREAS** Chapter 644 of the Laws of the State of New York, amends the Education Law by adding a new section, 2022-a, Vote on Monetary Matters, which requires that a union free school district in a county with a population of one million or more, holding the election of board of education or board of trustees members, the vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures, or on propositions involving the expenditure of money, or authorizing the levy of taxes, provides that such election shall be held on the third Tuesday in May, (May 20, 2003).

**AND WHEREAS** this act took effect January 1, 1996, and applies to the annual meeting, annual election for board of

education or board of trustees members and annual budget vote or referendum held on or after such effective date.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District shall hold a budget hearing on May 7, 2003 at 7:30 PM.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board shall, and is hereby directed to, have notices of the Annual Budget Vote and Election to be held on May 20, 2003, published in the Official Papers of the District. These papers shall be The Freeport Baldwin Leader and The Long Island Graphic, two newspapers having general circulation within the District. Said publications shall be at least four times and on the dates as listed for each newspaper. The Freeport Baldwin Leader shall be March 27, April 10, April 24, and May 1, 2003, or an alternate date within the required notification period. The Long Island Graphic shall be March 26, April 9, April 23, and April 30, 2003, or an alternate date within the required notification period, and the Clerk of the Board of Education shall have notices of the May 7, 2003 Budget Hearing published in the Official Papers of the District. Said publications shall be at least four times and on the dates as listed for each newspaper. The Freeport Baldwin Leader shall be on the dates as listed for the notice of the annual budget vote and election or an alternate date within the required notification period. The Long Island Graphic shall be on the dates as listed for the notice of the annual budget vote and election or an alternate date within the required notification period.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Registration shall be open in accordance with the Laws of the State of New York every school day in the Administration Building, 235 North Ocean Avenue, between the hours of 8:30 o'clock a.m. and 3:30 o'clock p.m. (local time) until May 13, 2003, for the Annual Budget Vote and Election to be held on May 20, 2003. In addition the Board of Registration will be open May 6, 2003 and May 8, 2003 from 6:00 o'clock p.m. until 9:00 o'clock p.m. for residents to register to vote for the Annual Budget and Trustee election to be held on May 20, 2003.

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Board of Education determines that voting machines are to be used for the purpose of recording the vote at said meeting of the District to be held on May 20, 2003, between the hours of 6 o'clock a.m. and 9 o'clock p.m. (local time), pursuant to the provisions of the Education Law, and the Clerk of the District is hereby directed to procure such machines as may be necessary for use at said meeting.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that nominations for the Office of School Trustee shall be filed with the School District Clerk, Administration Building, on or before 5 o'clock p.m. (local time) April 21, 2003, and shall contain at least fifty-one (51) signatures of qualified voters.

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that a lottery shall take place on April 21, 2003, at 5:15 p.m. for the purpose of determining candidate placement on the ballot.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that all questions and propositions for the conduct of the meetings and elections, other than those for the Office of School Trustee, which the qualified voters of the District desire to be placed on the voting machines, shall be filed with the School District Clerk, Administration Building, on or before 5 o'clock p.m. (local time), April 21, 2003 upon the presentation of a petition signed by at least one hundred twenty-seven (127) qualified voters of the



School District. The Board of Education reserves the right to edit or amend any proposition without changing the intent thereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that petitions for propositions which are required by law to be included in the notice of the annual meeting must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on or before March 21, 2003 upon the presentation of a petition signed by at least one hundred twenty-seven (127) qualified voters of the School District. The Board of Education reserves the right to edit or amend any proposition without changing the intent thereof.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that absentee ballots will be provided for the election of Board members and Budget Vote, in accordance with Education Law of the State of New York, §2018-a.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Pineyro and unanimously passed. The vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

At 10:15 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Raab to go into Executive Session to discuss a particular matter of personnel. The motion was seconded by Dr. Cattano, and the motion passed.

The vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

At 10:20 p.m. Mr. Raab moved to adjourn to open session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pineyro, and carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro, and Raab.

Resolution to ratify and approve wages and fringe benefits currently provided to Central Office Administrators

Mr. Ellerbe made the following motion: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Freeport School District herewith ratifies and approves the wages and fringe benefits currently provided to the following indicated Central Office administrators:

- Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Dr. Mary R. Bediako
- Assistant Superintendent for Business Kishore Kuncham
- Manager of Computer Operations Carol Peters
- Director of School Facilities Spiro Colaitis
- School Lunch Manager Jeannie Romeo

**FURTHER**, since these wages and fringe benefits were not codified in the past, therefore,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools to draw up and sign individual employment agreements with the above-referenced administrators, which agreements reflect the wage and fringe benefits currently provided to such administrators and approved by the Board of Education.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Pineyro and passed.

The vote was:

- Yea; Coward, Ellerbe, and Raab.
- Nay; Cattano.
- Abstention; Pineyro.

#### Resolution to Approve 2002/2003 Salaries for Certain Central Office Administrators

Ms. Pineyro made the following motion: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves the 2002/2003 salaries for the following Central Office Administrators retroactive to July 1, 2002 as listed below:

- Dr. Mary R. Bediako \$128,960.00
- Sophie Codispodo \$56,650.00
- Spiro Colaitis \$97,760.00
- Kishore Kuncham \$144,717.50
- Carol Peters \$77,539.00
- Jeannie Romeo \$68,607.00
- Thomas Volpe \$64,890.00

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to sign individual agreements with the above-referenced administrators, which agreements reflect the wages approved by the Board of Education.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe and failed.

The vote was:

- Yeas; Coward, Ellerbe.
- Nays; Cattano.
- Abstention; Pineyro, Raab.

#### **Executive Session**

At 10:50 p.m. Ms. Coward moved to adjourn to executive session for a particular matter of personnel and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of Civil Service Law with the FTA.

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

At 11:46 p.m. Mr. Raab moved to adjourn to open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe, and unanimously carried: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro, and Raab.

Mr. Raab moved to reconsider the "Resolution to Approve 2002/2003 Salaries for Certain Central Office Administrators".

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe, and carried.

The vote was:

- Yea; Coward, Ellerbe, and Raab.
- Nay; Cattano
- Abstention; Pineyro.

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Mr. Raab made the following motion: **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves the 2002/2003 salaries for the following Central Office Administrators retroactive to July 1, 2002 as listed below:

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- Jeannie Romeo \$68,607.00
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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to sign individual agreements with the above-referenced administrators, which agreements reflect the wages approved by the Board of Education.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe and passed.

The vote was:

- Yeas; Coward, Ellerbe, Raab.
- Nays; Cattano.
- Abstention; Pineyro.

### **Adjournment**

At 11:49 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Raab and seconded by Mr. Ellerbe, the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

## **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be a planning/action meeting, held on March 12, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bediako, Ed.D.  
Clerk of the Board

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### **Freeport Public Schools 2003-2004 School Calendar**

- September 1 Labor Day – school closed
- September 2-3 Teachers Report – Staff Development Days
- September 4 First Day of School for Students
- October 6 Yom Kippur – school closed 13 Columbus Day – school closed
- November 4 Staff Development/Parent/Teacher Conf. Day - No school for students
- November 11 Veterans Day – school closed
- November 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Recess
- December 22 - January 2 Holiday Recess
- January 19 Martin Luther King Day – school closed
- February 16-20 Winter Recess
- April 5-13 Spring Recess
- May 27-31 Memorial Day Recess
- June 25 Last Day of School for Students
- High School Graduation will be on Sunday, June 27.

If no snow days used, school will be closed May 27 and May 28.

If 1 snow day is used school will be open May 27 and closed May 28.

If 2 snow days are used, school will be open May 27 and May 28.

