

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

**Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting**

**May 20, 2003**

The regular action meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, in the Library of the Caroline G. Atkinson School, 58 West Seaman Avenue, Freeport, New York.

Ms. Coward called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and he led in the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were:

- Ms. Sunday F. Coward, President
- Dr. Joseph Cattano, Vice President (arrived 7:55 p.m.)
- Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
- Ms. Carmen J. Pineyro, Trustee (arrived 7:45 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. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Mr. Robert Harris, Executive Director for Curriculum, School Improvement, Professional Development and Planning
- Dr. Joshua Starr, Executive Director of Operations

Also absent was:

- none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was approximately 40.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools, recognized Patricia Belfi. He explained that she had been chosen Hofstra University/News 12 Educator of the Month. Dr. Eversley, the Board of Education and the public gave her a round of applause for her hard work and dedication to the children of Freeport.

The Superintendent also recognized the teachers that participated in the Educational Research & Development training program. Those teachers were;

Aneesah Abdus-Shakur	Anne Fleming
Robbie Berry	Lillian Guttman
Patricia Belfi	Cheryl Isreal
Gisselle Campbell	Alan Lissauer
Virginia Defrancisci	Echele Roberts
Jeanne Dione	Carol Smith
Joyce Fischer	Christine Vargas
	Sandra Wilson

This program trains teachers in various skills. The teachers then can bring these newly acquired skills back to the District and become trainers of other teachers in the District.

Dr. Eversley then commended the advisors and students that participated in the Future Problem Solvers teams. Dr. Eversley informed the Board and public that Freeport Public Schools has teams at Caroline G. Atkinson, John W. Dodd Middle School and Freeport High School. The four winning teams and their advisors are as follows:

#### ***Atkinson***

Advisors: Nancy Hanrahan, Judi Gardner and Carol Fischer-

#### Rosenthal

Nicole Allen	Lowe Diedo
Iman Barnes	Miranda Geraci-Yee
Essane Diedo	Kayleen Rodriguez

#### ***Dodd Middle School***

Advisor; Margaret Taboada

Stephen Daniel	Kirsten Preston
Iliana Martinez	Mirna Rodriguez
Sharisse McClure	

***Freeport High School***

Advisors: Lauren Calvo and Angela Wheat

***Team #1***

Hersan Castillo	Daniel Okobi
Deneen Dismore	Daniel Tetreault
Alexa Harper-Lewis	Victoria Wilson

***Team #2***

Louis Arena	Jeffrey Nunez
Brian Barrett	William Tetreault
Danielle Durand	Gregory Williams

These four teams were invited to compete in the State Championships in Katonah, NY. Members of Team #1 from Freeport High School did so well in the competition that they were invited to participate in the International Competition at the University of Connecticut in June.

The Superintendent then introduced Dr. Joshua Starr, Executive Director of Operations. Dr. Starr presented the proposed Vision Statement. He also discussed the process by which the vision statement evolved, and how the input from the Freeport community helped shape the proposed vision statement.

Dr. Eversley then turned the meeting over to Mr. Robert Harris, Executive Director for Curriculum, School Improvement, Professional Development and Planning. Mr. Harris presented the 4th Grade and 8th Grade ELA results. Significant progress has been made and continues to be made at all elementary schools and significant improvements have been made at the middle school level as well. Mr. Harris commended the great efforts of staff and administrators at all the schools.

The Superintendent thanked Mr. Harris and added his congratulations to all the staff at the schools.

Dr. Eversley turned the meeting over to Dr. Starr so that he could discuss the work being done to refine the attendance policy. Dr. Starr discussed the changes that needed to come about to better serve our community and to make sure that our attendance policy was in line with the New York State Education Departments requirements.

**Questions from the Public**

At 9:00 p.m. Mr. Raab made a motion to change the order of the meeting and allow the public to address the Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pineyro and passed unanimously. The vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

The public was then given the opportunity to address the Board of Education. Each speaker was allowed to address the Board regarding the budget. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

### **Budget Hearing**

At 9:25 p.m. Dr. Eversley introduced Mr. David Opatow, Director of the Freeport Memorial Library. Mr. Opatow gave a brief presentation on the 2003-2004 budget for the library.

Mr. Kuncham then presented the budget for 2003-2004.

### **Board of Education Committee Reports**

Mr. Raab reported that the Library Committee met on May 15, 2003. They explored various ways that Freeport Schools and Freeport Memorial Library could work together to better serve the community.

### **Questions from the Public**

The public was then given the opportunity to address the Board of Education. Each speaker was allowed to address the Board for 6 minutes on any topic. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

### **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:

April 29, 2003; May 7, 2003.

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

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

- Debra Rothar, Special Education Teacher, extension of a leave, effective September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, for childcare.
- Amy Ferris, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, for childcare.
- Lisa Barber, Special Education Teacher, effective September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, for childcare.
- Maria Rivera, Foreign Language Teacher, extension of a leave, effective September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, for childcare.
- Vanessa Auletta, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective September 3, 2003 through December 16, 2003, for educational purposes.

- Maryann Passeggiata, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, for childcare.
- Jeanne Dipolito, part-time Teaching Assistant, extension of a leave of absence through June 30, 2003.
- Julissa Rodriguez, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective April 28, 2003 through September 1, 2003, for childcare.
- Janet Lalmansingh, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective May 7, 2003 through June 30, 2003, for health reasons.
- Cheryl Johnson, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, for childcare.

***Change of Status***

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education for the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants a request for an change of status as listed in the following Change of Status Report

- Rochelle Mevorah, Senior Stenographer, change to probationary appointment effective May 12, 2003, for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Kathleen Sweeney, change to full-time Teaching Assistant, effective May 14, 2003 through May 13, 2006.

***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:

- Cynthia Worrell, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2003.
- Gina Fazio, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective May 9, 2003.
- Martha Marsh, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective April 27, 2003.
- Diego Nunez, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective June 30, 2003.
- Cindy Rodgers, Elementary Teacher, effective May 14, 2003.
- Gina Kelly, Guidance Counselor, effective June 30, 2003.

***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:

- Roberta Eldridge, Lab Facilitator, effective July 15, 2003, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 28 years.
- Edna Colon, Clerk-Typist, effective July 1, 2003, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 10 years.
- Bessie Smith, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective September 19, 2003, after serving the children of Freeport for almost 5 years.

- Diane O'Rourke, Social Worker, effective December 26, 2002, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 14 years.
- Nancy Misita, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective August 31, 2003, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 18 years.

***Appointment of Staff***

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:

- Edward Donohoe, Principal Clerk, (replacing N. Connor, resigned) a probationary appointment effective May 5, 2003 for a period of 26 weeks upon Civil Service approval. Compensation will be consistent with the Clerical Unit members at \$34,690. Assignment: CRVO.

***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:

April 7, 2003; April 9, 2003; April 10, 2003; April 11, 2003; April 15, 2003; April 16, 2003; May 1, 2003; May 5, 2003; May 6, 2003; May 7, 2003; May 8, 2003; May 12, 2003; May 13, 2003; May 14, 2003; May 15, 2003.

***Acceptance of a Gift***

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the following gifts:

- Bundy Flute valued at \$400.00 Donated by Ron Federici
- Cello valued at \$1,700.00 Donated by Margaret Kniffen
- Fischer Console Piano valued at \$1,000.00 Donated by Nancy Espinal
- 4 Lafayette Speakers valued at \$900.00 Donated by Philip Vollono

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

**Individual Action Items**

**Granting of Tenure**

Dr. Cattano offered the following resolution for adoption:

**Be it Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants tenure status to the following individuals:

School District Administrator:

- Mary Miller, Principal, effective July 1, 2003
- Jelain Hubbard, Principal, effective July 1, 2003
- Paula Lein, Principal, effective July 1, 2003

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

#### **First Reading of the Proposed Vision Statement**

Mr. Raab offered the following resolution for adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that as a first reading the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby acknowledges the receipt of and has had the opportunity to review the proposed vision statement as follows:

*The vision of the Freeport Public Schools is to inspire in all the desire to learn and succeed.  
Our schools will be safe learning communities that celebrate our achievements and  
encourage active partnerships with families and the entire community. We will empower  
students to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab. A discussion took place.

Mr. Ellerbe made a motion to table the resolution to accept the First Reading of the Proposed Vision Statement.

Mr. Raab seconded the motion and it passed.

The vote was:

- Yeas; Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.
- Nays; Coward.
- Abstentions; Cattano

#### **Removal of a Motion from the Table**

Mr. Ellerbe offered the following resolution for adoption:

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District that a motion to approve Guidelines Governing Poll Watching be taken from the table and be considered for action.

Mr. Raab seconded the motion and it passed.

The vote was:

- Yeas; Cattano, Coward and Ellerbe.
- Nays; 0.
- Abstentions; Pineyro and Raab

#### **Resolution to Adopt Guidelines Governing Poll Watching**

Mr. Ellerbe made the following motion:

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the following guidelines governing poll watching:

1. Identification and number of poll watchers. One (1) poll watcher will be permitted per candidate or organization at any given time. Candidates may not serve as poll watchers. Poll watchers may not electioneer; must be unobtrusive, and may not interfere with the vote in any way. Candidates shall be required to submit a list of their poll watchers to the District Clerk no later than the Saturday immediately preceding the election during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, when the registers are available for inspection. Identification tags for poll watchers will be available for pick-up in the office of the District Clerk after 2:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately preceding the election. Previously identified poll watchers shall sign in with the District Clerk or his or her designee upon arrival at the polling place. Poll watchers shall direct any questions or concerns to the District Clerk.
2. Voting Machines. Poll watchers will not be permitted behind the voting machines at any time during voting hours. Each candidate, or his or her representative, or poll watcher for each candidate/group shall be permitted to inspect the voting machines prior to commencement of voting.
3. Voter Tally Sheets. Upon request, photocopies of Voter Tally Sheets will be made available to poll watchers periodically throughout the voting. Under no circumstances are the Voter Tally Sheets to be removed from the Clerks of Election.
4. Location of Poll Watchers. An area with a full view of the polls will be designated for poll watchers. Poll watchers will remain within the designated area and will not, under any circumstances, be permitted to wander about the polling place.
5. Final Vote Tally. Following the recording of the vote, poll watchers will be permitted time to view the voting machines following which they will be locked by the inspector(s) assigned to each machine. The final vote will be recorded by the District Clerk after verification by each election inspector assigned to the respective machine(s).
6. Miscellaneous. Any questions regarding poll watchers are to be directed to the District Clerk. All actions of poll watchers shall be unobtrusive and may in no manner interfere with the orderly conduct of the voting. As any communication between poll watchers and voters may be perceived by others as electioneering, poll watchers should refrain from speaking with voters while in the polling place.



Please note that as the individual charged with ultimate responsibility for the election, the District Clerk shall be entitled to exclude anyone whom he/she determines to be violating any of the foregoing poll watching rules or who in any other way interferes with the fair and orderly conduct of the election.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Cattano, and a discussion took place.

Mr. Raab made a motion to amend section 1, which would allow registration of poll watchers up until 10:00 a.m. on the day of the vote.

Ms. Pineyro seconded the motion and it failed.

The vote for the amendment was:

- Yeas; Pineyro and Raab.
- Nays: Cattano and Coward.
- Abstentions: Ellerbe.

A vote was called for on the original motion regarding Poll Watching The vote was:

- Yeas;. Coward, Cattano and Ellerbe.
- Nays: 0
- Abstentions: Pineyro\* and Raab.

Motion passed.

#### **Resolution Regarding Student Attendance Policy**

Mr. Raab made the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, due to certain exigencies, the program referred to in the Board of Education's Student Attendance Policy that is intended to provide to students who exceed the maximum number of Absences, Tardies, Early Departures (ATEDs) an opportunity to attend an additional program equal in content and time to the amount of class time which they have missed, has not been fully implemented, and

**WHEREAS**, had the aforesaid program been offered, students would have had the opportunity to obtain restoration of course credit that would otherwise have been denied,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that those students who during the school year 2002-03 exceeded the maximum number of ATEDs, shall not be denied course credit solely on the basis of exceeding the maximum number of ATEDs. However, if the foregoing does not result in a passing grade, the affected student shall be permitted to attend summer school, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be in effect only for the school year 2002-03, and shall have no further force and effect and shall expire in all respects effective June 30, 2003.

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

#### **Executive Session**

At 10:40 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Coward to go into Executive Session to discuss two particular matters of personnel and negotiations.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Raab, and the motion passed.

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

At 11:45 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Raab and a second Ms. Pineyro the Board returned to open session. The vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

#### **Adjournment**

At 11:47 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Raab and seconded by Dr. Cattano the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Pineyro and Raab.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bediako, Ed.D.

Clerk of the Board

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#### ***\* Addendum***

I abstain to paragraph one of the resolution because as in the general election law it states that Candidates can have sworn affidavits as to whom they want serving as their poll watchers. The candidates should have had the opportunity to submit their list by noon of the day preceding the election. In addition as to paragraph six of the resolution title Miscellaneous - the resolution should have stated that separate to pollwatchers bilingual personnel or interpreters should be available and trained ahead of time to ensure proper conduct and neutrality guaranteeing strict translation of the voter's needs and requests/questions. By having these individual train ahead of time it will ensure that poll watchers are not perceived as electioneering. We must not make it more difficult for immigrants that have become citizens of this country to participate in government and especially in their American children's education!

Carmen Julia Pineyro  
Board Of Education, Trustee

