

October 10, 2012

The regular Planning/Action/Budget Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School. Debra Mulé, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m. She then led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent were: none

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
Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director 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 16.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kishore Kuncham, welcomed everyone to the Board of Education Action meeting. He remarked that Saturday, September 29, 2012, Freeport Public Schools hosted a free heart screening for all children and youths ages 12 through 24, at Freeport High School. There was a great turnout and some children were referred for follow-up testing. The event may have saved lives.

Dr. Kuncham also made the following remarks:

- Freeport Memorial Library is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.
- The Third Annual Peace Concert and Art Exhibit was held on October 2, 2012. The wonderful event was attended by over 1,000 people celebrating International Peace Day and Non-Violence Day. This is celebrated on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

- Students from Freeport High School presented a skit which was hosted through the Shanti Fund, with a peace related theme. The students based their skit on new legislation, The Dignity for All Students Act which focuses on anti-bullying. The skit was presented on September 29, 2012, in Hauppauge at the Shanti Fund Peace Competition, and won 1st Place. It was performed again October 2nd, 2012 at Freeport's celebration, and was very well received.
- Freeport's ongoing German Exchange Student Program will be taking place with Freeport hosting about 20 students and 2 Chaperones November 7, 2012 through November 12, 2012.
- There was a recent article in Newsday regarding the large increase in property taxes in Nassau County, between 15.7% in Oyster Bay and 29% in Roosevelt. These increases are not from the school taxes but from the shift in the burden from the business owners to the homeowners and the decrease in the value of the homes in Nassau County.

The Superintendent went on to say that a survey in Freeport indicates that some households have seen decreases in taxes while others have seen increases. He noted that the school budget is only responsible for 2.37% of any increase in property taxes. There are other factors that affect property taxes:

- (a) Change in the assessment
- (b) Shift in the base proportions of the other three classes to the homeowners.

This year again, there has been a shift of some of the burden from commercial property to the homeowners. He again reminded the public that the School District does not set the tax rate, only the tax levy.

Dr. Kuncham informed the public that the district is required by law to have an annual audit of its financial statements. The Board of Education met with two members of the auditing team from the firm, Cullen and Danowski, LLP, Certified Public Accountants and they went over the report in detail. Dr. Kuncham then introduced Mr. Mike Leone of Cullen and Danowski, LLP, Certified Public Accountants to present the Audit report.

Mr. Leone stated that the annual audit is conducted using the auditing standards issued by the AICPA and Government auditing standards. He reported that their firm was happy to give Freeport School District an "unqualified opinion" report also known as a clear opinion on the district's financial statements. This is the highest opinion a district can receive. He also stated that they were required by Governmental Auditing Standards to report on the District's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance with laws and regulations. He stated that based on results of the audit, they did not find material weaknesses in the District internal controls or material findings of noncompliance. In his opinion, the district is in good standing with its finances. He indicated that the auditors reviewed, analyzed and tested Freeport's internal controls and felt the monitoring and segregation of duties,

along with the positive fund balance and AA Bond Rating by Standard and Poors, were very positive. He thanked the Superintendent, his Administration and personnel for their assistance and cooperation during the audit.

Dr. Kuncham thanked Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business and Ms. Susan Maddi, Assistant Director for Business, for their contributions in the positive outcome from the audit.

Mr. Ronald Ellerbe gave a report on the recent Board of Education Legislative Meeting and made minutes available to the Board. The minutes were accepted by the board.

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: September 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 2012.

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

On a motion by Ms. Lancaster and a seconded by Mr. Miller the following item was approved:

Resolution to Nominate a Delegate

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby nominates Ron Ellerbe as the Delegate for the New York State School Boards 2012 Convention representing Freeport Union Free School District.

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

On a motion by Mr. Miller and a seconded by Mr. Ellerbe the following item was approved:

Budget Transfers – General Fund-Final End of Year 2011/2012 and October 2012

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby approves the attached General Fund Budget Transfer for the final end of year 2011-2012 and October 2012.

The vote was unanimous, Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.
On a motion by Mr. Pomerico and a seconded by Mr. Ellerbe the following item was approved:

Acceptance of the Final Copy of the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2012.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby accepts the final copy of the Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2012.

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

Executive Session

At 8:42 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for two matters of personnel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lancaster and passed unanimously.

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

At 9:58 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Miller the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

The vote was; Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Adjournment

At 9:59 p.m. with no other business on a motion by Mr. Pomerico and seconded by Ms. Lancaster, the Board adjourned the meeting.

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

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Action meeting of the Board of Education will be on October 17, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at Bayview Avenue School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed. D.
District Clerk

Freeport Public Schools Fiscal Year 2012/2013		Budget Transfer/Adjustments General Fund October 2012					
FUND	ACCOUNT	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	INCREASE	DECREASE	REVENUE	COMMENTS
A-2112-00-300	Computer Science	Equipment	-	699		599	Departmental Equipment Needs Due to Office Relocation
A-2112-00-450	Computer Science	Supplies	4,953		599	4,354	
A-2845-00-293	Interscholastic Athletics	Tennis Equipment	149	60		209	Increased cost
A-2845-00-274	Interscholastic Athletics	Football Equipment	4,930		60	4,770	
Executive Director for Business				10/3/12			
				Total			

