

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MILLER PLACE, NEW YORK  
BOARD MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 16, 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 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

**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 DECEMBER 7, 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.

**C. MESSAGES**

**1. Superintendent Message**

Ms. Reitan introduced Mr. Lipshie to give his message. Mr. Lipshie welcomed everyone to the November BOE meeting. He started by reviewing some information from the last Board of Education meeting. He said that Safe Halloween sponsored by Student Government had 842 children pass through the doors of Miller Place High School and that about \$2,100 of candy plus what had been donated from students and the service club was given out.

Next, he noted that starting on October 17th was Digital Citizenship Week. All grade levels celebrated the use and importance of technology. He reviewed that at AMPS and LADSBS, students learned about the importance of passwords, information that can and cannot be shared online and balancing technology and playtime. Technology is used in the classroom incorporating opportunities for students to use technology during lessons. At North Country Road

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Middle School, students learned about topics that included: Understanding a Digital Footprint, Cybersecurity, Cyberbullying and How to be an upstander not a bystander. Students learned what to do if you are being bullied online, How to determine whether a resource is accurate and reliable or not. At Miller Place High School, students learned about topics that included: Hoaxes and Fakes, Consequences of Online Hate Speech and Who's Looking at your Digital Footprint.

Mr. Lipshie was excited to share that in the 6th Grade classrooms students built and launched rockets as part of their unit on Force and Motion with a focus on Newton's 3rd law of motion. The students build their own model rocket from a kit following it's directions and being guided by teacher direction.

Mr. Lipshie noted that staff at AMPS participated in professional development on Kindergarten Basic Physics. Miller Place School District Curriculum Specialist for Math and Science Nicholas Corleto assisted Consultant Emily Kang on working with kindergarten teachers on basic physics topics that included forces and interactions, pushes and pulls, Earth Science, weather, climate and matter and its interactions.

During the month of November, Honor Societies at Miller Place High School and North Country Road Middle School honored students for their academic excellence. Miller Place High School 97 inducted students into the National Honor Society and 21 music students were inducted into the Tri-M Honor Society. North Country Middle School inducted 74 students into the National Junior Honor Society.

Mr. Lipshie stated that NCRMS students celebrated Red Ribbon Week and that students celebrated the choice of living a healthy life free of drugs and violence through several events. Students were invited to show unity in the endeavor by wearing neon colors and crazy socks to symbolize "your future is bright and sock it to drugs."

Mr. Lipshie noted that on November 8th staff members gathered for Superintendent's Conference Day. It was very productive focusing on improving instructional practice, working on curriculum and various specialized trainings for use in the classroom. As part of Superintendent's Conference Day, approximately 65 Miller Place School District Staff members volunteered to be First Responder certified in Narcan Training and Stop the Bleed Training. These trainings were facilitated by Port Jeff EMS.

Mr. Lipshie reviewed current extra-curricular activities including, Miller Place School District Robotics Team made it to the semifinals at the Half Hollow Hills Robotics Invitational where they competed against 21 other First Robotics Competition teams. He noted that the Robotics team did not have one mechanical failure of the robot over the past 3 events. In Music, seven High School Jazz musicians were selected to participate and represent the District in the SCEMA All County Jazz Ensembles that was held November 4th and 5th, six High School students were selected to participate in the NYSCAME Suffolk All County Music Festival, and three 4th grade students from LADSBS were selected to participate in the PEAK Festival held at Northport High School. Students participated in clinics that focused on singing, movement and playing instruments.

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He stated regarding athletics, that the NCRMS Early Winter and MPHS Varsity/Junior Varsity Winter Sports are underway. He then noted that Miller Place Senior Anthony Naples won the Suffolk County Individual Championship after 2 rounds played at Spring Lake Golf Course. Anthony shot par 72 on Day 1, putting him tied for 4th. Anthony then shot a 1-over 73 on a rainy Day 2, coming back from three shots behind to tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place with a 145 36-hole aggregate. The Miller Place School District and Comsewogue School District combined boys golf took 1st place in the Suffolk County team championships which the team defeated Sayville High School in the semi-finals and then defeated Westhampton Beach High School in the finals to win the championship. Mr. Lipshie shared that the Miller Place School District Boys Cross Country took 1st place in divisions and 2nd place overall in Suffolk County “class-B.” Then regarding football, On November 4th, the Miller Place football team defeated Shoreham Wading River to qualify for Division IV Suffolk County Semi Finals. On November 11th, they lost in the Division IV Suffolk County Semi-finals against number 1 seed Bayport Blue Point.

Mr. Lipshie shared that the fall Drama, the Miller Place Panther Troop has two upcoming performances of “You Can’t Take It With You” on November 19th. Both performances were sold out. He then noted that during the month of December, there are many concert events scheduled for MPHS, NCRMS and LADSBS students and asked parents and community members to please check the calendar on the District website for specific dates and times.

He remaindered everyone to visit the Community link on the District website where you can find links with information and activities to various groups that support our students that includes the Miller Place PTO, Miller Place Athletic Booster Club, Miller Place Friends of the Arts, Miller Place Robotics Booster Club, and many other community organizations. He noted that you can go to the Community Flyers link for additional activities for members of the community. He said that on a giving note, each building participated in food drives for families and community members to assist them in enjoying the Thanksgiving Holiday. He finished his message by wishing everyone a healthy and happy Thanksgiving with their families.

## **2. Board Members Message**

Ms. Reitan welcomed everyone to the meeting. She stated that she would like to congratulate MPHS for having a wonderful safe Halloween. It was one of the best we have had with over 800 trick or treaters participating in this event. She said that over the last few weeks we have been able to celebrate some of our spectacular students.

Several board members have attended the three different honor society inductions. She noted the National Honor Society which recognizes high school students in grades 11-12 and National Junior Honor Society which recognizes students in grade 8. These organizations recognize students who excel in academics, leadership, community service and character building. The last honor society induction was the Tri-M Honor Society which recognizes high school students in grades 11-12. Tri-M recognizes students with mastery levels in music academics and they must be in a performance ensemble as well as NYSSMA or a comparable activity each academic year. She stated that these were all beautiful student run ceremonies, supervised by their wonderful advisors and that everyone is very proud of all the inductees.

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Ms. Reitan than noted that on Saturday, November 5, 2022 that the board conducted their annual Board of Education Campus Tour. The board and administration staff walk through the halls, classrooms, and fields of all our schools to get an update on completed or upcoming facilities projects. She noted that the board had completed their review visit last year prior to putting forth the bond in 2021 and they had the opportunity to revisit some of these areas. She noted some highlights as follows: at MPHS, as part of the Bond project, the board revisited the art classrooms which are both going to get an upgraded, parking lots updates, and to see the space that will hold the new emergency access road from the 2021 bond; at AMPS, as part of the Bond project, the board revisited where the new gym will be located and where the Kindergarten playground will be relocated; at LADSBS, the board revisited the upper parking lot changes which included the playground fence reconfiguration and parking lot widening which allowed for better parking. In front of the school, the front parking lot was widened on the exit road leading out of LADSBS bus circle, allowing for additional parking spaces to be added, the repaved bus parking area and repaved upper parking area. She noted that there were issues with the asphalt in the bus parking area and Administrative staff had let us know that the contractor was notified and that they were redoing the bus parking area to fix this issue. Ms. Reitan noted that as of today's board meeting that issue had been corrected at no additional cost to the District; at NCR, the board revisited the Family and Consumer Science classrooms and Art classroom to go over what was going to be done to each classroom. She noted that they walked the completed emergency access road between LADSBS and NCR. Ms. Reitan stated that these were just highlights and that the board enjoys these campus tours to see all the wonderful hallways with students' work and awards displayed. The board has the opportunity to see the classrooms and spaces that our kids come to each day. She noted that one of her favorite spaces to see in each of the buildings are the libraries and that Dr. Cartisano, our prior Superintendent, made sure that these spaces were upgraded and are very inviting for our students in the past few years.

Ms. Reitan stated that at each meeting the board would like to answer some of the questions brought forth in the public be heard meeting section at prior board meetings.

She reviewed the scheduling conflict that happened a few weeks ago for the cafeteria space between the football team and Pack 204. A community member was upset that the pack was asked to leave the space because it was needed for the football team. She reminded that our school community does get priority for spaces but sometimes there are scheduling conflicts or that a schedule change that can happen at the last minute. The District always tries to notify people before the event when possible. In this case Pack 204 was already here and they were given an alternate location to continue their pack meeting. She noted that the board received a message from the Pack 204 scoutmaster explaining that this was not the view of the pack. He acknowledged that the district has always found alternative locations in the rare instances when space conflicts arise and wanted to thank the Miller Place School District for the historically long relationship between the District and Pack 204. He wanted to let us know that the pack night in question went on successfully.

She than followed up on an community member question from the board meeting asking if the board participated in New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) resolutions survey.

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She clarified that NYSSBA does send out surveys periodically and that she participates in some of those surveys. She said survey meaning that a question or two is asked and then she respond with an answer. She said that there has not been a recent survey by NYSSBA. After looking through past emails, that there was a proposed resolutions vote at the NYSSBA Annual convention held in October. The Miller Place Board of Education did not participate in the vote nor the convention. Historically the District has not participated in the annual convention twofold, because it would cost the District money to send Board Members for travel, hotel, and food and because past BOE members, including Ms. Reitan, have had other obligations. During the pandemic, NYSSBA started to do some business virtually, but again we did not participate. This year we were able to send a delegate (BOE Member virtually), but the members had to be available for two full dates and we did not have any member available for both dates. It is a goal of this Board to try to attend next year's Convention, depending on the format.

She followed up on several other items as follows:

She noted that all board committees have been formed at this time and that community committee members have been notified at this time. She asked Ms. Craddock to provide an update on computer use at the primary school as compared to using charging carts in every classroom. Ms. Craddock noted that we have a plan for use of laptops at the elementary level that was done in collaboration with the building principals and this information was discussed with teachers to be sure that students and parents were aware through open houses and google classrooms. She noted that the Kindergarten students had not yet received their computer as of yet and would be received in later December. She reviewed the usage by each grade level that is part of the current plan and whether they are needed or not to be brought to school each day. She noted that each classroom in the elementary level has extra charging cords in case they are needed on particular day. She verified that the District has been applying for APPR waiver for the past six years regarding the APPR Waiver resolution that the board approved in October.

**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 October 26, 2022 Executive Session – Early; October 26, 2022 Business Meeting.”

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

**1. Contract – Camp De Wolfe:**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the contract for the MPHS Natural Helpers Retreat at Camp De Wolfe.

**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 agreement with Camp De Wolfe and furthermore authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education to sign such agreement.”

**2. Eastern Suffolk BOCES Transportation Contract:**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to approve the field trip transportation contract for 2022-23 with Eastern Suffolk BOCES.

**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 authorizes the field trip transportation contract for 2022-23 with Eastern Suffolk BOCES and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”

**3. Establish Scholarship and Accept Donation – Miss Margie Marchand Memorial Scholarship:**

Mr. Nick Marchand and Dr. Marianne Cartisano are requesting to establish a scholarship called Miss Margie Marchand Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to create this new scholarship account and accept the monetary donation of \$7,300 to fund this scholarship. The intent of this donation is to fund an annual scholarship for the next 13 years.

**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 creates a new scholarship account called “Miss Margie Marchand Memorial Scholarship” and accepts the monetary donation of \$7,300 from Mt. Nick Marchand for the scholarship account.”

**4. Town of Brookhaven Agreement for Salt, Sand and General Repairs for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the Agreement with the Town of Brookhaven Highway Department for salt, sand and general repairs on an as needed basis for January 1, 2023 to December 31, 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 Agreement with the Town of Brookhaven Highway Department for salt, sand and general repairs on an as needed basis for January 1, 2023 to December 31,

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2023 and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education to sign such agreement.”

**5. School Datebooks Contract:**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the contracts with School Datebooks for student agenda books for Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, North Country Road Middle School, and Miller Place High School for the 2023-24 school year.

**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 contracts with School Datebooks for student agenda books for Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, North Country Road Middle School and Miller Place High School for the 2023-24 school year and furthermore, authorizes the Board President to sign such contracts.”

**G. CONSENT AGENDA - PERSONNEL:**

**1. Personnel List:**

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft recommend and request your approval of the personnel list of November 16, 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 Personnel List of November 16, 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. Stony Brook University Athletics Training Agreement:**

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft are requesting your approval of the addendum to the agreement for contract #HS-2517 to extend the agreement with Stony Brook University Athletics for student trainers for the time period of January 2, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

**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 Addendum to Affiliation Agreement #HS-2517 with Stony Brook University Athletics, and furthermore authorizes the Board President to sign such agreement.”

**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.

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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 hereby accepts the recommendations of the CSE’s and CPSE’s dated: CPSE 10-24-22 AMPS; CPSE 10-28-22 AMPS; CSE 10-13-22 MPHS; CSE 10-18-22 NCR; CSE 10-21-22 AMPS; CSE 10-25-22 NCR; CSE 10-27-22 OOD .”

**I. CONSENT AGENDA - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – None**

**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**

**L. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Student Representative Report**

The Board Student Representative, Alexandra DeAmario, gave a report on the happenings of the Miller Place High School. She was happy to share the success of Safe Halloween and the new record attendance level. She shared that the National Honor Society and the Tri-M Honor Society ceremonies were the exciting events congratulated all of the new inductees. She was happy that the all of the Seniors were able to participate in the ceremony and walk with the new members. She stated that the yearbook club is going well and that there will be a new cover and different pages added for this school year, the Virtual Enterprise class trade show is in January, winter sports started this past week, the Junior class is setting up a basketball game between students and teachers, and that the Seniors are looking forward to chalk painting their parking spots in the spring. She concluded her report that this has been a really good month for all of the high school students. Mrs. Reitan stated that it sounds like the students are getting back into the groove of school and its many activities.

**2. Bond 2021 Update**

Ms. Reitan asked Ms. Card to update the board on the Bond 2021 work. Ms. Card gave a brief update that the bond work at Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School (LADSBS) is currently focused on the ventilation upgrades. She noted that a portion of the new LADSBS bus loop was replaced due to a manufacturer plant issue. The asphalt plant admitted that there was an issue and contractor replaced the defective asphalt in the bus loop this past weekend. Ms. Card noted that she will continue to update the board at each meeting. Ms. Reitan noted that all of the bond information posted on the District website and includes current timeline projections.



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**M. DISCUSSION – None**

**N. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – None**

**O. BOARD POLICIES - First Time Reading:**

2236 Ex-Officio Student Non-Voting Member of BOE  
4326 Programs for English Language Learners  
4326-E.1 Programs for English Language Learners Exhibit  
4326-E.2 Programs for English Language Learners Exhibit  
5140 Student Wellness  
5140.1.R Student Wellness-Administrative Guidelines  
5140.R Student Wellness-Regulation  
5146 Food Allergy Policy  
5250 Extra-Classroom Activity Funds  
5250.A Extra Classroom Activity Funds - Appendix  
5250.R Rules for the Safeguarding Accounting and Auditing of Extra-classroom Activity Fund  
6500 Bonded Employees and Personnel  
8500 School Lunch and Breakfast Program  
8505 Meal Charges

Ms. Reitan noted that there were fourteen policies in first time reading which were pending legal review.

**P. BOARD POLICIES – Review – None**

**Q. BOARD POLICIES – Action – None**

**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.

Ms. Testa noted that she wanted to mention that it was sad when the community heard about Margie Marchand's passing. She wanted to thank Mr. March and Dr. Cartisano for establishing the Miss Margie Marchand Memorial Scholarship to honor her memory. She stated that Ms. Marchand had been a positive influence for many families in the community. Ms. Reitan thanked Ms. Testa and agreed that she touched many lives over the years.

The community addressed the Board of Education regarding the educational results and offerings of the district, course enrollment, board updates on community questions, possible surveys, wi-fi, asphalt, APPR, board meetings information posted on the website, other programs offered at the high school, and school calendar improvements. Ms. Reitan addressed school surveys and school spirit was on the uptick. She noted that there was no additional cost for the asphalt issue and she rediscussed the APPR question.

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**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 to go into Executive Session for matters concerning specific personnel and specific legal at 8:41 P.M.

Yes 5; No 0: Motion Carried

The board wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving as the public session of the meeting was completed.

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