

**March 28, 2012**

The regular Action Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, in the Cafeteria of Freeport High School. Debra Mulé, Vice President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m., she then led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent were: Ms. Debra McQuillan, President (health reasons)  
Mr. Michael Pomerico, Trustee

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 176.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kishore Kuncham, welcomed everyone to the Board of Education Action meeting. He thanked Mr. Ernest Kight, Principal of FHS, for hosting the meeting. Dr. Kuncham invited Mr. Kight to present the FHS students who were to be recognized at the meeting. Mr. Kight introduced Mr. Josh Levitt, Student Government Advisor, who introduced the members of the Student Government to present their monthly report. Elizabeth Mulé, Brittany Spell, Stephanie Morales, and Bianca Molina gave an overview of the activities at Freeport High School.

The top ten graduating students were then recognized and presented with pins from the School Board and the Central Administration.

The top ten students of the Class of 2012 are:

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1.) Brea Baker      | 6.) Katherine Monjaras |
| 2.) Lakiea Simmons  | 7.) Marcus Desir       |
| 3.) Shakira Walden  | 8.) Monique Robinson   |
| 4.) Isaiah Barnes   | 9.) Sayyid Abjullah    |
| 5.) Bart Zvitcovich | 10.) Alvin Paredes     |

The following students were also recognized for their achievements:

- **Jonathan Greenwood** won the 300 and 600 meter runs at the Nassau County Class A Championships. He placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 600 at the NYS Winter Track Meet and is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in New York State and 15<sup>th</sup> nationally in that event.
- **Justin Grant** ran a personal best to help the Section VIII Inter-Sectional Relay to a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the NYS Winter Track Meet. He is ranked in the top 25 in the State in the 600 meter run.
- **Maurice Irby** won the Nassau County Wrestling Championship in the 132 lb. weight class. He went on to compete at the NYS Championships where he finished with a 2 and 2 record in one of the toughest weight classes in the State. Maurice earned the Most Outstanding Wrestler and the Champion of Champions Awards at the Nassau County Finals.
- **Isaiah Barnes** and **Jere Brown** for making the All-Long Island Football Team.
- Girls' Varsity Bowling team has won Conference 5 for the second consecutive year! Based on the team's season average they were invited to the County Playoffs. **Yalitza Rodriguez** has been named All-County and **Rebekah Cruz** has been named All-Conference.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education Vice President, Ms. Debra Mulé, presented pins to all the recognized students as well as their coaches.

Mr. Kight then announced Freeport High School's Unsung Hero, the late Mr. Scott Rose, President and owner of a successful local business, Rose Fence. Mr. Rose's family was presented with a plaque and pins in recognition of Mr. Rose's support and commitment to the Freeport Schools during his life time.

Ms. Estelle Weiss then presented the New York Association for Continuing Community Education (NYACCE) Student of the Year, Smaily Ogando. He was also recognized at an awards assembly in Albany, on March 14, 2012. Mr. Ogando was presented with certificates and a pin.

Ms. Monique Retzlaff, Music Teacher, presented some members of the cast from this year's Freeport High School Musical production, Bye, Bye Birdie. They sang 2 numbers from the show which were enjoyed by all.

Ms. Amanda Villalba, Principal of Leo F. Giblyn School, along with the School Librarian, Lisa Eisenberg, recognized the students and teachers of W.C. Mephram High School in Bellmore, who, through the First Book program, donated 2,000

new books to the children of Giblyn School. The Mephram students were: Marc Achtziger, Chris Patten, Lucriza Colangelo, Sarah McCarthy, and Kerry Dennis and teachers were Robin Einbinder and Marie Netto. A plaque was presented in appreciation of their wonderful partnership program.

The Superintendent also recognized and congratulated the following:

- Sue Greca, Director of Second-Languages, recognized by New York State as Bilingual Administrator of the Year.
- Renee Crump, Principal, New Visions School, recognized by the Village of Freeport as a Woman in History.
- Susan Maddi, Assistant Business Administrator, received the School District Business Leader Award from the New York State Association of School Business Officials.
- Estelle Weiss, Director of Adult Continuing/Community Education and to her staff, Jeanne Malone and Marcia Fee, for their outstanding Data and Management of the Adult Ed Program
- Peggy Parigoris, Science teacher at Freeport High School, for being chosen as a Siemens STEM Institute Fellow to participate in the 2012 Siemens STEM Institute.

At 8:43 P.M. a short break was taken.

The meeting was called back to order at 8:55 P.M.

### **Budget Overview:**

Dr. Kuncham began his overview of the proposed 2012-2013 budget by reminding the public of the many challenges facing the district as we continue to wrestle with the Property Tax Cap and dwindling state aid. He announced to the public that recognizing the budget difficulties that the district is facing, the Administrators Union has agreed to take a pay and step increase freeze for the 2012-2013 school year. The Superintendent and his cabinet have already agreed at the beginning of the budget process to take a salary freeze for the 2012-13 school-year. This is the second time in three years that the Superintendent and his cabinet have taken salary freezes.

He informed the public that the district has been in discussion with the Freeport Teachers Association since January to modify their contract to help save jobs and keep programs for the children of the district. While the district was hopeful that the Teachers Union would come through, this did not happen. Fifty-four (54%) percent of the members voted against the revision of the contract. In light of the Teachers' Union vote, and to stay within the tax-cap regulation, as well as insufficient increase in state aid, the district has no choice but to move onto the second level of reductions in the budget.

Dr. Kuncham then introduced Dr. Kenneth Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent for Business, who gave a power-point presentation of the proposed additional cuts

as attached.

### **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 the Agenda only. The Board and administration addressed the comments from the public.

### **Items for Action**

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Lancaster the following items were approved on a Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous: Ellerbe, Mulé, and Lancaster.

### **Acceptance of the Minutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the minutes of the following meetings as written: February 15, 2012; March 7, 2012; March 14, 2012.

### **Personnel**

#### **Leave of Absence**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby grants a request for leave of absence as listed below:

**Gina Newcombe**, Elementary Teacher, effective September 1, 2012 through February 1, 2013, for child care.

**Eddie Chavez**, Groundskeeper, effective March 5, 2012 through March 12, 2012, for health reasons.

**Kristin Fagan**, Guidance Counselor, effective January 23, 2012 through May 1, 2012 for health reasons.

**Tricia Stasi**, Reading Teacher, effective September 1, 2012 through February 1, 2013 for child care.

**Lorrie Greene**, Technology Teacher, effective March 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012, for health reasons.

**Jennifer Sandoval**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective September 1, 2012 through February 1, 2013, for student teaching.

**Patty Konstantinopoulos**, ESL Teacher, effective March 16, 2012 through April 15, 2012, for health reasons.

**Luann Mayer**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective January 30, 2012, extended March 14, 2012, through May 1, 2012, for health reasons.

#### **Resignation of Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letter(s) of resignation from the following staff member(s) as listed below:

**Colleen Vazquez**, Elementary Teacher, effective March 17, 2012, for personal reasons.

**Genevieve Florkowski**, Permanent Substitute, effective March 9, 2012, to accept another position in the District.

**Meghan Mauch**, part-time Teaching Assistant, effective March 23, 2012, for personal reasons.

**Olivia da Silva**, Dean of Students, effective June 30, 2012, for personal reasons.

**Pam Taylor**, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel, effective July 1, 2012, for personal reasons.

#### **Appointment of Instructional Staff - Temporary**

**BE IT 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.

**Genevieve Florkowski**, School Counselor, (replacing F. Polanco, resigned) a temporary appointment effective March 12, 2012 through August 31, 2012. Compensation will be on step 1-2A of the H3D Schedule at \$67,541. Assignment: FHS.

#### **Permanent Substitute Appointments**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby approves the permanent substitute teacher(s) as listed in the following Appointment of Staff report.

**Vanessa Mannanice**, Permanent Substitute, (replacing self, position ended) effective March 12, 2012 through June 22, 2012. Compensation will be \$125 per day according to the Permanent Substitute Rate. Assignment: FHS.

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby appoints the individuals as listed, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

**Laureen Jones, Food Service Helper (5 hour)** appointment effective February 27, 2012. Compensation will be according to the Cafeteria Schedule at \$18,902.55. Assignment: Giblyn.

#### **Appointment of Spring Coaching Staff**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby appoints the individuals listed below as coaches.

Spring Coaching Recommendations  
2011-2012

Kristen Jones	Girls' JV Lacrosse Asst.	Step 1	\$4,886.00
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Dexter France	Boys' Varsity Track Asst.	Step 1	\$4,583.00
Daryl Kevin Allen	Boys' Modified Lacrosse Asst.	Step 1	\$3,702.00
Keith Brown	Summer Weight Trainer	Step 3	\$2,084.00

### **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 Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education for the following dates:

January 5, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, 2012

February 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 16, 29, 2012

March 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 2012

### **Other Items for Action**

On a motion by Ms. Lancaster and a second by Mr. Ellerbe the following item was approved:

#### **Personnel**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the letter of resignation for the purpose of retirement from the following staff member(s) as listed:

**Marion Rizza**, Special Education Teacher, effective June 30, 2012, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 18 years.

**Ettore Cafarelli**, Custodian, effective March 5, 2012, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 10 years.

**Dolores Swick**, Special Education Teacher, effective March 13, 2012, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 12 years.

**Yolanda Broncano**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective June 22, 2012, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 21 years.

**Annie Campbell**, full-time Teaching Assistant, effective July 1, 2012, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 26 years.

**James Boyd**, Cleaner, disability retirement, effective September 10, 2011, after serving the children of Freeport for more than 23 years.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Lancaster, the following item was approved:

#### **Education**

##### **Approval of Student Travel to SUNY Maritime College**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes Freeport High School to conduct a field trip to SUNY Maritime College in Bronx, NY from March 30th through April 1st, 2012 for NJROTC students for the purpose of Leadership Training and so students can experience in an actual military setting the training in bearing, etiquette, and drill emphasized in the NJROTC program.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said authorization is subject to availability of chaperones and to Freeport High School's compliance with all insurance, health, safety and financial guidelines as indicated in the Administrative Procedures.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

On a motion by Ms. Lancaster and a second by Mr. Ellerbe the following item was approved:

**Approval of Student Travel to Philadelphia, PA**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes Dodd Middle School and Caroline G. Atkinson School to conduct a joint field trip to Philadelphia, PA from April 13 through April 15, 2012 for the 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Select Chorale classes to experience a master choral class by adjudicator professors at the university in composition, choral development, enunciation, articulation, breath control, sight-reading and choral literature. In addition, the students will perform at three concerts and will observe the children's chorus of Philadelphia. The tour includes a trip to Princeton, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said authorization is subject to availability of chaperones and to the Dodd Middle School and the Caroling G. Atkinson Schools' compliance with all insurance, health, safety and financial guidelines as indicated in the Administrative Procedures.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

On a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Lancaster the following item was approved:

**Finance**

**RESOLUTION –BUDGET TRANSFER-GENERAL FUND-**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District here by approves a Budget Transfer to the General Fund for March 2012.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

On a motion by Ms. Lancaster and a second by Mr. Ellerbe the following item was approved:

## **Acceptance of a Scholarship**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts a scholarship to be known as the SYNTAX Scholarship in the amount of \$250.

The criteria for this scholarship are: that it be given to a senior with leadership skills, is involved in community service, maintained an 85% average and is pursuing a degree in public relations communications. This scholarship is made possible by a generous donation from SYNTAX.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

## **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.

## **Executive Session**

At 11:02 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for a matter of personnel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lancaster and passed unanimously.

The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

At 12: 01 a.m., on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Lancaster the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

At 12:02 a.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and seconded by Ms. Lancaster, the Board adjourned the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster and Mulé.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed.D.,  
District Clerk