

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MILLER PLACE, NEW YORK
BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2023

Kind of Meeting: Business Meeting
Place of Meeting: Miller Place High School
Time of Meeting: 8:00 P.M.

Those Present:

Board President:	Ms. Lisa Reitan
Board Vice President:	Mr. Bryan Makarius
Board Trustee:	Mr. Keith Frank
Board Trustee:	Ms. Andrea Spaniolas
Board Trustee:	Ms. Johanna Testa
Superintendent of Schools:	Mr. Seth Lipshie
Assistant Superintendent:	Ms. Susan Craddock
School Business Official:	Ms. Colleen Card
Executive Director for Educational Services:	Ms. Sandra Wojnowski
Director of Human Resources	Mr. Christopher J. Herrschaft
District Clerk	Ms. Patricia Morbillo

PLEASE NOTE: THE MINUTES, AS WRITTEN, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT CONSIDERED AN OFFICIAL RECORD UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT THE JANUARY 15, 2023, BUSINESS MEETING.

A. PUBLIC SESSION

1. Ms. Reitan called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m. She announced that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be posted to the District website in a few days.
2. Ms. Reitan reviewed the Emergency Procedures.

B. RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of Veterans

Ms. Reitan acknowledged the veterans, and their families present at the meeting.

2. Recognition of Media

There was no media present at the meeting.

C. MESSAGES

1. Superintendent Message:

Ms. Reitan introduced Mr. Lipshie to give his message. Mr. Lipshie welcomed everyone to the second half of the school year and reviewed the exciting things that have taken place since the Board last met 6 weeks ago. Mr. Lipshie first discussed that at AMPS, each grade began a new science unit. The Kindergarten students studied a unit on Pushes and Pulls. They explored concepts of forces and interactions; how an object can change speed or direction. They also learned how force, direction and height can propel an object into motion and determine speed. First Grade students studied a unit on Light and Sound. They explored the cause and effect of vibration on matter to produce sound and how objects can only be seen if light is present and then Second Grade students studied a unit on the Structure and Properties of Matter. They learned

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about three types of matter and how temperature impacts matter. He noted that in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, AMPS students were involved in activities that promoted friendship and kindness on January 13th for PEACE and KINDNESS DAY. Student enjoyed working on projects that let them know how unique they are, while still having so much in common with others. Students discovered small acts of kindness that they can do to make their world a nicer place. He thanked the AMPS SIT Committee for planning this wonderful day.

He discussed that LADSBS held the first of three District STEAM Nights for the 2022-23 school year at which approximately 225 students participated, and it was a very successful event. There were twenty classrooms set up for students to participate in hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Music Activities with an expo center in the gymnasium. Students created and were able to take home electrical circuits, illusion artwork, glow stick designs, catapults, roller coasters, glitter jars. He noted that as part of our Athletes Helping Athletes program, Miller Place High School student-athletes go into each of the fifth-grade classrooms to share their experiences. These students have become wonderful role models for our fifth graders and will return again in February. Fifth Grade students were excited to explore the Got Water unit which focused on Earth's spheres and the water cycle. They were able to build their understanding through hands-on investigations. Fourth Grade students read Phineas L. McGuire Gets Slimed where the culminating activity will be a "Phineas L. McGuire Gets Slimed Day". Each class observed mold samples under a microscope, made slime and played jeopardy as a review. Third Grade students continued their science unit titled "Forces and Interactions" where there were hands-on science unit that explores balanced and unbalanced forces, magnetism, and static electricity.

Mr. Lipshie discussed that at North Country Road Middle School the celebration of Computer Science Month included students meeting in the Library Computer Lab for an Hour of Code with Mrs. Farrell. Students learned how to code with the Code.org program: Dance Party and how students were able to make various characters such as sharks, sloths, pineapples, frogs and then danced on their screen to music. North Country Road Middle School students in Mrs. Sommo's grade 8 Family and Consumer Science class were visited by a local business "For Goodness Cakes", the owners of, a local food truck that provides desserts to Long Islanders in designated locations. The owners spoke about their experiences with starting this endeavor and learning along the way, both from a business design perspective and the necessary attributes that it takes to achieve success

He discussed that at the MPHS, JR Schmidt, the owner of The Hot Dog Hustler, was invited to speak to High School Economics students. Mr. Schmidt shared his experiences and reviewed that students should dream big and follow their passion, even if it requires taking a leap of faith. The students had the opportunity to go out to the food truck and go through the day-to-day operations and the class was treated to samples of the "Chicago Style Hot Dogs." He noted that Mrs. Matura's Chemistry classes students investigated intermolecular forces and their resulting macroscopic properties by experimenting with sodium polyacrylate (poly-ack-urlate), more commonly known as fake snow. This is also the material found in disposable diapers. Students will use their experiences throughout the lesson to evaluate product efficiency and will also investigate, brainstorm, and design their own alternative to a disposable diaper.

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He was happy to share that the Miller Place High School 2022 OAK (Outstanding Acts of Kindness) and OAR (Outstanding Academic Recognition) recipients were recognized at a ceremony in December. Students were recommended by the high school staff for displaying exemplary behavior to their peers or an excellent work ethic in the classroom.

Mr. Lipshie gave congratulations to the Miller Place Varsity Cheer on their qualification to UCA Cheer Nationals. The Miller Place Varsity Cheer team met the standard at the LIU Post Regional Qualifier held in December and the team will travel to Orlando, Florida in February. He noted that in December, the Miller Place Varsity Wrestling program hosted the annual Carl T. Korpi Memorial Wrestling Tournament coming away with two individual champions and 1st Place overall, defeating Smithtown West for the Team Title. He noted that four Miller Place High School Students attended a Section XI Student-Athlete Leadership Conference. There were 240 students in attendance from High Schools across Suffolk County. Students participated in roundtable conversations dealing with topics such as Sportsmanship, Support, Social Media, Recruiting, Training and Mental Health.

With reference to school events, Mr. Lipshie noted that the Miller Place School District and the Miller Place PTO held a Ribbon Cutting Event in January to formally announce the donation of Book Vending machines. The Miller Place School District is the first School District in Suffolk County to provide a Book Vending machine to students in grades K-8. The Miller Place PTO donated the books for the Book Vending Machines. Students earn tokens in a variety of ways through the Character Educations programs to deposit in the Book Vending machine and select a book of their choice to keep. The event was covered by News12 and PIX 11 media outlets. He reviewed the upcoming events as follows AMSP and LADSBS clubs will be starting, AMPS STEAM NIGHT will be on January 31st, and the combined Secondary STEAM Night is February 8, 2023, eighth-grade students are encouraged to attend the Miller Place High School Incoming 9th Grade Orientation on Thursday, January 26th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Miller Place High School and students and parents will have the opportunity to meet some of the members of the MPHS staff and learn more about MPHS programs and expectations. This year, Miller Place is partnering with SCOPE Educational Services to provide a Saturday Enrichment Program for students in Grades K-8 online registration ends on February 15, 2023. He thanked everyone for attending the board meeting.

2. Board Members Message:

Ms. Reitan on behalf of the Board wished everyone a happy New Year. She stated that the District is already at the second half of the 2022-23 school year and that they hope the our staff and students are refreshed and ready for this next part of the school year. She noted that there have been many activities that have been going on here in Miller Place including student recognitions for academics, sports, and programs and stated check into the website, you can see all of the activities highlighted. She reviewed that the District held the first STEAM night at LADSBS and that two more STEAM nights were coming up. She said please check the calendar for upcoming activities. She noted that the District is in the middle of January midterms, finals and Regents examinations. She noted that the board will have the first budget workshop coming up next month for the planning of the 2023-24 school year.

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Last Saturday there was a Suffolk County Superintendents Association workshop which Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Makarius attended. Mr. Makarius spoke about the workshop which 69 Suffolk County school districts attended. The focus of the conference included a presentation of how two school districts have changed over the last ten years and what they are doing to support in those changes. Additionally, there was an examination of what people think school districts are versus the reality of what school districts are. He noted that during the conference that they were able to collaborate with other school districts to find out some of the things that were happening in these school districts that changed the problems that were facing and how there were coming up with solutions to those problems. Mr. Makarius noted that it was a really good conference.

Ms. Reitan noted that Mr. Lipshie would be discussing strategic planning that the District will be embarking on. The Board is very excited about undertaking this planning which Mr. Lipshie is spearheading and looks forward to working with the community as the Superintendent works with the committee to develop the District's Strategic Plan. She thanked, Mr. Lipshie, for his guidance in bringing this process to our district and stated that by undertaking this planning the District will be able to have a plan that not only will give the District a shared vision, but it will help us to develop goals that will improve student outcomes, and the data will help guide us to evaluate these outcomes.

She noted that the current board likes to clarify or answer questions to our public be heard from prior board meetings. She stated that the Board was asked about writing an advocacy letter to Governor Hochul via public be heard and emails from several community members. She noted that in the past the board has written advocacy letters to our elected officials when the board felt that it might help our school district community and/or district students. The board worked on and sent a letter Governor Hochul on Jan 12, asking her to not mandate the COVID-19 vaccine because it will negatively affect the District students and that students would be withdrawn from school. This would further expand learning gaps that may be already present for these students. She noted that the letter is posted on the District website in the Board of Education section (Board Communications).

Ms. Reitan clarified something that was stated to us at the last Public Be Heard on December 7, 2022. It was stated that the Board gives vague answers and that the Board doesn't answer emails. We generally do not answer questions during the Public Be Heard meeting segment. The board has either been following up with an email to the community member with the specific answer to the specific question or the board has been answering in public at the next board meeting. Ms. Reitan stated that as far as emails that are sent to the board account that the board answers every email and that the board did this for the prior year as well. She noted that Mr. Lipshie is answering emails as quickly as he can but sometimes what happens is that the answers we give are not what the writer wants, or we may not have further information at that time. This might lead to a community member feeling that we are not responding but the board is working to open and transparent as the board possibly can.

This past fall, the board announced that Mr. Lipshie would be making a presentation at the January board meeting on the initiatives we were experiencing and those initiatives that the Board we can look forward to and Mr. Lipshie will be making that presentation tonight.

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Ms. Reitan noted that at the board's request, to answer some of the specific data inquiries, we asked Mr. Lipshie and the District Office staff to collect some data that was brought up by a community member to compare the District to some other local schools. Specifically the board asked Mr. Lipshie about: AP Course offerings, club offerings, per pupil spending, and the combined wealth ratio. She noted that Mr. Lipshie utilized 2021-2022 data to compare the District to Bayport-Blue Point, Shoreham-Wading River, Three Village, Mount Sinai, Rocky Point and Comsewogue. She noted that regarding the District's AP course offerings that the District falls in the middle with Three Village offering the most AP courses while the District offers four less than Three Village. With regard to club offerings out of the seven school district that the MPHS club offerings were the lowest but that the District has already added a new fall MPHS drama club, LADSBS Drama club, and expanded the LADSBS art club. She noted that the District will continue to review alternatives to see if clubs are needed (student interest), and how we can fund additional clubs as we develop the upcoming budget. Regarding Per pupil Spending Ms. Reitan noted that we are not the top in cost but fifth out of the seven districts. Ms. Reitan noted that the Combined Wealth Ratio that the NYS Education Department uses to define wealth is the average ratio of income per pupil and property wealth per pupil which state that districts that are of average wealth are equal to a 1.0. The District is 0.896 for the 22-23 school year or below the 1.0 state average for wealth. This means that the District is below the average for wealth and currently Three Village, Shoreham-Wading River and Mt. Sinai are all above the state average wealth of 1.0 or wealthy than the average district. In a final note she stated that the board is always looking to maximize the money we spend for student success, inside and outside the classroom and she asked can we do better? She stated that absolutely, and the board is always looking for ways to improve and expand school programs. She said as a parent with two prior graduates from Miller Place, both college graduates, and with the third one still attending the school district that she is proud to say my kids have gone here and still go to Miller Place.

D. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments are limited to 2 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes **related to agenda items only**, state name, resident, or non-resident. All comments are to be directed to the Board of Education.

There were no public comments related to the agenda items.

E. CONSENT AGENDA – MINUTES:

1. Minutes:

This resolution is to approve the meeting minutes of the Board of Education.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts, as written, the minutes of the December 7, 2022 Executive Session – Early; December 7, 2022 Business Meeting; December 7, 2022 Audit Committee.”

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F. CONSENT AGENDA – FINANCE/FACILITIES:

1. Treasurer Reports:

This motion is to approve the Treasurer reports for the period ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts, as presented, the Treasurer Reports for the periods ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022.”

2. Financial Reports:

This motion is to approve the Financial Reports for the period ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts, as presented the Financial Reports, for the periods ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022.”

3. Extra Classroom Activity Reports:

This motion is to approve the Extra Classroom Activity Reports for the period ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts the Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports for the period ending November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022.”

4. Claims Auditor Reports:

This motion is to approve the Claims Auditor Reports as submitted by MacDonald, Rand, & Vollaro, LLP - Certified Public Accountants for the period ending November 31, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts as presented the Claims Auditor Reports for the period ending November 31, 2022 and December 31, 2022.”

5. 2022-23 Educational Data Services, Supplies and Materials Contract Bid #23-02:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting approval of the resolution to continue our agreement with the Educational Data Services, Inc., for participation in the New York Cooperative Bid group for the purpose of bidding and purchasing services, supplies and materials Bid #24-02.

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RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District approves the agreement with Educational Data Services, Inc. for participation in the New York Cooperative Bid for the purpose of bidding and purchasing services, supplies and materials Bid #24-02 during the 2023-24 fiscal year and to be utilized for ordering school supplies in the 2023-24 fiscal year and furthermore the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to sign such agreement.”

6. Donation – General Mills / Box Tops for Education:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to approve the donation from General Mills / Box Tops for Education to be used in support of the students at the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School and Andrew Muller Primary School.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts the donation from General Mills Box Tops for Education in support of the students at the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School in the amount of \$51.00 and Andrew Muller Primary School in the amount of \$76.30.”

7. Suffolk County Board of Elections Contract:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the Suffolk County Board of Elections contracts for the elections in 2023 and 2023 for the MPHS and NCRMS buildings.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Miller Place Board of Education hereby approves the Suffolk County Board of Elections contracts and hereby approves that the Miller Place Union Free School District Board President to sign such agreements for elections in 2023 and 2024 for the MPHS and NCRMS buildings.”

8. Health Service Contracts:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the health service contracts as required per educational law, section 912, with the school districts providing health services to the District’s resident students who attend private or parochial school for the 2022-23 school year that are reimbursed for these services.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby approves the health service contracts for the 2022-23 school year and furthermore authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such contracts with the school districts:

- West Islip Union Free School District
- East Islip School District.”

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9. NCRMS School Play Contract:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the contract with MTI Productions for the North Country Road Middle School Drama Club production.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby approves the contract with MTI Productions for the North Country Road Middle School Drama Club production and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such agreement.”

10. SCOPE Operating Agreement:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the SCOPE Education Services License and Operating Agreement for a STEM winter enrichment program to be held at the high school.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby approves the attached SCOPE Education Services License Agreement for a winter enrichment program and furthermore, authorizes the Board President to sign such agreement.”

G. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL:

1. Personnel List:

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft recommend and request your approval of the personnel list of January 25, 2023.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby approves the Personnel List of January 25, 2023, as presented. For any probationary appointment for a class room teacher or building principal that except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the class room teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or §3012-d of either E or H in at least three of the four preceding years and if the class room teacher or building principal receives an I composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at this time.”

2. Memorandum of Agreement with The Miller Place Operations Unit, CSEA, Inc. Local 1000 – Sick Bank for Employee No. 3482:

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft are requesting your approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Miller Place Operations Unit, CSEA, Inc. Local 1000 for a sick bank for Employee No. 3482.

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RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District approves the Memorandum of Agreement – Sick Bank for Employee No. 3482 with The Miller Place Operations Unit, CSEA, Inc. Local 1000, and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”

3. Memorandum of Agreement with The Miller Place Operations Unit, CSEA, Inc. Local 1000 – Sick Bank for Employee No. 1778:

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft are requesting your approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Miller Place Operations Unit, CSEA, Inc. Local 1000 for a sick bank for Employee No. 1778.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District approves the Memorandum of Agreement – Sick Bank for Employee No. 1778 with The Miller Place Operations Unit, CSEA, Inc. Local 1000, and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”

H. CONSENT AGENDA – SPECIAL EDUCATION:

1. CSE and CPSE Recommendations:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the CSE and CPSE recommendations.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts the recommendations of the CSE’s and CPSE’s dated: CPSE 1-5-23 AMPS; CPSE 1-20-22 AMPS; CPSE 11-22-22 DO; CPSE 12-13-22 DO; CSE 1-9-23 LADDIE; CSE 1-11-23 NCR; CSE 1-12-23 AMPS; CSE 12-2-22 AMPS; CSE 12-6-22 OOD; CSE 12-7-22 MPHS; CSE 12-8-22 NCR; CSE 12-9-22 AMPS; CSE 12-9-22 LADDIE; CSE 12-9-22 MPHS; CSE 12-9-22 OOD; CSE 12-12-22 OOD; CSE 12-14-22 MPHS; CSE 12-15 OOD; CSE 12-19-22 AMPS; CSE-CPSE 12-16-22 AMPS.”

2. Contract with Middle Country Central School District:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the Special Education Instructional Services Contract with the Middle Country Central School District for Special Educational Services from July 1, 2022 through June 23, 2023 for student identification numbers 600042662; 600042663; 600042323.”

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District authorizes the contract with the Middle Country Central School District for Special Educational Services from July 1, 2022 through June 23, 2023 for student identification numbers 600042662; 600042663; 600042323 and furthermore, authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education to sign such agreements.”

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3. Contract with Shoreham Wading River Central School District:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the Special Education Instructional Services Contract with the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District for Special Educational Services from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for student identification numbers 000102233, 000101714, 600041587; 600040411; 600041955 and 000102950.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District authorizes the contract with the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District for Special Educational Services from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for student identification numbers 000102233, 000101714, 600041587; 600040411; 600041955 and 000102950 and furthermore, authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education to sign such agreements.”

4. Contract with Three Village Central School District:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the Special Education Instructional Services Contract with the Three Village Central School District for Special Educational Services from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for student identification numbers 000102233, 000101714, 600041587, 600040411, 600041955, 000102950.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District authorizes the contract with the Three Village Central School District for Special Educational Services from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for student identification numbers 102233, 101714, 600041587 and furthermore, authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education to sign such agreements.”

5. Contract with Rocky Point UFSD:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the Special Education Instructional Services School Year Contracts with Rocky Point UFSD, for the dates of service September 1, 2022 to June 23, 2023 for student identification number 600042017.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District authorizes the contracts with Rocky Point UFSD for Special Educational Services the School Year from September 1, 2022 to June 23, 2023 for student identification number 600042017 and furthermore authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreements.”

I. CONSENT AGENDA – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – None

J. CONSENT AGENDA – OTHER – None

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K. CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVAL

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mr. Makarius moved, seconded by Mr. Frank, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried

L. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Student Representative Report

The Board Student Representative, Alexandra DeMario, was not in attendance. In her place for tonight's meeting, Lucas McGuire, from the Student Executive Council Board, gave an overview of the happenings of the Miller Place High School. He stated that the Virtual Enterprise class went on a field trip to Long Island University and some of his peers on one team won the silver award for their website and another team placed in the Top 40 for the island for their business plan. He said this was great news for the Business students and the District staff. He stated that the students are planning a March Madness Ping Pong tournament which will occur on Friday nights in March which resulted from the new Ping Pong table in the Senior lounge and now there is a huge appreciation for pastime of Ping Pong. The students have been talking with Mr. Petrie about a new trophy case and possible new location to recognize the achievements of the MPHS student body. He reviewed that the Student Executive Council Board is currently planning the annual Spring fashion show and Variety show.

2. Board Committee Reports

Curriculum Committee

Ms. Spaniolas gave a report on the Curriculum Committee meeting in December. She noted that at the committee meeting various teachers and staff shared some of the things they are doing in the classroom with students to enhance learning. NCR students are studying gravity, kinetic motion and potential motion in conjunction with a hand-on activity using pool noodles. In the fourth-grade students are making a functional arm using everyday materials. In the first-grade students are completing a science unit on light and sound and learning about different places and using a passport and stamp with this instruction. ELA students are using essential questions with students and then using the answers to make connections to the self, educational texts and the world. She noted that the District is using a new reading program that was adopted by the board last year is quite rigorous. She said that some art students are learning about the artist Henri Matisse and his artwork. The committee learned about district field trips that students have or will be taking, distribution of Kindergarten laptops and the implementation of the new reading program and professional development opportunities for staff including ENL staff learning how to differentiate language acquisition and the different stages. She noted that two units of science curriculum were written adding additional student's hands-on experiences. The committee was happy to have the return of in-person STEAM night, clubs, mystery readers and assemblies.

Health and Safety Committee

Mr. Makarius reviewed the January Health and Safety Committee meeting that was held. He started with an issue that the District has been working on correcting with the AMPS front loop lighting. The contractor will be returning shortly to work on the pole lights but the District is in the process of additional lighting to the front. He noted that the District recently had their annual

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fire inspection and only two minor violations were found and have already been corrected. The District purchased all new radios as the older ones had passed their useful life and weren't working properly. The new radios require some additional programming which should be completed shortly. He then spoke about snow and the impact on building cleaning. He stated that when it snows during the school day the priority is keeping entrances and sidewalks as clear of ice and snow as possible, the next priority is that the lunchrooms and bathrooms are clean, and so forth. He reminded everyone that on snowy days safety is the first priority and then cleaning.

3. Bond 2021 Report

Ms. Reitan asked Ms. Card to give and update to the board on the 2021 bond project. Ms. Card stated that the AMPS gymnasium plans and specifications have been completed and will be submitted early next week to the NYS Education Facilities Planning Department. She stated that she had really good news to share that the plans and specifications that were submitted to the New York State Education Facilities Planning Department for Andrew Muller Primary School have been approved and the building permit issued which includes the ventilation update, classroom sink, and cabinet replacement, door frame update, and relocation of the kindergarten playground so that the District can start to move forward with these plans.

Ms. Card stated that she would like to review the project review and approval process for the board and community. She said that once NYSED receives the set of plans and specifications paperwork from the District. The project is logged into their system and put into the review queue. Each project receives a separate engineering review, an architectural review, and then the overall project manager review. A building permit is then issued to the District upon approval. This review timeline can vary depending on how many projects have been received before our project and the complexity of the project. The next step in the process is to finalize bid documents. The architect and engineers will do a final walkthrough to be sure everything is clearly spelled out on the bid documentation. A legal notice of the bid will be advertised in the District's approved papers and then the bid documents will be released. The bid will be open for approximately two and a half weeks to allow bidders to put their bids together and submit in seal envelopes to the District. On the day of the bid opening the bids will be read aloud on each project specified in front of the contractor present. The architect, purchasing agent and facilities director will be part of the bid opening. Once the architect has determined that the contractor is qualified then the architect will write the award letter to the board of education and the board of education will then accept the bid award results at the next board meeting. Ms. Card stated that the District will continue to provide regular updates to the board and this information can be found on the district website under departments > business office > bond information for your reference.

Ms. Card then updated everyone on a non-bond related Facilities project that the District is working on which is the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School main road sign that is in disrepair and the District is working on replacing sign. The sign has been raised as a concern by several board members and the District is definitely working on this concern and will be taken care of over the next few months.

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4. Superintendent Presentation

Mr. Lipshie gave a presentation entitled “What’s New and Where are We Going? Mr. Lipshie introduced himself to the community and his background with the District. He stated that he wanted to go over what he has been doing since he started as Superintendent six months ago and where the District is headed including some things and initiatives that he thinks is important and start to build on student’s success and creating a 5 year strategic plan for the District’s future. His presentation included communications, instructional support, student resources, Panther Pride, and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Regarding communications, he reviewed: Educational Vistas Portfolio Plus, board meeting recordings, new calendar features, website updates including upcoming district events and Facebook feed, and a new community groups connect ed. Regarding instructional supports, he reviewed: professional development – essential questions and differentiation of instruction, new reading series, teacher plan books, collaboration with other districts, computer fluency, teacher coach for math and science, and educational technology coach. Regarding student resources, he reviewed: elementary student resources and additions, secondary student resources and additions, and new extra-curricular resource opportunities for the students. Regarding Panther Pride, he reviewed the District and students many accomplishments that everyone should be proud including graduation rates, athletics, music, science, math, Miller Place Hall of Fame, rising component SAT scores, and increasing Advanced Placement (AP) scholars. He then his Strategic Planning initiative that will start next week with the start of the committee meetings. He stated that sometimes things take time to do and sometimes to do them right takes even more time. He is projecting that by the fall 2023 that the 5-year strategic plan will be in place to guide the District moving forward. He is very excited for the future of the District.

Mr. Lipshie stated that he will provide updates to the Board in the future and this presentation document can be found on the district website under District > Superintendent for your reference.

Ms. Reitan is very excited and looking forward to the good things that will be happening in the future.

M. DISCUSSION – None

N. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – None

O. BOARD POLICIES – First Time Reading – None

P. BOARD POLICIES – Review:

2236 Ex-Officio Student Non-Voting Member of BOE

5140 Student Wellness

5140.1.R Student Wellness-Administrative Guidelines

5140.R Student Wellness-Regulation

5250 Extra-Classroom Activity Funds

5250 Appendix A-Extra Classroom Activity Funds

5250.R Rules for the Safeguarding Accounting and Auditing of Extra-classroom Activity Fund

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Ms. Reitan asked if there were any questions on the policies in review. There were no questions, and these policies will be adopted at the next board meeting.

Q. BOARD POLICIES – Action:

4326 Programs for English Language Learners
4326-E.1 Programs for English Language Learners Exhibit
4326-E.2 Programs for English Language Learners Exhibit
5146 Food Allergy Policy
6500 Bonded Employees and Personnel
8500 School Lunch and Breakfast Program
8505 Meal Charges

Ms. Reitan asked if there were any questions on the policies in action. There were no board questions and Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to approve the policies in action.

Mr. Makarius moved, seconded by Mr. Frank, to approve the policies in action.

Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried

R. OTHER – None

S. PUBLIC BE HEARD

Comments are limited to 2 minutes per person and a total of 30 minutes; state name, resident, or non-resident. All comments are to be directed to the Board of Education.

The public addressed the Board of Education regarding the Superintendent's presentation, comparisons to 6 other school districts, educational outcomes, clubs, a question about the Suffolk County Superintendents Association workshop, an extra cheer team coach paid by the District, bus to/from airport for cheer team to Nationals, UPK funding and grants, thank you for the board advocacy letter, thank you for the Superintendent presentation, PTO vending machine, STEAM night, curriculum committee expectations, different honor roll recognition, student matter, potential DEI curriculum committee, cell phones in schools, and several personnel matters.

Mr. Makarius answered the question about the Superintendent's Association meeting and said that the two districts presented. One reviewed the subject of student socioeconomics and the changing student body makeup including student enrollment, ENL students, and that there are more students who have challenges that District needs to provide specialized services. The other district reviewed financial struggles that they endured failing budgets and cutting of programs. He stated that Miller Place has been able to recover from the great recession of 2007 and maintain consistent programs for the District and based on state aid.

Ms. Reitan stated that the initial federal funding for UPK is ending, and the District is waiting to find out if we have state funding allocation for next year. She noted that matter UPK is still to be determined and a definite answer should be available shortly.

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Ms. Reitan answered the question about the goal of the Curriculum Committee. She stated that the Committee's purpose is to share between buildings and what is happening in their classrooms, not revising or reviewing the curriculum. Most buildings do not get the opportunity to share, and this committee allows this sharing. Ms. Reitan stated that it is an exciting committee, and the additional purpose is to share with each other and the community what is happening in the curriculum.

Ms. Reitan stated that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee has not been formed and will not be formed in the near future. If the District decides to form a DEI committee to review this matter the community members who have asked to participate will be informed.

Ms. Reitan stated that the Board legally cannot discuss student or staff members in public and would not be able to answer questions or comments related to these items.

T. MOVEMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Reitan initially asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting but then asked for a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for matters concerning specific personnel and specific legal.

Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Makarius, to adjourn the meeting to go into Executive Session for matters concerning specific personnel and specific legal at 9:44 p.m.

Yes 5; No 0: Motion Carried

U. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The board moved back to public session at 10:55 p.m.

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Makarius moved, seconded by Ms. Testa, to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Ms. Patricia A. Morbillo, District Clerk