

January 18, 2012

The regular Planning/Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School. Debra Mulé, Vice President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. She then led the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were: Ms. Debra Mulé, Vice President
Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
Ms. Vilma Lancaster
Mr. Michael Pomerico, Trustee

Absent were: Ms. Debra McQuillan, President

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

Also absent were: none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was 18.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kuncham wished everyone a very Happy New Year. He then proceeded to give an overview of the 2012-2013 Budget. Dr. Kuncham stated that the past three years have difficult years in terms of school budget since the district lost over 8 million dollars in State aid. However, because of the factors, such as, strong fund balance that the district had, we were able to weather the storm until now. It is becoming more difficult with the numerous unfunded mandates, the foundation aid being frozen and now the "tax-cap."

The Superintendent went on to say that we have some difficult choices to make in the next few weeks while we put together next year's budget. Dr. Kuncham informed the public about the Governor's proposed Executive Budget and that at a quick glance, Freeport School District will receive approximately \$1.0 million in additional State aid.

Dr Kuncham introduced Dr. Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Business who made a Power-Point presentation (attached) about the 2012-2013 budget development process and the projected effects of the “tax-cap.”

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

- Employee of the Month of January, Clorinda Pawlak, Assistant Principal of Leo F. Giblyn School. This month’s theme was “Implementing New Ideas”.
- The New York State Association for Continuing/Community Education “NYACCE” has announced that our student, Smaily Ogando, has been selected as “Student of the Year 2012”
- Congratulations go out to all of our students who performed in the 2012 All-County Music Festival.
- Congratulations also go out to the winners of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay/Project Contest. The contest was a shared initiative with the Incorporated Village of Freeport.
- Justin Millan and Emerik Martin along with our Science Coordinator, Dr. Periera, submitted a paper to one of the most prestigious journals in physics education for high school and college levels. Their work was accepted and the article, titled “Identification and Calculation of the Three Dimensional Orbit of an Asteroid” will be published.
- The Cradle of Aviation Museum in partnership with the National Grid Foundation have once again selected Freeport Union Free School District to inspire our students to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).The program provides a variety of methods to engage K-12 students and teachers.
- Isaiah Barnes has made a commitment to play football at Princeton University, congratulations to him!

The Superintendent informed the public that he was invited by the Commissioner of Education, Dr. King to attend the Race to the Top (RTTT) National Convention held in Washington D. C. The 12 States, including New York, who received the RTTT grant from the Federal Government came together to discuss the adoption and successful implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) and other RTTT requirements. The 12 delegates from New York included two school district superintendents and the Freeport Superintendent was one of them. This was a great honor to be invited and it gave Dr. Kuncham the opportunity to interact with the Commissioners and colleagues from other states.

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 Mr. Pomerico and a seconded by Mr. Ellerbe the following item 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:

November 14, 17, 18, 21, 2011

December 5, 12, 15, 22, 2011

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Mulé and Pomerico.

Adjournment

At 9:00 p.m. with no other business on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and seconded by Mr. Pomerico, the Board adjourned the meeting.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Mulé and Pomerico.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Action meeting of the Board of Education will be on January 25, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at Columbus Avenue School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed. D.
District Clerk