

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, **March 11, 2008**  
Mahopac **Falls Elementary School**, 8:00 PM

**MINUTES**

1. CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT: Ralph Anker, Giulio Cefaloni, Rose Fabiano, Patricia Greenwood-O'Keefe,  
William Hines, Penny Swift, Vinnie Trinchitella

ABSENT: John Malara

STAFF: Robert J. Reidy, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Assistant Superintendents: David  
Chapman/Business; Vincent Quartararo/Human Resources; Donald Beverly/Pupil  
Personnel Services and Informational Technologies; Dorothy Gilroy, District Clerk

OTHERS: Gus Mountanos, Esq.

2. CONVENE: At 6:03 p.m., President Swift called the meeting to order in the main office conference  
room of the Mahopac Falls Elementary School and moved immediately into executive  
session for the purpose of discussing particular personnel issues and contractual matters.

**Moved by Mrs. Fabiano, seconded by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe carried unanimously.**

At 8:01 p.m., the board returned to public session in the auditorium of the Falls School  
with the pledge of allegiance to the flag with approximately 100 people in attendance  
with the majority being staff members.

**Moved by Mrs. Trinchitella, seconded by Mrs. Fabiano carried unanimously.**

3. RESIDENT COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Mr. Richard LaFredo requested additional information on the following: Items #17.B.1., #18.A.,  
#18.B. and #18.C. President Swift, Mr. Chapman and Dr. Reidy responded, giving detail on each of  
these items.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

- District Clerk Gilroy announced that petitions are available for anyone interested in running for a  
board of education trustee seat for the May 20th Election.
- Clerk Gilroy read a letter from Elsa Petix, Adult Education Director in regard to the satellite  
Quilting & Craft Class for senior citizens that has been in existence since 1980 and displayed a  
picture of the "Noah's Ark" quilt that they donated to the Mahopac Library for their continued  
assistance and support. The quilt may be seen hanging in the Children's Room at the Library.
- Presentation of a donation to the HS Arts Department - Sue Kallmeyer and Rosemary Iaboni,  
Friends of Mahopac Drama Company presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to HS Principal  
Mr. Aaron Trummer to upgrade the High School sound system. When giving thanks to the Drama  
Company parents, Mr. Trummer commented that the HS Arts Department is one of the finest in  
the area due to the strong support from this group and thanked them on behalf of the students and  
staff for continuing excellence in the Arts.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS

GENERAL 'A' FUND WARRANTS:

# 47,	CHECKS # 120768 TO 120896,	\$ 921,231.93,	02/06/08
# 48,	CHECKS # 120897 TO 121018,	\$ 291,769.20,	02/14/08
# 50,	CHECKS # 165, 121019 TO 121219,	\$ 377,495.98,	02/29/08

CAPITAL PROJECT 'H' FUND WARRANTS:

# 08,	CHECKS # 2023,	\$ 15,975.50,	02/06/08
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TRUST & AGENCY 'T' FUND CHECKS:

# 21,	CHECKS # 8080 TO 8099, 150000,	\$ 15,140.92,	02/14/08
# 22,	CHECKS # 8100 TO 8120, 22008	\$ 64,474.38,	02/29/08

5.a. INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT - attached

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - Received for Filing, **January, 2008**

**Items #5., 5.a. and 6., were moved by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe, seconded by Mr. Ankier, carried unanimously.**

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 2/12/08 EXCEL Vote Extracts/Minutes

**Moved by Mr. Cefaloni, seconded by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe, carried 6 ayes, 1 abstention (Mrs. Ankier).**

- 2/12/08 Regular Monthly Board Meeting

**Moved by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe, seconded by Mrs. Fabiano, carried 6 ayes, 1 abstention (Mr. Ankier).**

8. STUDENT REPORTS - M.O.S.T. President Archana Rajan and Vice-President Emma Boehm reported on the following activities at the high school last month including work and donations to the Putnam Humane Society and St. John's Food Panty; MS Walk Fundraisers and community event; Spring Fest and announced Illusion Concert this Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. Mr. Trummer complimented the students who attended the Junior Prom which was a perfect evening with not one single incident and also gave thanks to Villa Barone's on Route 6 for how wonderful they treated all of our students.

President Swift took executive privilege of changing the order of the agenda this evening.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**Falls Elementary School Goals** - Principal Carol DeAlleaume gave a brief overview of the five goals that were developed for the Falls School including implementation processes; supplemental resources; computer software programs; evening reading program for students and parents; staff development; workshops and grade level meetings. Mrs. DeAlleaume also gave an update on her special education responsibilities including regular monthly meetings with principals and staff from all of the buildings.

Dr. Reidy thanked Mrs. DeAlleaume for all of the work that she does, wearing many large hats; appreciates her leadership and professionalism and congratulated her on receiving tenure this evening.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - continued

- Dr. Reidy reported on the **EXCEL Vote** that gave the District the opportunity to receive a 1.7 million dollar grant from the State and leverage that into almost 5.8 million dollars. He thanked the community who came out and voted, allowing us to go forth with this project and to use our capital reserve money and explained that this was a one-time grant. He cleared up a question stating that we cannot use this grant in the district's budget to reduce taxes; that this grant had to be used for infrastructure and technology use only.

President Swift congratulated Dr. Reidy and his staff for all of the time and effort that went into the EXCEL Vote.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Board of Education Chairpersons

Transportation - Mr. Ankier reported that the committee has not meet recently but reported on the following: Mr. Harkins and Margaret Corsino Lisi had conducted a refresher course with drivers and monitors for all of our special needs children; full time drivers met with Putnam County Emergency Services and Energy for a refresher course on the Emergency Response Plan we have for Indian Point. Mr. Ankier reported that once again this shows the District's commitment in regard to transportation and the safety of our children.

Buildings & Grounds - Mr. Cefaloni also thanked the community for a positive Vote last month reporting on key dates on the project: paperwork in front of the State Education Department; bids will probably go out early next year; work will begin in the Spring next year and work will be completed by the end of next year. He reported that the committee had an extensive meeting on Feb. 26th regarding the concession stand progress and where we are going; close to be fully completed, how it will be operated and responsibilities. Another topic at this meeting was a discussion on a common place memorial. Mr. Cefaloni asked for the Policy Committee to join forces to draw up a policy in this regard. There is a specific proposal from Mr. Scott Wagner and his family who would like to memorialize their son Justin, who we lost last summer, which encompasses a video board to be placed on the 45 yard line of the HS Field; the cost of which will be provided by the Justin Memorial Fund. This video board could also be used for many community events on the field. The Committee recommended that we proceed with this project and have Mr. Chapman give a timeline in due time.

Mr. Ankier reminded the public that Justin Wagner's number was 45 which is symbolic as to where the video board will be placed on the yard line.

Technology - Mr. Cefaloni reported on highlights such as: evaluating Smartphone mobile devices, which has many application which will allow administrators to address many needs.

Mr. Cefaloni reported on the **Health Advisory Council** which meets at least once a quarter. They have an ongoing school nutrition sub-committee to help improve the school lunch menu and the new sub committee is also studying ways to enforce the district's Smoke-free Campus Policy. There will be a brief pre-prom mandatory meeting for enforcing underage drinking laws which is mandatory for parents for junior and seniors to attend. The Health Fair will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4 to 7 pm at the Middle School.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS - continued

Legislative – Mrs. Fabiano reported that the turmoil in the State has changed her report significantly. It is unclear if there will be a State budget put together for the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. It is unclear if the law makers can pass anything meaningful by the end of the June session and it may be a while until we get back on track. Amidst all the uncertainty, Democrats have cancelled plans to unveil their budget and we may not get an on time budget. If the Governor steps down there may be a large transition which could take some time.

Mrs. Fabiano reported on a Breakfast she attended on 2/29 sponsored by the Westchester/Putnam School Boards Association which included 10 legislators who discussed the fiscal issues that we're facing today mainly funding reform. From our area, Assemblyman Ball, Vincent Leibell and Sandy Galef were there. The focus was mainly on fiscal issues; one huge issue being BOCES Aid. There is a strong push to have more and more shared services and Governor Spitzer was proposing a cut to BOCES aid. This would propose a big problem for all districts in this area and Mahopac would be greatly affected because we share a lot of services with a lot of other districts in the area. The Circuit Breaker Tax Relief Program, based on income, which was proposed by Sandy Galef was discussed as well as the Wicks Law, unfunded mandates, pension costs, and health care.

Finance - Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe reported that the committee met both in January and February and continues to meet monthly to move forward toward the May Vote. At the February meeting there was a wonderful presentation by Mr. Chapman explaining the state of affairs along with BOCES Aid; hopefully recouping to get back the potential \$321,000 that we may lose. Hopefully with the state of affairs now, this will fall to our favor. The NYS Budget is due April 1<sup>st</sup> and now we're really unsure as to what's going to happen. Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe stated that most of our district's work is moving toward completion and hopefully in the next month we will have some firm figures to go out to the community with. As usual, there will be plenty of information going out to the community and we also invite you to attend our Finance Committee meetings, the next one being held on March 25th at Lakeview, Room 17.

Special Education - Mrs. Swift reported that the committee did not meet this evening so therefore, Item #18.A. will be removed from the agenda this evening and the committee will meet next month to discuss both March and April placements.

Policy - Mrs. Swift reported that we have approximately five policies that we are looking at and are tentatively looking at March 27<sup>th</sup> or April 3<sup>rd</sup> to hold the next meeting. She requested that if anyone has anything else they would like brought up at this meeting, to please let her know.

Community Communications - Mr. Hines thanked everybody who was involved in getting a lot of information out to the community on the EXCEL Vote. He invited anyone to submit their e-mail address to the district office to be put on the Key Communicator List stating that they want to get the right information out at budget time especially.

Mr. Hines stated that this was a fine memorial to Justin Wagner and also a tribute to the community to rally for a common cause. He sent his condolences and also his congratulations to Mr. Scott Wagner for spearheading this and showing what we are as a community.

Audit – Mr. Hines reported that we will have future meetings with both our internal and external auditors and as soon as we have these meetings he will have more to report.

**CONSENT AGENDA BEGINS**

- Items removed for further discussion

1. Item #17.A. was **moved by Mrs. Fabiano, seconded by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe, carried unanimously.**

President Swift thanked and congratulated Mrs. Carol DeAllelaume for receiving tenure this evening.

2. Item #17.B.1 was **moved by Mrs. Fabiano, seconded by Mr. Cefaloni, carried unanimously.**  
President Swift thanked and congratulated Ms. Lakestream for all of her hard work in the district.

3. Item #18.H. was **moved by Mr. Hines, seconded by Mr. Cefaloni, carried unanimously.**  
President Swift explained that the Board has unanimously agreed to fill this vacant seat at the May Election. We could have accepted applications and held interview, held a special election or chose to wait until May. The fourth highest vote getter will hold that seat for the remainder of the term, which is one year.

4. Item # 18.A. was tabled until next meeting.

Mrs. Swift added Items #18.G. 18.H and 18. I. to the Agenda, reading them aloud for insertion into the minutes.

11. RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

- A. Instructional

**RESCIND: Robert Marino**, school psychologist, Mahopac Middle School, effective 9/30/08.

- B. Non-Instructional

**Alda Alosco**, teacher aide, Mahopac High School, effective 03/28/08.

**Employee #1170**, disability retirement, effective 03/21/08.

12. RESIGNATIONS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

- A. Instructional

**Victoria Genovese**, teaching assistant, Mahopac High School, effective 6/30/08.

**Valerie Lynch**, art teacher, Mahopac High School, effective 6/30/08.

- B. Non-Instructional

**Tracey Shaffer**, Data Analyst, District Office, effective 03/11/08.

13. TERMINATIONS - None

14. LEAVES OF ABSENCE - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

- A. Instructional

1. **Danielle Romano**, special education teacher, Austin Road Elementary School, unpaid childcare, effective 4/16/08-6/30/08.

2. **REVISION: Dona Martirano**, elementary teacher, Fulmar Road Elementary School, unpaid childcare, revised from 2/7/07-2/28/08 to 2/7/07-2/13/09.

3. **REVISION: Amy Mahoney**, English Teacher, Mahopac High School, unpaid childcare, revised from 2/10/07-6/30/08 to 2/10/07-2/3/09.

14. LEAVES OF ABSENCE - continued

B. Non-Instructional

**Gina Walpole**, part-time bus driver, Mahopac Bus Garage, unpaid childcare leave, effective 3/6/08 (½ day)-6/26/08.

15. ABOLISHMENT OF POSITIONS - None

16. CREATION OF POSITIONS - None

17. APPOINTMENTS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

A. Administrative

**Tenure:**

**Carol DeAlleaume**, Principal, appointment to tenure, effective 4/12/08.

B. Instructional

1. **Tenure:**

Recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools for approval for tenure for **Diane Lakestream**, Teaching Assistant, effective 3/1/08.

2. **Term Substitutes:**

**REVISION:** **Susan Leone**, term substitute elementary teacher for Donna Mobiglia, Mahopac Elementary School, revised **from** 9/1/07-3/28/08 **to** 9/1/07-6/30/08 or until Ms. Mobiglia returns, whichever comes first.

**REVISION:** **Kendal Ruotolo**, term substitute special education teacher for Roni Alexander-Cohen, Mahopac Middle School, revised **from** 9/4/07-3/14/08 **to** 9/4/07-6/30/08 or until Ms. Alexander-Cohen returns, whichever comes first.

**Allison Bily**, term substitute elementary teacher for Danielle Romano, Austin Road Elementary School, effective 3/3/08-6/30/08 or until Ms. Romano returns, whichever comes first. Salary: Step 3, BA+39+MA (pro-rata)

3. **Coaching Appointments for the 2007-08 School Year - REVISED (See Attached)**

C. Non-Instructional

1. **Christine Gartlan**, part-time .5 account clerk, Bus Garage, effective 03/10/08, salary as per CSEA contract.
2. **Jaime Hoefler**, part-time .4 teacher aide, St. John's Elementary School, effective 03/03/08, salary as per CSEA contract.
3. **Tracey Shaffer**, Director of Educational Technology and Information Systems, District Office, effective 03/12/08, salary \$93,300.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. SPECIAL STUDENT PLACEMENTS/HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION Meeting

Recommendation of the Committee on Special Education for approval of the special student placements, as attached.

B. HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval of the following health service contract during the 2007-08 school year, with authorization for the board president and the district clerk to sign same:

Greenburgh CSD	-	1 STUDENT	@ \$ 693.64	
White Plains SD	-	3 STUDENTS	@ \$746.70	= \$2,240.10

C. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT - MONITORS UNIT

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Education of the Mahopac Central School District hereby ratifies a Memorandum of Agreement dated March 3, 2008, between the Board of Education of the Mahopac Central School District and the CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO Mahopac CSD Monitors Unit, Putnam County Local 840.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education herewith authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to incorporate said Memorandum of Agreement into the Collective Bargaining Agreement and to execute said Agreement on behalf of the Board.

D. RE-CERTIFICATION OF THE BIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT PLAN FOR PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS AND SCHOOL-BASED PLANNING AND SHARED DECISION MAKING

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval of the current plan on file with the State Education Department Commissioner regarding Regulation Section 100.11: *“School-based Planning & Shared Decision Making”*. This plan has been re-certified, as directed by representatives of the teacher, parent and administrative units.

The Biennial Review Report will be submitted to the State Education Department Office of Planning and Professional Development, electronically, by Dorothy Gilroy, District Clerk. The Biennial Review and District Plan are on file in the District Clerk’s Office.

E. SEORA RE LAKEVIEW ROOF REPLACEMENT

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education is planning a project involving a roof replacement at the Lakeview Elementary School; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has reviewed the components, phases and aspects of the proposed project;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Mahopac Central School District is hereby designated lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEORA) for the proposed project; and

18. RECOMMENDATIONS - continued

E. **SEQRA RE LAKEVIEW ROOF REPLACEMENT - continued**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby determines that the proposed project is a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5( c )( 1) & (8), of the SEQRA Regulations and will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

617.5 ( c ) (1) states:"maintenance or repair involving no substantial change in an existing structure or facility;"

617.5 ( c ) (8) states:"routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities by less than 10,000 square feet of gross floor area and school closings, but not changes in use related to such closings,"

F. **LEGAL COUNSEL APPOINTMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following:

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Education Law §3811 and/or Public Officer's Law §18, employee #2544 and employee #2255 have submitted timely written requests for legal defense and indemnification in an action dated February 5, 2008, entitled Damian Kennedy v. Mahopac Central School District, et al., in which they are named as individual defendants; and

**WHEREAS**, The District's insurance carrier, New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal ("NYSIR") has approved coverage for the defense of the above named individuals and has referred the handling of the matter to The Law Offices of Henderson & Brennan, 222 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, New York 10605;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Law Offices of Henderson & Brennan is designated to represent the above-named individual defendants in the aforementioned legal action; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution should not preclude the District's retention of separate counsel on behalf of any one or more of the individual defendants should a conflict of interest arise amongst the defendants in connection with said litigation.

G. **CIVIL SERVICE REQUEST DENIED**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that based upon the advice of counsel, the Board of Education herewith denies the request of a civil service employee #3166 concerning a contractual issue.

H. **BOARD TRUSTEE VACATED SEAT**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education shall not fill the board seat vacated on or about February 20, 2008.



18. RECOMMENDATIONS - continued

I. **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education herewith accepts the recommendation of the District Buildings & Grounds Committee for the acceptance of a donation from the Justin Wagner Memorial Fund for an electronic video display, in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Memorial Fund;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purchase and installation of said video display shall be at no cost to the district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the servicing of the scoreboard shall be at no cost to the district for the first five years.

J. **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for acceptance of a donation of \$5,00 from the **Friends of Mahopac Drama Company** to the Mahopac High School for use in upgrading the sound system.

**CONSENT AGENDA was moved by Mr. Cefaloni, seconded by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe, carried unanimously.**

19. RESIDENT COMMENTS - Scheduled & Unscheduled

*Neil Belloff* - requested that the administration and board review the Charter and procedures of the Site-based Teams.

*Michael Hunt* shared the good news that the MTA has received word from United Way that they have been chosen as recipient of the Spirit of Labor Award which is given to organizations for their extreme efforts in community service. Mr. Hunt reported that they have also been awarded the 2008 recipient from their parent organization NYSUT for the Regional Community Service Based Award.

President Swift extended congratulations to Mr. Hunt and all his members for receiving the awards.

20. NEXT MEETING - April 8, 2008 - **Fulmar Road School**

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 p.m., the board moved to executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual issues.

**Moved by Mr. Anker, seconded by Mrs. Fabiano, carried unanimously.**

At 9:52 p.m., the board moved to public session at which time the meeting was adjourned.

**Moved by Mrs. Fabiano, seconded by Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe, carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Dorothy A. Gilroy, District Clerk

agenda\march 11 2008 minutes