

January 9, 2013

The regular Planning/Action/Budget Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson Intermediate School. Debra Mulé, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She then led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Absent were: Ms. Vilma Lancaster, Vice 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
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 12.

The President of Board of Education announced to the public that as required by law, the members of the Board toured all the district's facilities on January 8, 2013. She reported that all the buildings are in excellent conditions. She thanked the administrations and the Buildings and Ground staff for the excellent work they are doing to keep all the facilities in very good conditions. She also thanked the community for their trust in the district in approving all the Bond Projects which enable the district to keep the district's facilities in a great condition.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kuncham welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year.

Dr. Kuncham made the following remarks:

- Science Teacher Thomas Doyle, along with two students (Rebecca Robles and Rajiv Chanda) were invited to attend the American Astronomy Society Conference being held in California. Congratulations to them.
- Congratulations to Celebrating Success honoree Amy Lederer. The Leo F. Giblyn Grade 4 Teacher was selected for the theme "Promotes Learning to Full Potential".

- January 11, 2013 will be the annual open house for Private and Parochial School Parents. They are invited to see all the exciting things that Freeport Schools can offer.
- Students from Freeport, Maine High School will be visiting Freeport, New York on January 28, 2013. Since Hurricane Sandy, they have reached out to us and fundraised for our students. They are coming with supplies for Freeport, NY students and will visit Giblyn School.

2013-14 Budget Overview:

The Superintendent informed the public that 2013-2014 budget process has begun since October and the challenges facing all public schools in the coming year are daunting. 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. He made the following remarks:

- The process of developing a budget started in October and November of the past year.
- Negotiations have begun with the Freeport Teachers Association.
- The Education Reform Commission appointed last year by Governor Cuomo presented its preliminary report. The Commission was supposed to bring mandate relief to Public Schools. But the initial reading, it appears that there will be no relief from the state to public schools. The Education Reform Commission report is recommending consolidation of school districts, full-day pre-k programs, extending school day/school year, etc.
- The Tax Cap continues to be a very big issue. It has caused havoc in many districts and will destroy the educational system in New York as it has done in California. We are losing 3 to 5 million every year and there is a direct impact on property taxes and property values.
- On Long Island we have lost over 2,000 positions, 235 inter-scholastic teams have been lost and very soon we will be having very difficult conversations.
- Regional costs differ on Long Island. One dollar on Long Island is worth 65¢ and upstate that same dollar is worth more.

The Superintendent stated that we are looking at a budget gap of over \$4-5 million and everything is on the table.

State of the State Address:

Today Governor Cuomo gave his State of the State address. In his address for Education, he relied heavily on The Reform Commission's initial recommendations. Some of his recommendations for education are:

- Extension of the school day or extend the school year. The State will pay for 100% of the cost.

- Full day pre-kindergarten program for highest need students in the lowest wealth districts.
- Community schools that would serve as a hub for health and family services, along with education.

The Governor's Executive Budget will be out by January 22nd, and at that time we will have a better idea of where we stand. We are also awaiting the decision regarding the County Guarantee lawsuit. If the ruling is not in the school districts favor Freeport will have a new expense of approximately 2 million dollars that will affect the budget.

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. Miller 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:

October 10, 15, 29, 2012

November 20, 29, 30, 2012

December 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 2012

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

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

Ratification of Memorandum of Agreements (February 19 through 22, 2013, Presidents Week Break)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement dated January 4, 2013 between the District and the Freeport Teacher Association.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement dated January 7, 2013 between the District and the Freeport Teacher Assistants and Aides Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign said agreements.

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

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

Approval for an Overnight Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District hereby authorizes Freeport High School and Dodd Middle School to conduct a field trip for one teacher and two students scheduled from January 6 through January 10, 2013, for the purpose of attending the American Astronomy Society Conference to be held in Long Beach, California.

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 Procedure for overnight, off-Long Island, field trips.

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

Executive Session

At 8:28 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe moved to adjourn to executive session for one matter of personnel.

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

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

At 9:29 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, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Adjournment

At 9:30 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, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Action meeting of the Board of Education will be on January 23, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at Leo F. Giblyn School.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary R. Bediako, Ed. D.
District Clerk