

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING, **JANUARY 10, 2006**  
**Austin Road Elementary School**, 8:00 PM

**MINUTES**

1. CALL OF THE ROLL

PRESENT: Giulio Cefaloni, Frank DeBellis, Jeanne Earle, Rose Fabiano, Patricia Greenwood-O'Keefe, William Hines, Penny Swift, Vinnie Trinchitella

ABSENT: Elaine Simone

STAFF: Robert J. Reidy, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Assistant Superintendents: David Chapman, Business; Candace LaVigne, Student Services; Vincent Quartararo, Human Resources, Curriculum/Instruction and Dorothy Gilroy, District Clerk

2. CONVENE: At 7:04 p.m., President Trinchitella called the meeting to order in the Multi-purpose Conference Room of the Austin Road Elementary School and moved immediately to executive session for the purpose of discussing a particular construction litigation issue and an MTA personnel matter.

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

At 8:15 p.m., the board returned to public session in the Austin Road Cafetorium with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Moved by Mr. Cefaloni, seconded by Mrs. Swift, carried unanimously**

OTHERS: Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

3. RESIDENT COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

1. *Mr. Neil Belloff* approached the board with suggestions for improvement on procedural matters in regard to board of education agenda/minutes. He also requested that agenda attachments be posted on the district's website, if copies could not be brought to the public meetings.
2. *Mr. David Wilson* requested that the board consider restoring the February break next year, voicing his personal opinion that families like to ski; that the district would save on heating costs and there would be a good chance of saving a snow day in February.

President Trinchitella thanked Mr. Belloff and Mr. Wilson for their comments and stated that their points are well taken.

4. COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS

**GENERAL 'A' FUND WARRANTS:**

# 31, CHECKS # 104605 TO # 105023, 12/07/05, \$ 378,931.61  
# 32, CHECKS # 104691 TO # 104931, 12/05/05, \$ 46,848.90  
# 34, CHECKS # 105024 TO # 105126, 12/14/05, \$ 126,010.60  
# 35, CHECKS # 105131 TO # 105260, 12/22/05, \$ 641,172.22

**CAPITAL PROJECT 'H' FUND WARRANTS:**

# 10, CHECKS # 1995, 12/07/05, \$ 12,783.25  
# 11, CHECKS # 1996 TO # 1997, 12/22/05, \$ 550,115.00

**TRUST & AGENCY 'T' FUND WARRANTS:**

# 17, CHECKS # 999, 7055 TO # 7072, 7370111, 12/07/05, \$ 38,136.65  
# 18, CHECKS # 48, 7073 TO # 7095, 7370110, 12/22/05, \$ 51,038.62

6. TREASURER'S REPORT – 11/2005, received for Filing

**President Trinchitella acknowledged receipt and acceptance of the above-mentioned warrants, treasurer's Report and Budget Status Report.**

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 12/13/05 – Regular Monthly Meeting

**Moved by Mr. Cefaloni, seconded by Mrs. Earle, carried 7 ayes, 1 abstention (Mr. DeBellis).**

8. STUDENT REPORTS - M.O.S.T. Student Council Officer

Ally Besharat, President of M.O.S.T. Student Council reported on activities at the high school such as: an update on Student Court; collection of gifts for Blythedale Childrens Hospital; the production of *James & The Giant Peach* and the officers looking into guest speakers to present to the student body.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Curriculum Report

**Austin Road Elementary School 2005/06 Goals** – Principal Robert Meyer's presentation included NYS assessment results of Math and ELA over the last seven years and discussed the following: Goal I – the percentage of students who successfully pass the NYS ELA assessment test will meet or exceed more than 50% of the similar schools' groups and Goal II – the percentage of students who successfully pass the NYS Math assessment test will meet or exceed more than 50% of the similar schools' group. Mr. Meyer also included an outline of the instructional support program at Austin Road. IST teacher Danielle Romano, outlined her role and how she is working with the faculty to identify instructional strategies that will improve student achievement.

A question and answer period followed. President Trinchitella thanked Mr. Meyer and Ms. Romano and looked forward to seeing results at the end of the year.

- Dr. Reidy reported on the unfortunate brawl incident, which occurred following the Mahopac/Carmel basketball game last week. He reported that he has met with Mr. Miele, Athletic Director, Principal Aaron Trummer and counterparts from Carmel School District. We will continue to be proactive and will report back to the board of education and the key communicators. Tomorrow a meeting is scheduled in this regard at the high school and the administration will brainstorm for possible activities and a proactive action plan. Next week a taping of *Upfront with Dr. Reidy* video is scheduled with this topic where student athletes will be included as guest speakers.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS - Board of Education Chairpersons

**Special Education** - Mrs. Swift reported that the committee met this month and the recommendation appears as Item 18.A. on the agenda for approval this evening.

**Transportation** - Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe reported that our six new buses have been approved for state aid; bus runs are being revised for kindergarten flip-flop beginning on January 20<sup>th</sup>; all snow plows and sand trucks are prepared for the winter; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> safety training meeting, required by the NYS Education Department, will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Building & Grounds** - Mrs. Greenwood-O'Keefe reported on-going maintenance and grounds work along with the following major issues: district-wide six month asbestos reviews are in the process of being completed; shaft on the boiler blower was replaced at Lakeview School; the new bathrooms in the middle school lower level being 75% complete and the high school stage storage system is being modified and upgraded.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS - continued

Technology - Mr. Cefaloni reported on salient points in this department such as: the link between SASI and IEP Direct for our teachers with a high security level and teacher training for Laptop Cart (recently donated by the Fulmar Road PTO) use on December 7<sup>th</sup> and HS Guidance Counselor Mr. Morda's presentation on financial aid to parents of college bound students on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Morda continues to integrate technology in his presentations with links to specific web locations that the parents need to apply for financial aid.

Policy - Mrs. Earle reported that there are two policies recommended for board's approval this evening shown as Item 18.C. on the agenda with some very minor editing, which are worthy of approval. Mrs. Earle reported that there are one dozen additional policies which will be discussed at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting.

Finance - Mr. DeBellis reported that the budget process is now a year round process. He reported that all budget inputs have been received and data is being reviewed in light of our program offerings for next year. To date, the district has not received any state aid projections. Mr. DeBellis reported that Mahopac has been selected by the NYS Comptroller's Office to perform an audit which will begin in a couple of weeks. The district feels good about this audit since we received a clean bill of health following our year-end audit. Mr. DeBellis urged the public to attend the next Community Budget Process Forum this Thursday evening, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m., at Lakeview Elementary School with the agenda being the K-6 Educational Program.

**CONSENT AGENDA BEGINS**

- Items removed for further discussion - None

11. RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS - None

12. RESIGNATIONS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

- A. Instructional  
**Robert Sweeney**, teaching assistant, Mahopac High School, effective 12/23/05.
- B. Non-Instructional  
**Calvin Hanner**, custodian, Mahopac Middle School, effective 12/22/05.

13. TERMINATIONS - None

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

- A. Instructional
1. REVISION: **Janifer Maloney**, reading teacher, Fulmar Road Elementary School, unpaid childcare leave, revised *from* 12/8/05-2/10/06 *to* 12/8/05-6/30/06.
  2. **Ascension T. Williams**, teaching assistant, Mahopac Middle School, unpaid leave, effective 1/23/06-6/30/06.
  3. **Kerry Tarantino**, science teacher, Mahopac Middle School, unpaid childcare leave, effective 3/21/06-4/21/06.
  4. **Keri Abbondanza**, elementary teacher, Mahopac Middle School, unpaid childcare leave, effective 4/8/06-6/30/06.

14. LEAVES OF ABSENCE - continued

B. Non-Instructional

1. **Providenza Sottile**, bus monitor, Mahopac Bus Garage unpaid leave, effective 1/3/06-1/3/07.
2. **Tami Meaney**, part-time bus driver, Mahopac Bus Garage, unpaid leave effective 10/12/05 through 10/12/06.
3. **Evie Riehl**, monitor, Mahopac Falls School, unpaid leave effective 12/12/05 through 12/12/06.
4. **Mildred Sceppaquercia**, monitor, Mahopac High School, unpaid leave effective 1/3/06 through 1/3/07.

15. ABOLISHMENT OF POSITIONS - None

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

B. Instructional

Consultant Teacher (1)  
Special Education – New Directions (1)  
Teaching Assistant (1)

C. Non-Instructional

Custodian .5 (1)  
Teacher Aide .3 (1)

17. APPOINTMENTS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

A. Instructional

1. Candidate: **Arlene Fischetti**  
Tenure Area: Music  
Probationary Period: 12/23/05-6/22/07  
Certification Area: Pending  
Salary: Step 8, BA+30+MA
  2. Candidate: **Eve Riehl**  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Period: 12/12/05-12/11/08  
Certification Area: Teaching Assistant - Level One  
Salary: Step 1 of the Teaching Assistants' Contract
  3. Candidate: **Mildred Sceppaquercia**  
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant  
Probationary Period: 1/3/06-1/2/09  
Certification Area: Teaching Assistant - Level One  
Salary: Step 1 of the Teaching Assistants' Contract
- Term Substitute:**
4. **REVISION: Ilyssa Sherman**, term substitute elementary teacher for Jenifer Maloney, Fulmar Road Elementary school, revised **from** 10/24/05-2/10/06 **to** 10/24/05-2/24/06.
  5. **Co-Curricular Appointments for the 2005-06 School Year:**  
*As per attached (revision)*

17. APPOINTMENTS - continued

A. Instructional

Advisement

**Eugene Mormile**, Mercy College, will be doing his student teaching in special education with Diane Cascio, Mahopac Middle School, effective 1/23/06-3/17/06.

B. Non-Instructional

1. **Marie Lopilato**, *term substitute monitor*, for Mildred Sceppaquercia, Mahopac High School, effective 12/19/05 - 1/2/07. Salary as per Monitor's Contract.
2. **Susan Laga**, .3 teacher aide, Lakeview Elementary School, effective 1/3/06. Salary as per CSEA contract.
3. **Joanne Sullivan**, senior clerk, District Office, pending successful placement on the Putnam County Civil Service List of Eligibles for Senior Clerk. Salary: \$31,218 per annum, effective 12/26/05.
4. **Amanda Grundman**, *term substitute monitor*, for Eve Riehl, Mahopac Falls School, effective 1/9/06 – 12/11/07. Salary as per Monitor's Contract.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS - Recommendation of the superintendent of schools:

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

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

B. **CONTRACT Re TAC AMERICAS**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools to amend current contract with T.A.C. (Tour Andover Controls) to provide for additional hours of maintenance service for the Middle School and Austin Road Elementary computerized heating systems. Cost of amendment is \$ 21,696.00. This amendment will allow for 10 additional site visits for the Middle School and 4 site visits for the Austin Rd. Elementary School.

C. **ADOPTION OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools, as forwarded by the Policy Committee, for approval of the adoption of the following new Board of Education Policies, as per attached.

1. Audit Advisory Committee (with minor editing from Chairperson Jeanne Earle)
2. Expense Reimbursement Policy

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval to **waive the required second reading** of new policy being presented for adoption and to approve the said policy, as of January 10, 2006.

D. **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE AS PER THE EMPIRE STATE WAGE ACT**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools to approve a wage increase for **substitute monitors** employed by the Mahopac Central School District, according to the Empire State Wage Act of 2004. The Empire State Wage Act of 2004 has adjusted the statutory minimum wage.

New York's minimum wage will be **\$6.75 per hour**, effective January 1, 2006.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS - continued

E. **CALENDAR OF EVENTS – ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING/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 Meeting/Election to be held **May 16, 2006.**

F. **CHANGE ORDER RATIFICATION - MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC Work**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval of a *Change Order* in the amount of \$3,500 due to a health and safety issue, as per the attached.

G. **BID AWARDS**

Recommendation of the superintendent of schools for approval of the **Outdoor Equipment Repair, Roofing Repair, Concrete Curbing & Sidewalks and Telephone Repair Service** bid awards to the lowest responsible bidder, meeting specifications, as per the attached.

**CONSENT AGENDA CONCLUDES**

**Consent Agenda was moved by Mrs. Swift, seconded by Mrs. Greenwood-O’Keefe, carried unanimously.**

19. RESIDENT COMMENTS

Scheduled & Unscheduled

- *Mr. Neil Belloff* - requested that more information be reported in the board of education minutes, and presented his opinion of the following issues: *No Child Left Behind* Law; evaluation of curriculum at all levels; transition from middle to high school; model schools; awards for students and teachers; teachers teaching at a higher level and Advanced Placement and Honors Classes Program of Studies at the High School. Mr. Belloff stated that he is prepared to work with the administration and the staff, upon their request.

President Trinchitella commented that the board shares many of Mr. Belloff’s concerns and that they have had many years of discussion on such topics.

- *Krista Donahoe* - requested an explanation of Item #16.on the agenda, which Mr. Quartararo explained that the Teaching Assistant is a one-on-one position for a special education student and in the special education area we are not in compliance with the State Education Department which warrants the additional teachers.

20. NEXT MEETING – February 14, 2006 @ Fulmar Road School

21. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m. there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Moved by Mr. DeBellis, seconded by Mrs. Earle, carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy A. Gilroy,  
District Clerk