

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, **January 9, 2007**
Austin Road School, 8:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT: Ralph Ankier, Sandra Calvi, Giulio Cefaloni,
Rose Fabiano, Penny Swift, Vinnie Trinchitella

ABSENT: Patricia Greenwood-O'Keefe, William Hines

STAFF: Robert J. Reidy, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendents: David Chapman,
Candace LaVigne, Vincent Quartararo; Assistant to the Superintendent, Barbara
Walkley and Dorothy Gilroy, District Clerk.

OTHERS: Ralph DeMarco, Esq. Gus Mountanos, Esq.

CONVENE: At 6:30 p.m., President Cefaloni called the meeting to order in the Library
Conference Room of the Austin Road Elementary School. At 6:38 p.m. the board
moved to executive session for the purpose of discussing particular MTA personnel
matters and particular contractual matters and litigation matter.

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

2. PUBLIC SESSION: At 8:10 p.m. the board returned to public session in the cafetorium of the Austin Rd.
Elementary School with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. President Cefaloni
thanked Mr. Meyer for hosting the meeting this evening and enjoys being in his home
school where his children attended.

OTHERS: Approximately 45 people were in attendance, including staff.

3. RESIDENT COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mr. Anthony Fusco requested an explanation of Item #5. - Capital "H" Fund Warrants and how
they are funded and Item #16.A. - Creation of Instructional positions. Mr. Chapman explained that
this encompasses all of our capital (bonding) projects. Mr. Quartararo explained that in AP Physics
and Regents Physics, the classes were too large, and given the nature of the courses, we needed to
bring the class sizes down. In addition, after a review of 9th and 10th grade Mathematics, the
classes were also overloaded. Adjustments had to be made to make sure instruction was delivered
in the appropriate manner, with funding coming from the district's reserve.

4. COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS

GENERAL 'A' FUND WARRANTS:

29, CHECKS # 111761 TO 111884, \$ 177,515.49, 12/06/06
31, CHECKS # 112117 TO 112229, \$ 706,700.25, 12/13/06
32, CHECKS # 111885 TO 112116, \$ 52,018.33, 12/07/06
33, CHECKS # 112052 TO 112388, \$ 202,345.36, 12/21/06

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS - continued

CAPITAL PROJECT 'H' FUND WARRANTS:

# 03,	CHECKS # 2007,	\$ 4,250.05,	12/06/06
# 04,	CHECKS # 2008,	\$ 4,960.00,	12/13/06

TRUST & AGENCY 'T' FUND WARRANTS:

# 14,	CHECKS # 428, 7562 TO 7578,	\$ 9,201.76,	12/06/06
# 15,	CHECKS # 456, 7579 TO 7599,	\$ 27,5508.92 ,	12/21/06

Moved by Mrs. Trinchitella, seconded by Mrs. Swift, carried unanimously.

5.a. INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDIT REPORT – attached

Moved by Mrs. Fabiano, seconded by Mrs. Swift, carried unanimously.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT - November, 2006 Report, received for filing

Moved by Mrs. Swift, seconded by Mrs. Fabiano, carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 12/12/06 Regular Board Meeting

Moved by Mrs. Fabiano, seconded by Mrs. Swift, carried unanimously.

8. STUDENT REPORTS - Tyler Alterman, Treasurer of M.O.S.T. Student Council, reported on activities at the high school being planned for February such as the Valentine Day Ball and the visit to Carmel High School and Carmel coming to Mahopac to improve relationships, exchange ideas and general interaction. He reported on the students' visit to Blythdale Children's Hospital last month bringing toys; the junior class fundraisers and fellow classmates working on Career Day at the high school aiming for a Spring date.

President Cefaloni took executive privilege of changing the order of the agenda.

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Austin Road Goals, Principal Robert Meyer

Principal Robert Meyer thanked the board for this opportunity and reported on last year's ELA test results, NYS Math results and Science results, pointing out some concerns with power point presentations. He also presented his plan and goals to improve student performance. Mr. Meyer discussed item analysis, stated that curriculum work is ongoing and staff development is ongoing with the help of Dr. Walkley. A copy of Mr. Meyer's report is available upon request. To give some of the specifics in regard to program and curriculum, second grade teacher, Mary Ellen Locker and fourth grade teacher Meg McArdle gave presentations of "A Written Response to Literature". A video of their students in class was shown, linking reading and writing as part of the goals of Language Arts.

Mr. Meyer thanked the entire faculty for the job they do on a daily basis stating that they are wonderful people to work with. Dr. Reidy thanked Mr. Meyer and his staff for the very realistic view that they are taking.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Board of Education Chairpersons

Human Resource - Mrs. Trinchitella reported that this committee did not meet last month but anticipates that in the Spring Mr. Quartararo will have more for them to do in this area for the next school year.

Policy - Mrs. Swift reported that this committee did not meet last month.

Special Education - Mrs. Swift reported that the committee met this evening and recommended approval of Item 18.A. on the agenda and reported that annual reviews in this department will begin in February.

Activities Coalition - Mr. Ankier reported that the Coalition had not met last month due to the holidays but a discussion was held last evening at the MSA Meeting. He reminded all that if students did not register for Spring Sports yet to please do so, on the MSA website. Registration begins February 1st, the next payment is due on March 1st and that on March 2nd no one will hear the word Coalition ever again.

Curriculum - Ms. Calvi reported that the committee met this evening to discuss a number of items such as: draft of their Mission Statement; planning a Curriculum Night (tentative date for May 12th); the Principals meeting with Dr. Walkley, of December 14th focusing on grades 3 through 8; students working on authentic research; 5th grade mentoring program which is in a preliminary stage; update on college boards audit and the process of looking at North Colonie Program in regard to the Hopkins Program (waiting for legal counsel). Ms. Calvi reported that the committee would be meeting again probably in February.

Transportation – Mrs. Fabiano reported that Mr. Harkins and the Transportation Department has been working very hard on the elementary late bus runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, which will begin **January 23rd**, and reported that flip-flop day for kindergartners will begin on January 29th.

Legislative - Mrs. Fabiano reported that the committee meeting scheduled for 1/23 has been cancelled. She was happy to report that Governor Spitzer has called for certain proposals for funding reform and various educational reforms. He wants to propose a pre-kindergarten for every four year old within the next four years, lower class sizes, making access for children to state of the art libraries throughout the state, raising charter school caps, reforming Wicks Law and Workers Compensation and the State legislative process. Another Senate proposal that Mrs. Fabiano reported on was the hopeful addition of Star Program rebates to property taxpayers for tax relief. Senate Majority is proposing to establish a Blue Ribbon panel, which would enhance accountability, providing alternative financing methods and a property assessment plan. The Senate is also interested in presenting a cap on school spending. These are just some of the things coming out from the state, for the new year, which are strictly proposed. The state has audited 83 districts in 2006, has 180 districts that they are working on for this year and their ultimate goal is to audit 832 schools by 2010.

CCC - Mr. Cefaloni, reported in Mr. Hines' absence, on the January 4th meeting, which entailed a very lively discussion on the Long-Range Planning Update presented by Mr. Quartararo, budget assumptions for 2007/08, and the community phone survey. In regard to the survey, he stated that the board wants to know what's important to the community as we move forward as a district and encourage all to participate. He reported that we have had a very large response so far. The data will be collected, presented to the board and then presented to the public. (Mrs. Gilroy has been contacting all post offices to locate the Carmel residents' bulk mailing in regard to the survey.)

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS – continued

Technology - Mr. Cefaloni reported on the following highlights: updated version of Finance Manager data system; free analysis of elementary library database; the VADIR state reporting guidelines and Horizon cafeteria software problems with redesign of the installation and corrections made. He reported that the committee will meet again, probably in March.

Finance - Mr. Cefaloni reported, in Mrs. O’Keefe’s absence. He reported that the committee will meet on January 23rd and January 30th at Lakeview School in Room 17 at 7p.m. and invited the public to attend. They will be covering budget assumptions and budget process on the 23rd and more substantial information will be discussed on the 30th. Mr. Cefaloni reminded the public that these Finance Committee meetings are open to the public and there will be time for the public to ask questions.

Administrative - Mr. Cefaloni announced that the locations of the March and April meetings will be moved. See Item 18.G. on the Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA BEGINS

- Items removed for further discussion

1. #18.F. - Mrs. Fabiano asked for clarification of this item. Dr. Reidy explained that these bulletin boards have been in storage and the Drama group has offered to utilize them and exclusive use means that they will take care of them.
2. Add #18.G. – Resolution added to move March 13th Board Meeting location to Lakeview School and April 17th location to the Falls School.

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

- A. Instructional
Fern Ricci, reading teacher, Mahopac Middle School, effective 6/30/08.

12. RESIGNATIONS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

- A. Instructional
1. **Jill Muller**, guidance counselor, Mahopac High School, effective 6/30/07.
 2. **Lisa Robinson**, teaching assistant, Mahopac Middle School, effective 12/15/06.
- B. Non-Instructional
Teresa Mrsich, food service carrier, Lakeview Elementary School, effective 1/9/07.

13. TERMINATIONS - None

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

- A. Instructional
1. **William J. Doyle, IV**, part-time (60%) mathematics teacher, Mahopac High School, unpaid leave, effective 1/4/07-3/31/07.

11. LEAVES OF ABSENCE – continued

2. **William J. Doyle, IV**, part-time (40%) teaching assistant, Mahopac High School, unpaid leave, effective 1/4/07-3/31/07.
3. **Marie Trillas**, teaching assistant, Lakeview Elementary School, unpaid leave, effective 1/2/07-3/2/07.
4. **Sarah Stefanak**, term substitute elementary teacher for Karen Kellogg, Lakeview Elementary School, unpaid childcare leave, effective 1/17/07-3/2/07.
5. **Elena Padron**, teaching assistant, Mahopac Middle School, unpaid leave, effective 12/13/06-12/12/07.
6. **REVISION: Nicole Liebowitz**, special education teacher, Mahopac Middle School, unpaid childcare leave, revised *from* 1/31/07-3/23/07 *to* 2/1/07-3/14/07.
7. **REVISION: Marie Considine**, special education teacher, Lakeview Elementary School, unpaid childcare leave, revised *from* 11/17/06-2/9/07 *to* 11/17/06-6/30/07.
8. **REVISION: Jill Fragoso**, special education teacher, Austin Road Elementary School, unpaid childcare leave, revised *from* 1/6/07-3/21/07 *to* 1/3/07-3/21/07

15. ABOLISHMENT OF POSITIONS - None

16. CREATION OF POSITIONS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

- A. Instructional
One (1) .5 Science Teacher
One (1) .5 Teaching Assistant
One (1) .6 Mathematics Teacher
One (1) .4 Teaching Assistant

17. APPOINTMENTS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

A. Instructional

1. Candidate: **Elena Padron**
Tenure Area: English as a Second Language
Probationary Period: 12/13/06-12/12/09
Certification Area: Professional
Salary: Step 4, BA+39+MA (pro-rata)
2. Candidate: **Kathryn Cuomo**
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Probationary Period: 1/3/07-6/30/09
Certification Area: Level One-Pending
Salary: Step 1 of the Teaching Assistants' Contract

Term Appointments:

3. **William J. Doyle, IV**, *term substitute* mathematics teacher for Kathleen McAvoy, Mahopac High School, effective 1/4/07-3/31/07 or until Ms. McAvoy returns, whichever comes first.
Salary: Step 2, BA+27 (pro-rata)
4. **James E. Hornby**, term substitute part-time (60%) mathematics teacher for William J. Doyle, IV, effective 1/4/07-3/31/07 or until Mr. Doyle returns, whichever comes first.
Salary: Step 1, BA (pro-rata)

17. APPOINTMENTS – continued

A. Instructional

5. **James E. Hornby**, term substitute part-time (40%) teaching assistant for William J. Doyle, IV, effective 1/4/07-3/31/07 or until Mr. Doyle returns, whichever comes first. Salary: Step 1 of the Teaching Assistants' Contract (pro-rata).
6. **Christina D'Amore**, term substitute special education teacher for Ms. Noelle Semenza, Fulmar Road Elementary School, effective 2/26/07-6/30/07 or until Ms. Semenza returns, whichever comes first. Salary: Step 2 BA+45+MA (pro-rata)
7. **REVISION: Beth Hicks**, term substitute special education teacher for Nicole Liebowitz, Mahopac Middle School, revised *from* 11/29/06-3/27/07 *to* 11/29/06-3/14/07.
8. **REVISION: Pamela Dyson**, term substitute special education teacher for Marie Considine, Lakeview Elementary School, revised *from* 9/25/06-2/9/07 *to* 9/25/06-6/30/07.
9. **REVISION: Kristen Lindsay** term substitute elementary teacher for Dona Martirano, Fulmar Road Elementary School, revised *from* 9/1/06-2/2/07 *to* 9/1/06-6/30/07.

Part-Time:

10. **William J. Doyle, IV**, part-time mathematics teacher (60%) effective 12/18/06. Salary Step 2, BA+27 (pro-rata) of the contract between the Mahopac Teachers' Association and the District. Mr. Doyle holds a New York State Initial Certificate in mathematics.
11. **William J. Doyle, IV**, part-time teaching assistant (40%) effective 12/18/06. Salary Step 1 of the Teaching Assistants Contract (pro-rata).
12. **Alyson Schaefer**, part-time English teacher (20%) effective 1/2/07 through 1/26/07. Salary Step 1, BA+32+MA (pro-rata) of the contract between the Mahopac Teachers' Association and the District. Ms. Schaefer will hold a New York State Initial Certificate in English.
REVISION: One-Sixth Assignments
13. **Paul Clements**, English teacher, Mahopac High School revised *from* 10/30/06-12/22/06 *to* 10/30/06-1/26/07
Stipend in accordance with agreement between the District and MTA
14. **Vincent Alexander**, English teacher, Mahopac High School revised *from* 10/30/06-12/22/06 *to* 10/30/06-1/26/07.
Stipend in accordance with agreement between the District and MTA
15. **Adam Lewis**, English teacher, Mahopac High School revised *from* 10/30/06-12/22/06 *to* 10/30/06-1/26/07.
Stipend in accordance with agreement between the District and MTA
16. **Elizabeth McKeon**, English teacher, Mahopac High School revised *from* 10/30/06-12/22/06 *to* 10/30/06-1/26/07.
Stipend in accordance with agreement between the District and MTA
17. National Teacher Recognition (Duration of 10 years)
Thomas Jordan
Stipends in accordance with agreement between the District and MTA

18. **Substitute Teacher/Teaching Assistant/Nurse List - 2006-07 School Year:**

Jennifer Egan	- Physical Education – Certified
Alyson Schaefer	- English – Initial Pending
Greg Turrone	- Childhood Education Grades 1-6 –Initial Pending

17. APPOINTMENTS – continued

19. **Advisement - Student Teachers:**

Stefania Graziano, Mercy College, will be doing her 150 hour internship in guidance at the Mahopac High School, with Joseph Morda, Guidance Counselor, effective 1/2/07.

Margaret Furman, Mercy College, will be doing her student teaching in elementary education at Lakeview Elementary School with Mary Christos (grade 3) from 1/22/07-3/16/07 and Helen Leibell (grade 5) from 3/19/07-5/15/07.

Michael Yoder, Endicott College, will be doing a 30 hour/week internship in physical education at Mahopac Middle School with Sean Lyons, effective 1/2/07.

B. **Non-Instructional**

1. **Teresa Mrsich**, 1st shift cleaner, Mahopac Middle School, effective 1/10/07.
Salary as per USWOM Contract.
2. **Joanne Sullivan**, senior clerk, District Office, effective 1/10/07. Ms. Sullivan has qualified for permanent appointment from the Putnam County Civil Service Senior Clerk List of Eligibles dated 11/21/06. Salary as per CSEA Contract.
3. **Lynn Nole**, senior typist, District Office, effective 1/18/07.
Salary as per CSEA Contract.

Change in Title:

4. **Marguerite Morales**, senior stenographer (managerial/confidential), district office, effective 11/16/06.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. **SPECIAL STUDENT PLACEMENTS/HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

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

B. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS – ANNUAL DISTRICT ELECTION**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools, as forwarded by the district clerk, for approval of the calendar of events leading to the Annual District Budget Vote/Election, May 15, 2007, as per the attached.

C. **HEALTH SERVICE CONTRACT**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval of the health service contract for the 2006/07 school year as per the attached, for:

Carmel CSD (St. James) - 4 students @ \$685.63 = \$2,742.52

18. RECOMMENDATIONS – continued

D. **BOARD OF EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE – Addition**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools, as forwarded by the Board Administrative Committee, for the addition of Vinnie Trinchitella to the Board of Education Curriculum Committee, as per the attached.

E. **BID AWARD - SURPLUS VEHICLES**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval of the Surplus Vehicle Bid Award, to the highest responsible bidder meeting specifications, of December 20, 2006, to Brookfield Auto, as per the attached.

F. **PERMISSION FOR USE OF DISTRICT'S BULLETIN BOARDS**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval to allow the Mahopac Drama Company exclusive use of the Board of Education's Bulletin Boards at the Mahopac High School.

G. **LOCATION MOVES FOR TWO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval to move the locations of the March and April Board of Education Meetings as follows:

March 13 Meeting location - Lakeview Elementary School

April 17 Meeting location & date - 3rd Tuesday and Falls Elementary School

CONSENT AGENDA CONCLUDES

Consent Agenda was moved by Mrs. Trinchitella, seconded by Mr. Cefaloni, carried unanimously.

19. RESIDENT COMMENTS

Scheduled & Unscheduled

Krista Donahoe – commented, as a middle school parent, that Ira Gurkin's transition to Acting Principal has been seamless and he is very well respected by students and parents. She questioned the Science curriculum for next year and asked if a decision has been made. Dr. Reidy responded that the committee, headed by Troy Bilyeu and Ira Gurkin is currently working on this and will forward a recommendation and that a decision will be made in the next few weeks.

Neil Belloff - Mt. Vernon results in the paper were quite impressive and perhaps we could contact them. He questioned the curriculum organizational structure; asked when an update on the curriculum changes at the high school will be made and when can the analysis of ELA scores be expected. Mr. Belloff also asked if there is any way to expand the information available from board of education meetings on the Website.

Dr. Reidy responded that Dr. Barbara Walkley, Assistant to the Superintendent for Curriculum & Staff Development, reports directly to the Superintendent with recommendations on curriculum changes. Dr. Reidy gave a lengthy explanation of activities, curriculum committees, team meetings, exciting work going on, several visitations to other districts on curriculum, review of data, focuses on literacy, site-based teams, item analysis of data, changes in science curriculum at the high school, looking at 9th grade science failure percentage, focus on relationships (PDIS), and goals in regard to curriculum.

19. RESIDENT COMMENTS - continued
Scheduled & Unscheduled

Dr. Walkley thanked the teachers for their presentation this evening which reminds us that test scores represent only one day and are not reflective of the kind of work that's being done. In regard to test scores, she explained that the State has been so far behind in getting data to us in regard to ELA and Math scores. Test results just arrived before the recess break, so due to the lateness, the analysis is late. The teachers are doing an analysis first because they have a better insight and then Dr. Walkley will be doing the analysis.

Parent - questioned if full day kindergarten was mandated.

Mrs. Fabiano reported that we are not mandated at this time for full day kindergarten, that there was only a recommendation made by the Board of Regents. The State has not implemented this proposal as of yet.

Sue Kalameyer, President of the Drama Company - thanked the school board for giving them permission for use of the community bulletin boards at the high school.

Anthony Fusco - questioned if there was a schedule of sub-committee meetings and asked for information on air quality at the middle school.

Dr. Reidy responded that a letter was sent out to all parents in regard to the continuous air quality testing and that we have brought in an industrial hygienist to help us with the situation. A report will be given at the February meeting and he will be reporting on this issue on the next *Upfront with Dr. Reidy* TV broadcast.

Parent - approached the board in support of the Walk-About Program and hopes to see it reinstated in the budget.

Nick Trainer - questioned why the students are getting released on hour early on days rather than one whole day.

Dr. Walkley explained that this enables the district to utilize the ninth period which was received very positively by the staff. The staff is really doing some nice work and we get 16 hours of staff development time.

Parent - questioned the difference between ELA scores at Austin Road as compared to Lakeview School.

Dr. Walkley reported that between the three schools, there was no significant difference in ELA scores.

20. NEXT MEETINGS

- January 23, 2007 - Finance Committee Meeting @ LS, Room 17
- January 30, 2007 - Finance Committee Meeting @ LS, Room 17
- February 6, 2007 (1st Tuesday of the month) @ **Fulmar Road School**

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 p.m., the board moved to executive session, for the purpose of discussing a particular confidential personnel and litigation matter.

Moved by Mrs. Trinchitella, seconded by Ms. Calvi, carried unanimously.

At 11:00 p.m., the board returned to public session at which time the meeting was adjourned.

Moved by Mrs. Swift, seconded by Mrs. Fabiano, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy A. Gilroy,
District Clerk

Note:

*Attachments to Agenda Items that are **not** available on the District's Website, may be obtained and/or viewed at the Administration Office.*

Call: 628-3415, ext. 350 or e-mail Gilroyd@mahopac.k12.ny.us

All monthly business Board of Education Meeting are televised on the Educational Access Channel 22 on a daily basis, at 9a.m. and 9 p.m.