

**Freeport Union Free School District
Freeport, New York**

**Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting
of December 17, 2003**

The regular action meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday December 17, 2003, in the Cafeteria of the Bayview Avenue School.

Dr. Cattano called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and he 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
- Ms. Sunday F. Coward, Trustee (arrived 7:36 p.m.)

Absent were:

- none

Also present were:

- Dr. Eric L. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Mr. Robert Harris, Executive Director 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

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 63.

On a motion by Mr. Raab and a second by Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Harris was elected Clerk Pro Tem. The motion passed unanimously, the vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro, and Raab.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Eric L. Eversley, Superintendent of Schools introduced the Principal of Bayview Avenue School of Arts and Sciences, Mrs. Jelain Hubbard. Ms. Hubbard introduced Mr. Huisman, Ms. Jones and Ms. Isreal. With the assistance of Ms. Jones and Ms. Isreal, the third grade class of Mr. Huisman presented a program in "Celebration of School". The presentation was also assisted by several fourth grade announcers.

The announcers from the fourth grade were:

- Brea Baker
- Isaiah Barnes
- Jovett Llanos
- Angelica Millan
- Natalie McLeod
- Leondre Simmon
- Lakiea Simmons

The third grade students from Mr. Huisman's class were:

- Joshua Arias
- Nicole Brockington
- Alexandra Caggiano
- Daniel Campbell
- James Clougher
- Rebekah Cruz
- Alexander Delacruz Rodriguez
- Patricia Guzman
- Christopher Hassell
- Aaron Johnson
- Unique Johnson
- Perla LaGara
- Carlos Pena
- Oscar Ponce-Espana
- Kaitlyn Quinton
- Marcus Rhoden
- Phillip Rose
- Elijah Skeete
- Yeison Vasquez-Bonilla
- Danielle Walker
- Leeandra Willis
- Brendon Wright

Dr. Eversley then introduced the new Head of Security Mr. William Schmitz. He was welcomed by all.

The Superintendent also discussed the two football trophies on display at the meeting. The trophies were won by the

Freeport Football Team, and they have won the trophy 9 times.

Dr. Eversley then introduced Mr. Kishore Kuncham, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Mr. Kuncham discussed the Senior Citizens Exemption/Person's With Disabilities Exemption. He explained to the Board that the impact would be very small.

Mr. Kuncham then discussed the Finance/Budget Advisory Committee and availability of openings on the committee. He discussed that last year there were 21 members of the committee and 18 members have returned this year.

The Board discussed the process for selection of members of the committee. After some discussion the following motion was made by Mr. Raab:

Be It ***Resolved*** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby increases the Finance/Budget Advisory Committee by three members, one in each category of Renters, Past School Board Members and Veterans.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ellerbe, and the motion passed. The vote was:

Yeas: Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Nays: Cattano and Coward.

Abstentions: none.

Mr. Kuncham informed the Board and the public that applications were available and that a lottery would be held at the next Board of Education planning/action meeting on January 7, 2004.

Dr. Eversley then informed the Board and public that Freeport Public Schools have been nominated for the People's Hope Award by the United Way.

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 six minutes. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

Board of Education Committee Reports

Mr. Raab discussed with the Board the issue of suggestion boxes placed in the District.

Mr. Ellerbe gave a report on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity meeting. The group discussed financing and funding to schools in New York State.

Items for Action

On a motion by Ms. Coward and a second by Mr. Raab the following items, on a consent agenda, were approved unanimously:

Acceptance of the Minutes

Resolved that the Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the following meetings as written:

- November 12, 2003;
- November 24, 2003;
- November 25, 2003; and,
- December 3, 2003

Leave of Absence

Resolved that the Board hereby grants a request for leave as listed in the following Change of Status Report:

- **Samantha Mentzinger**, Special Education Teacher, effective November 17, 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 a change of status as listed in the following Change of Status Report:

- **Patricia Wesselhoft**, 5 Hr. Food Service Worker, change to a 6 Hour Food Service Worker, effective December 1, 2003.
- **Fanny Hermida**, 4.5 Hr. Food Service Worker, change to a 5 Hour Food Service Worker, effective December 1, 2003.
- **Grazielle Herman**, 4 Hr. Food Service Worker, change to a 5 Hour Food Service Worker, effective December 1, 2003.
- **Susan Lembcke**, 4 Hr. Food Service Worker, change to a 5 Hour Food Service Worker, effective December 1, 2003.

Resignation of Staff

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

- **Daniele Trepeta**, Permanent Substitute, effective November 21, 2003.
- **Donna Davis**, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective December 1, 2003.
- **Kelly Maher**, Permanent Substitute, effective December 4, 2003.

Termination of Staff

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby terminates the services of the following employee as listed in the following termination report.

Daniel Rodriguez, Head Custodian I, effective December 5, 2003, deceased.

Appointment of Staff Report

Temporary Appointments

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 - 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:

Doris Lee, Special Education Teacher, (replacing S. Mentzinger, LOA) a temporary appointment effective November 24, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the U5D Schedule at \$51,579. Assignment: Dodd.

Daniele Trepeta, Special Education Teacher, (replacing M. Rodgers, LOA) a temporary appointment effective November 24, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Compensation will be on step 1-1A of the U5C Schedule at \$43,670. Assignment: FHS.

Permanent Substitute

Resolved that the Board hereby approves the permanent substitute teacher(s) as listed in the attached Appointment of Staff report

Linda Lorenzotti, Permanent Substitute, (replacing K. Maher, resigned) a temporary appointment effective December 8, 2003 through June 30, 2004. Compensation will be according to the Substitute Pay Rate of \$125 per day. Assignment: Columbus.

Civil Service Category Appointments

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.

Cynthia Marcellus, 4 Hour Food Service Helper, (replacing G. Herman, change of status) a probationary appointment effective December 1, 2003. Compensation will be according to the Cafeteria Salary Schedule at \$7,729.92. Assignment: FHS.

Acceptance of the Minutes on the Committees on Special Education and Preschool Special Education

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:

- November 7, 2003;
- November 10, 2003;
- November 17, 2003;
- November 19, 2003;
- November 20, 2003;
- November 24, 2003;
- November 25, 2003;
- November 26, 2003;
- December 3, 2003;
- December 4, 2003;
- December 8, 2003;
- December 9, 2003;
- December 11, 2003.

Individual Action Items

Granting of Tenure

Mr. Raab made the following motion:

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

<i>Administrative Position(s)</i>			
<i>NAME</i>	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>TENURE AREA</i>	<i>TENURE DATE</i>
Carolyn Thompson	Districtwide	School District Administrator	January 8, 2004

<i>Teaching Positions</i>			
<i>NAME</i>	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>TENURE AREA</i>	<i>TENURE DATE</i>
Pauline Craig	FHS	ESL	January 2, 2004
Lolita Beathea	FHS	Physical Education	January 2, 2004
Theresa Manfre	Dodd	Reading	January 2, 2004
Mary Ahearn	Archer	Elementary	January 2, 2004
Yollette Latortue	FHS	Foreign Language	January 2, 2004
Wanda Garcia	Archer	Elementary	January 2, 2004
Annette Jones	Dodd	Mathematics	January 7, 2004
Stephanie Metzger	Bayview	School Psychologist	February 12, 2004

<i>Teaching Assistant Positions</i>			
<i>NAME</i>	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>TENURE AREA</i>	<i>TENURE DATE</i>
Andrea Brown	Archer	Teaching Assistant	January 2, 2004
Fara Streckas	Columbus	Teaching Assistant	January 2, 2004
Nancy Stafford	Atkinson	Teaching Assistant	January 4, 2004
Linda Jenkins	Dodd	Teaching Assistant	February 12, 2004
Dalal Attalla	FHS	Teaching Assistant	February 12, 2004
Susana Gonzalez	Atkinson	Teaching Assistant	February 26, 2004
Chrystal Pearce	Atkinson	Teaching Assistant	February 26, 2004

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

Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Senior Citizens' Exemption

Ms. Piñeyro made the following motion:

WHEREIN recent legislation has been passed in relation to Senior Citizens Exemptions, the new law, Chapter 512 of the laws of 2003, amends Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law and raises the maximum income for which a fifty percent exemption may be granted from \$21,500 to \$24,000 and,

WHEREAS this exemption will take effect for assessment rolls with taxable status dates occurring on or after January 2, 2004, and will apply to the 2004-2005 School tax bills, the sliding scale benefits and the maximum benefits will be available, if all options in the law are selected, according to the following table:

INCOME PERCENT EXEMPTION

- Less than \$24,000 50%
- \$24,000 but less than \$25,000 45%
- \$25,000 but less than \$26,000 40%
- \$26,000 but less than \$27,000 35%
- \$27,000 but less than \$27,900 30%
- \$27,900 but less than \$28,800 25%
- \$28,800 but less than \$29,700 20%
- \$29,700 but less than \$30,600 15%
- \$30,600 but less than \$31,500 10%
- \$31,500 but less than \$32,400 5%

BE IT THEREFORE **Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the new law, Chapter 512 of the laws of 2003, amending Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law.

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

Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Persons with Disabilities And limited Income Exemption

Mr. Ellerbe made the following motion:

WHEREIN recent legislation has been passed in relation to Persons With Disabilities And limited Income Exemptions, the new law, Chapter 462 of the laws of 2003, amends Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and raises the maximum income for which a fifty percent exemption may be granted from \$21,500 to \$24,000 and,

WHEREAS this exemption will take effect for assessment rolls with taxable status dates occurring on or after January 2, 2004, and will apply to the 2004-2005 School tax bills, the sliding scale benefits and the maximum benefits will be available, if all options in the law are selected, according to the following table:

INCOME PERCENT EXEMPTION

- Less than \$24,000 50%
- \$24,000 but less than \$25,000 45%
- \$25,000 but less than \$26,000 40%
- \$26,000 but less than \$27,000 35%
- \$27,000 but less than \$27,900 30%
- \$27,900 but less than \$28,800 25%
- \$28,800 but less than \$29,700 20%
- \$29,700 but less than \$30,600 15%
- \$30,600 but less than \$31,500 10%
- \$31,500 but less than \$32,400 5%

BE IT THEREFORE **Resolved** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby adopts the new law, Chapter 462 of the laws of 2003, amending Section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Coward and unanimously passed.

Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Executive Session

At 9:14 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Ellerbe to go into Executive Session to discuss a particular matter of personnel.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Piñeyro and the motion passed.

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

At 9:52 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Raab and a second Ms. Coward the Board returned to open session. The vote was: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Adjournment

At 9:53 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Raab and seconded by Ms. Piñeyro the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was unanimous: Cattano, Coward, Ellerbe, Piñeyro and Raab.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Wayne Harris
Clerk Pro Tem