

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MILLER PLACE, NEW YORK
BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2022

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:	Mr. Seth Lipshie
Executive Director for Educational Services:	Ms. Sandy Wojnowski
Director Human Resources	Mr. Christopher Herrschaft
District Clerk:	Ms. Patricia Morbillo

Those Absent:

Assistant Superintendent	Ms. Susan Craddock
School Business Official	Ms. Colleen Card

Invitees:

District Architect	Mr. Michael J. Guido, Jr
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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 NOVEMBER 16, 2022, BUSINESS MEETING.

A. PUBLIC SESSION

1. Ms. Reitan called the meeting to order at 8:07 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.

3. Recognition

Mr. Lipshie introduced Mr. Clarke, NCRMS Principal, who introduced Mr. John Morris. Mr. Morris is a Miller Place resident whose children attended the Miller Place UFSD and were part of the soccer program. Mr. Morris spoke about his Miller Place history and inspiration to carve the Panther Sculpture out of black marble and donate it to the NCRMS where it is currently on display in the library. Mr. Clarke presented Mr. Morris with a certificate of appreciation

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4. Board of Education Recognition

Mr. Lipshie stated that he would like to add to tonight's recognition. The New York State School Boards Association recognizes October 17th through October 21st as School Board Recognition Week. This is a time to recognize the important work performed by our local school board of education. He stated that the Board of Education members are volunteers elected by the community to assist in the governance of the school district. It takes strong schools to build a strong community and members of the school board devote many hours to making sure our schools are helping every child learn at a higher level. Each month they discuss and research educational issues while reviewing regulations to make decisions that are in the best interest of the Miller Place students. At this time, I would like to present a certificate of appreciation to each Board of Education Member: President, Lisa Reitan; Vice President, Bryan Makarius; Trustee, Johanna Testa; Trustee, Keith Frank; and Trustee, Andrea Spaniolas

C. MESSAGES

1. Superintendent Message

Ms. Reitan thanked Mr. Morris for the sculpture and thanked Mr. Lipshie for recognizing the Board of Education. Ms. Reitan introduced Mr. Lipshie to give his message. Mr. Lipshie welcomed everyone to the October Board of Education meeting. He stated that there are many exciting things taking place inside and outside of the classroom.

Mr. Lipshie started with the classroom and stated that at the Long Island Technology & Education Summit that was held on Friday, October 21, 2022 that AMPS Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Lakas presented to her Long Island colleagues covering a multitude of digital tools. She provided elementary teachers with knowledge and examples of relevant digital tools to engage students in the development of literacy skills. He continued by stating that this year at LADSBS, AMPS, and NCRMS(grade 6), a New Reading Program - Into Reading (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) series was introduced. The program features meaningful and interesting literature and high-quality guided reading material. This program is aligned to the NYS standards. He continued at LADSBS, that students had a Virtual visit from professional basketball player, Steph Curry. The students read from his book *I have a Superpower*, that teaches the reader that goals are achievable as long as they have heart and determination. Then at NCRMS, seventh grade science classes are registered to participate in a classroom-based citizen science project designed to advance NASA research on growing plants in space. This is being done in cooperation with the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and NASA. Finally, the Seniors are gearing up for the application process this fall and the Guidance Department is available after school to assist students in the application process.

Mr. Lipshie announced the District Newsletter has a new look and name called *The Panther Press*. The MPHS Journalism class was asked to provide some suggestions for a new name and the winner was *The Panther Press*. Please see *The Panther Press* to read about more recent District initiatives and accomplishments. The fall Newsletter was sent out this past week and has been posted to the District website.

He also announced that starting in 2022-23 students in grades 6-12 have been issued district Gmail accounts to enhance their educational experience. This allows students and teachers to

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communicate more effectively. In addition, students will have access to SchoolTool where they can monitor their progress.

In Athletics the fall season is starting to wrap up. The Panther Football team qualified for playoffs as the 5th seed and will play this Friday at Shoreham-Wading River. The Field Hockey team also qualified for playoffs as the 8th seed but unfortunately lost in the first round to Bayport-Blue Point. The Boys Cross Country team qualified for Divisions and they took First Place. They will compete in County competitions next week. Finally, the Combined Boys Golf team (combined w/Comsewogue) was crowned Regular Season "League-1" Champions. The Team qualified for the County Team Tournament which will be played next week.

He noted that new for the 2022-23 school year the Miller Place High School Drama Club will put on a Fall production of "You Can't Take It With You." The performances are scheduled for November 19, 2022 at 1:00 p.m and 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Lipshie announced that to assist parents and guardians, the District will be introducing a new product *Portfolio Plus* that provides parents and guardians timely and convenient access to their child's student reports including report cards, transcripts, and state assessments. Ms. Craddock will be sending out a message regarding this new initiative next week with details.

Mr. Lipshie reviewed the upcoming events including Student Government is hosting Safe Halloween on Friday, October 28, 2022 at MPHS from 4:00pm-7:00pm; National Honor Society at MPHS on Thursday; November 3, 2022; National Junior Honor Society on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at NCRMS; and finally the Tri-M Music Honor Society on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at MPHS.

He noted that later during Reports and Presentations, the District Architect, Michael Guido will give an update on the progress of the 2021 Bond.

2. Board Members Message

Ms. Reitan welcomed everyone. Ms. Reitan stated that one of the goals of the board is to make communication better. We have always tried in the past to make things as transparent as possible and open as we could but we know there is always room for improvement. So this year one of the improvements that were trying is to move to a new website. We have asked administration to look at possible new and different website formats and companies. She noted that this process will take a bit of time but that our goal is to have it up and running by July. This is a hard process since there is a lot of information to migrate. It won't be perfect at first but it will be a work in progress as we improve the website and we will start to see small changes as we go along. Hopefully at the end of the website transition process the information that has always been there will be much easier to find.

Ms. Reitan noted that she has asked Administration to do some new community surveys and that the community is interested in having these surveys. She stated that in the past the District has done some student surveys but it hasn't always involved all of our stakeholders. It didn't involve the community and parents while it did involve students and possibly teachers. The Board wants

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a survey that will involve all stakeholders. Mr. Lipshie is currently working on this and hopefully we will see a survey released sometime in January to see what everyone would like to see in the future.

The board is excited about the new name for the newsletter, “The Panther Press”. She said it is new and fresh and it really highlighted a lot of the great things that are happening in our school community. One of the most important things is the academic success of our students and the Board has asked Mr. Lipshie to take a closer look at what we are doing academically and using this data for a presentation to the board of what we have and where we are going in the future.

The District calendar on the website is a good resource for seeing everything that is happening in the district (all events district-wide). The calendar is a big picture of what is happening. She noted that the District no longer hands out paper flyers but uses digital flyers. The District hasn’t handed out physical flyers in years. We have a central location on the building websites where all of the community flyers are posted. The board is still looking at different ways to get these flyers out to the community in a timelier manner. Ms. Reitan followed up on some questions that were brought up at the September meeting regarding the UPK drop off area. Ms. Reitan then addressed some of the student representative’s comments for the High School at the last meeting and advised that she needs to review any items with the Principal, Mr. Slavin, for his approval. She noted that Mr. Slavin has approved several items while there is not enough interest (student body surveyed) in other activities from the student body. Ms. Reitan also reviewed some of the events that students participate in at the High School including Class Mural, College Commitment Days, Powder Puff Game, Spring Senior BBQ, the Senior lounge with college commitment wall, Senior Graduation Walk at lower schools, Senior Scholarship Nights, Senior Athlete night, Spring Concerts announcement of Seniors and play their own song, Senior signing of yearbooks, and the return of the Pep Rally this year.

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.

The public addressed the Board of Education regarding an update on the bond work and about the Waiver for Hardship for Observations resolution. The Board of Education and Administration stated that the District Architect, Mr. Guido, would be giving a presentation of the Bond work later in the meeting. Mr. Lipshie explained the Waiver for Hardship of which relates to APPR regulations.

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 September 28, 2022 Executive Session – Early; September 28, 2022 Business Meeting.”

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F. **CONSENT AGENDA - FINANCE/FACILITIES:**

1. **Treasurer Reports:**

This motion is to approve the Treasurer reports for the period ending September 30, 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 September 30, 2022.”

2. **Financial Reports:**

This motion is to approve the Financial Reports for the period ending September 30, 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 September 30, 2022.”

3. **Extra Classroom Activity Reports:**

This motion is to approve the Extra Classroom Activity Reports for the period ending September 30, 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 September 30, 2022.”

4. **Claims Auditor Reports:**

This motion is to approve the Claims Auditor Reports as submitted by MacDonald & Rand LLP - Certified Public Accountants for the period ending September 30, 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 September 30, 2022.”

5. **Obsolete Assets:**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to declare the attached District owned asset list as obsolete and its possible sale, and/or disposal.

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 District owned assets on the attached list as obsolete and its possible sale, and/or disposal.”

6. **Agreement – Concord Theatricals:**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to approve the Agreement with the Concord Theatricals for the spring school play.

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

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hereby approves the agreement with Concord Theatricals and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such agreement.”

7. Contract – Curriculum Travel of America, Inc.:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to approve the contract with Curriculum Travel of America, Inc. for the 2022-23 school year 8th grade Washington D.C. trip.

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 Curriculum Travel of American, Inc. for the 2022-23 school year 8th grade Washington D.C. trip and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such agreement.”

8. Contract – SCOPE Education Services:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to approve amending the contract with SCOPE Education Services for the 2022-23 school year.

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 amending the contract with SCOPE Education Services for the 2021-22 school year and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such agreement.”

G. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL:

1. Personnel List:

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft recommend and request your approval of the attached personnel list of October 26, 2022

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 attached Personnel List of October 26, 2022, 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. 3456:

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. 3456.

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. 3456 with The

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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 Secretarial and Clerical Unit, C.S.E.A. – Sick Bank for Employee No. 2859

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft are requesting your approval of The Miller Place Secretarial and Clerical Unit C.S.E.A. Memorandum of Agreement-Sick Bank for Employee No. 2859.

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 Miller Place Secretarial and Clerical Unit C.S.E.A., Local 1000 Memorandum of Agreement-Sick Bank for Employee No. 2859.”

H. CONSENT AGENDA - SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

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: CSE 9-12-22 MPHS; CSE 9-21-22 NCR; CSE 9-23-22 LADSBS; CSE 9-23-22 MPHS; CSE 9-23-22 OOD; CSE 9-29-22 AMPS; CSE 9-29-22 NCR; CSE 9-30-22 MPHS; CSE 10-6-22 LADSBS; CSE 10-6-22 MPHS; CSE 10-7-22 MPHS; CSE 10-12-22 MPHS; CSE 10-14-22 LADSBS; CSE 10-23-22 NCR.”

I. CONSENT AGENDA - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION:

1. Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver Application:

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Craddock recommend and request your approval of the Ratification of Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver Application.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the submission of an Undue Burden Independent Evaluator Hardship Waiver Application to the State Education Department.”

J. CONSENT AGENDA – OTHER – None

K. CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVAL

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

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

Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried

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L. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Student Representative Report

The Board Student Representative, Alexandra DeAmario, gave a report on the happenings of the High School. She discussed Safe Halloween, parking lot spots chalk designs, possibility of dance to be held and other events at the high school. Ms. Reitan reminded the student representative to bring her specific requests or comments to the building principal, Mr. Slavin.

2. Bond 2021 Presentation

Mr. Guido, the District Architect, gave a presentation to update the Board and community on the progress of the bond work.

He reviewed the first phase of the work completed this summer which included the north campus emergency access roadway with fencing and some lower lighting. They paved the bus loop, added spaces as well as reclaimed some spaces at the Sound Beach School. In the back of Sound Beach School or the upper AMPS parking lot the upper parking guardrail and fencing were updated and the parking area was updated. He reviewed that the air conditioning and air filtration project in underway at Sound Beach School with the installation of filtration machine and air conditioning equipment. This project will continue during the school year as equipment becomes available. He also noted that we are updating the electric system and that we are negotiating with PSEG over the upgrades and the District will be waiting on the utility to power the new equipment. He then reviewed the phase 2 projects which should begin next summer(2023) pending approval from the NYSED facilities department. He then reviewed phase 3 projects which should begin in the following summer(2024). He noted that timelines need to be flexible based on supply chain issues and utility company approvals and action.

The District will try to start this work during the summers noted. He answered several questions from the Board and community. Ms Reitan noted that the presentation has been posted to the district webpage.

M. DISCUSSION – None

N. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – None

O. BOARD POLICIES - First Time Reading – None

P. BOARD POLICIES – Review – None

Q. BOARD POLICIES – Action – None

R. OTHER – None

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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 an event section being added to the communication newsletters to inform people of the events that are happening in the district, it was stated that Safe Halloween was not listed on all of the buildings' website pages, flyers, Wi-Fi accessibility, facilities use, board committees, laptop charging carts, girl's golf, student surveys, and information on the NYSBBA resolutions.

The Board of Education and the Administration answered the various questions. Ms. Reitan stated that all events are listed on the District calendar. She thanked everyone for their questions and input and stated that all questions would be looked into and be answered.

T. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Makarius, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 P.M.

Yes 5; No 0: Motion Carried

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