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Farmingdale School District

DATE: October 6, 2021

KIND OF MEETING: Board Meeting

PLACE: Band Room, Howitt Middle School Auditorium, Howitt Middle School

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Goldberg, Mrs. D'Amico, Mr. Espinosa, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Lively, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Soete

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Defendini, Dr. Ripley, Mr. Zakian, Dr. Brennan, Dr. Olsen, Mr. Motisi, Richard Guercio, Esq., Reesa Miles, Esq., Mrs. Rogers

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Band Room at the Howitt Middle School by Mr. Goldberg, President of the Board of Education.

Executive Session Motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively, to meet in executive session to discuss specific legal, collective bargaining and personnel issues in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Motion carried 6-0

Meeting recessed for executive session at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Espinosa arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened in the Howitt Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

Reconvene Meeting The public portion of the meeting was called to order by Board President Michael Goldberg at 8:00 p.m. He began by explaining the format of the meeting. He stated that the Board of Education provides two opportunities for the public to express ideas and share thoughts. The first would be after we receive an update from our Superintendent. The second would be after the business portion of the meeting had concluded. He stated that both sessions would be 30 minutes in duration and all speakers would be limited to 3 minutes to give as many people a chance to speak as possible. Members of the public were asked to approach any one of the three microphones in the front of the auditorium. He asked that anyone speaking state their name and address prior to beginning your comments so that the District Clerk can accurately reflect the minutes of tonight's meeting. Mrs. Rogers would let me know when you have thirty seconds left so you can wrap up your comments before the end of the three minutes. You must be stationed at a microphone to express your ideas and share your thoughts with the Board.

Mr. Goldberg stated that the Board of Education respects the varied opinions of the community. Any behaviors that threaten the integrity of the meeting would not be tolerated and would cause the meeting to be adjourned. Complaints or challenges should follow procedures listed under Policies 1400, 1410 and/or 1440, which are included on the materials table. Mr. Goldberg pointed out the emergency exits. He thanked all for their cooperation. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Michael Goldberg asked for a motion to change the order of business.

**Pledge of
Allegiance**

On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively, the order of business contained in the public meeting agenda, set forth in Policy 2350, was amended to allow the Board to vote upon the consent agenda, review and vote on the September 22, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0

Consideration of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mr. Giordano, that the Consent Agenda consisting of Items I (a-c), II (a) and III (a-d) be approved as a whole with action recorded separately.

Business Report

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President

SECONDER: Anthony Giordano, Trustee

AYES: Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Acceptance for File of Financial Reports

Acceptance of the Extra Curricular Report - July & August 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept for file the extra-curricular report for Farmingdale High School, Weldon E. Howitt Middle School, Albany Avenue Elementary School, Northside Elementary School, Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School and Woodward Parkway Elementary School for the months of July & August 2021 pursuant to the authority contained in Section 170.2 of the regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Acceptance of the Revenue and Expenditure Report - August 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept for file the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of August 2021 pursuant to the authority contained in 170.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and in accordance with Board Policy 6600.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report - August 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept for file the Treasurer's Report for the month of August 2021 pursuant to the authority contained in Section 170.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and in accordance with Board Policy 6600.

Approval of Contracts and Agreements

Approval of Special Education and General Education Contracts RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale UFSD Board of Education approve the following contracts for Special Education and General Education services for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and that the Board President be authorized to sign said contracts.

LOCUST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MILL NECK MANOR SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Approval of Special Education RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education approve Special Education Services Contracts for the following school districts for non-resident students attending non-public schools within the boundaries of the Farmingdale

**Services
Contracts for the
2020/21 School
Year (Copiague
& Wyandanch)**

Union Free School District for the 2020/21 school year, and that the Board President be authorized to sign said contracts.

(Copiague & Wyandanch)

**Approval of a
Rental Contract
Agreement with
The Costumer**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve a Rental Contract Agreement with The Costumer to provide costumes for the Farmingdale High School play "Once on this Island" and to authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate agreement.

**Approval of an
Agreement with
Challenge Day**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve an Agreement with Challenge Day to provide the Challenge Day Program at Farmingdale High School and to authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate agreement.

**Approval of the
Pear Deck Terms
of Service
Agreement for
the 2021/22
School Year**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve the Pear Deck Terms of Service Agreement (Pear Deck is an interactive learning tool) for the 2021/22 School Year and authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate agreement.

**Approval of a
Letter of
Agreement with
ATC Healthcare
Testing and
Screening**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education approve a Letter of Agreement between the Farmingdale Union Free School District and ATC Healthcare Testing and Screening, LLC., and to authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate agreement.

**Approval of a
COVID-19
Third Party
Contractor
Testing and
Vaccination
Compliance
Agreement and
Rider**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve a COVID -19 Third Party Contractor Testing and Vaccination Compliance Agreement and Rider for the 2021/22 School Year and authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate agreement.

**Approval of
Declaration of
Obsolete
Textbooks**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education declare a schedule of textbooks as obsolete and disposed of in accordance with Board Policy 6900.

Items for Action

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President

SECONDER: Anthony Giordano, Trustee

AYES: Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Approval of a RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District

Memorandum of Agreement with the Farmingdale Federation of Teachers, and the Teacher Aides, Bodily Hygiene Aides and School Monitors Units

approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the Farmingdale Federation of Teachers and the Teacher Aides, Bodily Hygiene Aides and School Monitors Unit of CSEA regarding class coverage from September 2, 2021 through September 21, 2021 and authorizes the Board President to execute such Agreement.

Superintendent's Report

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President

SECONDER: Anthony Giordano, Trustee

AYES: Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Personnel Items -- Instructional

Instructional: Administrative Tenure Recommendation RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District place a staff member on tenure in accordance with Education Law of the State of New York and Board Policy 9251. In recommending tenure, the Superintendent has based his decision on the record of performance of the staff member during the tenure period as reported by the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Administration, the Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Organizational Development, the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, the Assistant to the Superintendent for Business, and others in supervisory positions. Tenure becomes effective on the date noted hereon contingent upon continued satisfactory performance in the job until said date tenure becomes effective.

Instructional: Resignation RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept an instructional personnel action: "Resignation," effective on the date noted hereon and for the reason stated.

Instructional: Appointment / Internship RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve an instructional personnel action: "Appointment / Internship", in accordance with Board Policy 9230. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget. Part time positions are annual appointments.

Instructional: Rescind Appointment / Project Read (Part-time, Hourly Position) RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve an instructional personnel action: "Rescind Appointment: Project Read (Part-time, Hourly Position)".

Instructional: Appointment / RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve an

**Project Read
(Part-time,
Hourly Position)**

instructional personnel action: "Appointment: Project Read (Part-time, Hourly Position)", at the stated rate per hour, in accordance with Board Policy 9230. Appointment does not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget. Part time positions are annual appointments.

**Instructional:
Appointments /
2021-2022
Secondary
School
Leadership
Team**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / 2021-2022 Secondary School Leadership Team." Designations and stipends are in accord with the approved budget.

**Instructional:
Coaching and
Extra Curricular
Appointments**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Coaching and Extra Curricular Appointments", in accordance with Board Policy 5200. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget. Stipends are contingent upon completion of assignments.

**Instructional:
Appointment of
On Call, Per
Diem Substitute
Teachers**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Appointment of On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Teachers", subject to termination at any time.

Personnel Items -- Non-Instructional

**Non-
Instructional:
Appointment /
CSEA-DWO**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Appointment / CSEA-DWO", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointment does not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

**Non-
Instructional:
Appointments /
CSEA-Security
Aide**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Appointment / CSEA-Security Aide", effective on the date noted hereon.

**Non-
instructional:
Rescind
Appointments /
TASM**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Rescind Appointments / TASM", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations.

**Non-
Instructional:
Resignations /
TASM**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Resignations / TASM," effective on the date noted hereon and for the reason stated.

**Non-
Instructional:
Appointments /
TASM**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / TASM", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

Non-Instructional: Appointments / Food Service

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / Food Service", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

Non-instructional: Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Food Service Workers

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Food Service Workers", subject to termination at any time.

Non-instructional: Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute School Monitors

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute School Monitors", subject to termination at any time.

Non-instructional: Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aides

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aides", subject to termination at any time.

Non-instructional: Appointment of On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Typist Clerks

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel actions. "Appointment of On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Typist Clerk", subject to termination at any time.

Approval of the Committee on Preschool Special Education Placements Report and Acceptance for File of Said Report

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Farmingdale UFSD Board of Education approve and accept for file the Committee on Preschool Special Education Placements Report by the Director of Special Education dated September 19, 2021, in accordance with New York State Education Part 200 Regulations.

Approval of the Committee on Special Education Placements Report and Acceptance for File of Said Report

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Farmingdale UFSD Board of Education approve and accept for file the Committee on Special Education Placements Report by the Director of Special Education dated September 19, 2021, in accordance with New York State Education Part 200 Regulations.

Items for Discussion and Action

2021 Proposed Discussion:

**NYSSBA
Amendments &
Resolutions**

Board President Michael Goldberg introduced Kathy Lively and asked for an update on the New York State Schools Boards Association Annual Resolution Convention. Mrs. Lively stated that she has attended the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Resolution virtual meeting. Five new resolutions were brought forward that evening; none had been vetted by the organization's resolution committee. Mrs. Lively plans to vote against those resolutions at the convention unless they are substantially changed. Mrs. Lively stated that the N-SSBA had approved all other resolutions. She plans to use her judgment during the convention and vote accordingly as the district's voting delegate. Mr. Goldberg thanked Mrs. Lively for all of her work.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President

SECONDER: Kathy Lively, Trustee

AYES: Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

**Board
President's
Update**

Board President Michael Goldberg made two announcements prior to the Superintendent's update. The first update was related to the litigation associated with local control and the petition received at the previous board meeting. Mr. Goldberg stated that the Board of Education had met and made the decision to meet with the legal team that was overseeing the Massapequa and Locust Valley lawsuit. The law firm determined that they could not meet with the Farmingdale Board of Education as there was a conflict of interest due to representation of a separate legal matter. The Board of Education decided to refrain from working with a separate counsel as any decision associated with the lawsuit would impact all school districts.

Mr. Goldberg also stated that the cheerleaders had expressed an interest in allowing eighth graders to participate in the Varsity Competition Team. Mr. Goldberg stated that the Board of Education has directed the Policy Committee to review the policy and the Board will report back at a future meeting.

**Superintendent's
Update**

Board President Michael Goldberg introduced Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini and asked for his monthly update. Mr. Defendini began his update with follow up information from the September 22 regular meeting. He stated that the Board of Education has listened to the cheerleaders regarding selective classification, moving middle school cheer members to the high school level. They have directed the district's Policy Committee to review their policy and provide recommendations to the Board of Education. Additional information will be provided at future board meetings.

Mr. Defendini introduced Samantha Black, Director of Social Studies, to the Board of Education. The Board had accepted the superintendent's recommendation for tenure and he and the board trustees congratulated Mrs. Black on this achievement.

Mr. Defendini reported on this year's high school Band Camp. He noted that there were over 300 people in attendance at the camp, including students, chaperones and teachers. The half time show was practiced extensively; the Senior Send Off and the annual volleyball competition were all in place. Mr. Defendini thanked Ms. Pellettiere, Mr. DeMasi, Mr. Abrams and all of the volunteers who made the weekend a success.

Mr. Defendini reported that the Pep Rally would be taking place on Friday, October 15. The plan is to have the event take place outdoors. More information would become available from the high school administration.

Mr. Defendini provided a follow up on the questions he has been receiving regarding parent meetings, open houses and other traditional indoor events and the limitations in place for in-place visits. He expressed that the district is doing what it needs to do to keep schools in session. Limiting visitors is difficult and is contrary to the Farmingdale way; however, for now the limits are in place to limit student and staff contact.

Mr. Defendini was pleased to announce that the work that began in January, 2020, called the "Portrait of a Graduate" which has since been interrupted due to the pandemic, is now about to begin. He described the purpose of this work which will define the values that we, as a community, believe are most important in the development and education of our students. Mr. Defendini introduced Dr. Brennan. Dr. Brennan described the process, which will begin with the Districtwide Shared Decision Making Committee. The first meeting will take place in October, and the hope is that stakeholders from across the community will participate, including parents, guardians, former students, current students, alumni, business owners, post- secondary institutions and so on. The hope is to engage folks with interesting perspectives to develop a shared road map-a North Star - that will focus our budget allocations, professional development and all the other components of the work we do. Mr. Goldberg stated that the Board is excited to get this work back on track.

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the first public participation.

Public Participation

A resident read an excerpt from an email he had received from a PTA member.

Several students and competition cheer members asked Board members to consider bringing eighth graders up to the Varsity level to participate as flyers on their team.

A parent asked specific questions about the district's participation in the American Rescue Plan Act and the requirements embedded in the language of the law. Her questions included a request for information as to when the agreement will expire, what are the requirements placed on the district, how will funds be spent, what are the benchmarks required, is there an exit available to the district, was it voted on by the Board of Education, and if there is a conflict of interest for board members.

A resident expressed concern regarding mandated vaccinations as implemented in the State of California.

A parent expressed her disappointment with the decision to disallow in person meetings and parent visits.

Board of Education Minutes

Board of Education - Board Meeting - Sep 22, 2021 8:00 PM

RESULT: ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President

SECONDER: Mario Espinosa, Trustee

AYES: Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Board President Michael Goldberg asked the trustees if there were any committee reports.

Board Committee

Mr. Espinosa reported that the Republic Airport Commission would hold it's meeting next week via zoom. This will take place on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. and the zoom link is on

Reports

their website. He stated that there was no update on the Library Board of Directors meetings since last month.

Mrs. D'Amico reported on Band Camp. She was able to attend as a chaperone and was extremely impressed with every aspect of the weekend program. She was proud to be a Daler, a mom and a board trustee.

Mr. Goldberg attended the SEPTA annual meet and greet. He thanked SEPTA for coordinating this wonderful evening. He was also pleased to report that the event was attended by many staff members, related service providers, administrators and parents.

Mrs. Lively reported on the Farmingdale Youth Council winter program registration, including the cultural arts, gymnastics, sewing and swim programs. She reported on the activities of the Chamber of Commerce, including the document shredding event, the ribbon cuttings, the October 14 comedy night, and the Fall Family Day. All events are fund raisers, which help to fund scholarships for our high school seniors. She also attended the Farmingdale Council of PTAs meeting. She thanked the men and women of the PTA for all of their efforts.

Mrs. Soete stated that St. Luke's would held its annual Trunk or Treat event. Activities planned include face painting, games, tattoos, and coloring.

Board**Correspondence**

Board President Michael Goldberg asked the District Clerk if there had been any correspondence. Mrs. Rogers reported that the Board of Education received a number of emails requesting that the district participate in the legal action regarding mask mandates and local control. The Board also received a number of emails that opposed this participation. There was an email regarding mask breaks and a second email regarding a specific issue related to the mask accommodations. A parent expressed concern regarding the possibility of mandated vaccines. A resident asked for an individual meeting with two board members regarding the Facilities Advisory Committee. A student expressed her hope for a change to allow 8th graders to participate in the competition cheer team.

Public**Participation**

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the second public participation.

A resident spoke about the audio issue he was experiencing on his live feed through Facebook.

A resident stated that the petition was all about local control, not mask mandates.

A resident asked that minutes and agendas be updated on the website. He asked for a phone call from the Board members who are participants of the Facilities Advisory Committee. He spoke about the sound system at board meetings many years ago.

A resident announced the TedX event on October 9. This will take place at Charlotte's Speakeasy and will be live streamed. He congratulated the members of the community who were advocating for their children. He expressed concern that members outside the community were driving the conversation, gas lighting and live streaming information in inappropriate ways. He encouraged everyone to work together for the benefit of Farmingdale Schools.

A resident asked the Board and administration to respond in a more timely fashion. He stated that he loves the community and is only advocating for his children.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mr. Espinosa the meeting was adjourned.

Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk

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