

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MILLER PLACE, NEW YORK  
BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2021

**Time:** 8:00 P.M.  
**Kind of Meeting:** Business Meeting  
**Place of Meeting:** Zoom Meeting

**Those Present:**

Board President:	Mrs. Johanna Testa
Board Vice President:	Mr. Richard Panico
Board Trustee:	Mrs. Noelle Dunlop
Board Trustee:	Mr. Keith Frank
Board Trustee:	Mrs. Lisa Reitan
Superintendent of Schools:	Dr. Marianne Cartisano
Deputy Superintendent:	Mr. Seth Lipshie
Assistant Superintendent:	Ms. Susan Craddock
School Business Official:	Mrs. Colleen Card
Executive Director for Educational Services:	Mrs. Sandra Wojnowski
District Clerk:	Mrs. Patricia Morbillo

Mrs. Testa called the meeting to order at 8:10 P.M.

The Board of Education Meeting was conducted via Zoom so that it could be held in public within the guidelines of safe distancing due to the Governor's Executive Order putting the state on "Pause".

Mrs. Testa and everyone present said the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Testa stated that the District would like to recognize all veterans for their service and that the District would also like to thank all essential workers for their service during this continuing difficult time. She reminded members that they can view the Q&A information. She stated that the District would like to recognize members of the media in attendance. She asked that they type in the Q&A box their name and media affiliation to be recognized. There were no media present who identified themselves as being present. Mrs. Testa stated that the Board will start with recognition tonight.

**I. RECOGNITION**

**A. NCRMS – National History Bee Competition**

Mrs. Testa introduced Mr. Clark to speak about the National History Bee Competition and student Marc Lindemann. This competition was delayed but he finally competed at the National History Bee for last year in December and he took 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the nation at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade division. The Board and Administration congratulated Marc for his hard work and he was presented with a certificate of recognition.

**B. MPHS – U.S. Air Force Academy Congressional Nomination**

Dr. Cartisano then introduced Mr. Slavin to speak about Nicholas Sandt. Mr. Slavin thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak at the Board meeting about Nicholas. Congressman Lee Zeldin nominated Nicholas Sandt to the U.S. Air Force Academy as one of his 10 choices for the year. This is a very difficult nomination to obtain. Nicholas is a wonderful student, served as an essential

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worker and outstanding representation of this community. The District will be hearing great things about Nicholas in the future. The Board and Administration congratulated Nicholas on this well deserved recognition to help out during this election and he was presented with a certificate of recognition.

Mrs. Testa asked the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Cartisano, to give her message at this time.

## **II. SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dr. Cartisano stated that this is the first meeting of the new year and she wished everyone a healthy and happy 2021 and she stated that we are all hoping for a better and more predictable 2021.

Dr. Cartisano noted that January and February continue to be very busy months for our school community. She began by recognizing our Miller Place High School students who were able to celebrate their OAK (which stands for Outstanding Acts of Kindness) and OAR (which stands for Outstanding Academic Achievement) recognitions at a socially distanced breakfast prior to the December recess period. The celebration was conducted in two groups, one for each of the cohort, and was extremely well received by our students. Congratulations to our 2020-21 Miller Place High School National Honor Society inductees. She attended their socially distanced ceremony yesterday for cohort 1 and look forward to joining cohort 2 for their ceremony tomorrow. It is my understanding the recorded ceremony will be available for parent and community viewing within the next couple of days.

Dr. Cartisano spoke about North Country Road Middle School that Mrs. Luchsinger's invited her students to write an essay to Senator LaValle's office during the holiday season, speaking to the question, "What are you thankful for?" Students delivered well written responses discussing their gratitude for family and friends during the holidays in a brave new world. Senator LaValle's office responded by sending the students a certificate of recognition for their hard work. Dr. Cartisano said a special thank you to Senator LaValle and to Mrs. Luchsinger. Dr. Cartisano continued with Art teacher Mrs. Wood has taken some of her 8th grade instruction to the hallways. Students are involved in a mural project that allows them to work independently (socially distanced) and create beautiful works of art that will brighten up the Art / Math hallway in our middle School. She thanked Mrs. Wood for this initiative. Dr. Cartisano reviewed the Project based Learning class, 7th grade student Reagan Commander has a very special project that was developed with the assistance of Mrs. DeSario. The project is designed to educate us regarding Nephrotic Syndrome and fundraise for needed research as Reagan's sister suffers from the medical challenges of this syndrome. For those who are not familiar this disorder, it involves your body's protein. Besides doing her report and a Power Point Presentation, Reagan sold bracelets as her fundraiser to raise over \$1,000 to donate to the Nephrotic Syndrome Foundation.

Dr. Cartisano spoke about Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School where they held their first "virtual concert," a performance by musician Jared Campbell. He had our students up and dancing in their classrooms while he sang songs about compassion, understanding, and being kind to one another. They enjoyed winter spirit week which had our students wearing holiday sweaters, winter flannels, panther pride colors and of course ended with pajama day. It was great to see so much holiday cheer filling the halls and classrooms. She noted that during the month of January virtual clubs will begin with a wide

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variety of options, including a virtual game club, coding club, virtual field trip club, science club, and kindness club to name just a few.

Dr. Cartisano noted that at Andrew Muller Primary School students and staff celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> day of school dressing in 1950's attire, and they also had fun celebrating Grinch day. There was of course the pre-holiday celebrations culminating in our Polar Express pajama day. Since returning from the recess period faculty have been involved in professional development to rewrite common assessments. She said that clubs began today for 1st and 2nd grade students. They include Fitness, STEAM, Art, Music, Science; Kindness, Space and Book Club. She stated that on Friday, January 15 AMPS will celebrate Peace and Kindness Day with students encouraged to wear light blue in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Special thanks to the SIT Committee for organizing this day.

Dr. Cartisano noted that in February, our students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual STEAM related activities being coordinated by Mr. Baruch. Information will be distributed in the coming weeks about the events so please check the school web pages for specific registration and information for these events.

Dr. Cartisano reviewed the winter 2021 Drivers Education Program began with the maximum number of high school students registered for the sessions and she was appreciative of Mrs. Wojnowski's creativity in finding a way to offer this program to our students in a virtual environment.

Dr. Cartisano reported that last week marked the beginning of the winter 2021 season for our athletics program. Our current participation numbers for low and moderate risk teams are as follows: Boys Winter Track – 34 athletes, Girls Winter Track – 30 athletes, Boys Fencing (Combined w/ Newfield HS) – 6 athletes, Girls Fencing (Combined w/Newfield HS) – 1 athlete, Boys Swimming (Independent) – 6 athletes with a total athletes of 77 athletes participating. The following “high risk” winter sports are still on pause awaiting direction from Governor Cuomo: Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Competitive Cheer, and Volleyball.

Dr. Cartisano noted that our winter months are also the time we begin planning for our next school year with student and parent meetings. We expect meetings such as September 2021 ninth grade orientation and annual CSE meetings will all be held virtually or via telephone conference calls. She is looking forward to our presenting our 2021-22 budget to the Board at our meeting on February 24, 2021 and continuing our discussions with the March 2021 community budget workshop.

### **III. BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS MESSAGE**

Thank you for attending the scheduled Board Meeting tonight. Mrs. Testa stated that she hoped everyone had a safe Healthy and Happy New Year. We continue to work to provide the best and safest educational plan for the students in Miller Place. Although the COVID-19 infection rate is high, with the rollout of the vaccine available to school staff starting on January 7, 2021, and the data that school environments do not significantly spread the COVID-19 virus, the Board of Education would like to discuss directing Dr. Cartisano to have all students in grades 6-12 return to in-person instruction on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. We feel that the best way to educate our students is through direct in-person instruction, but we will continue to keep in mind the health and safety of the staff and students as we transition back

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to in-person instruction. This plan allows the option for parents and students in grades 6-12 to voluntarily select a full live stream instruction option for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Mrs. Testa asked if the other board trustees had anything to add which they did not.

**IV. PUBLIC BE HEARD**

Mrs. Testa asked the community to please submit their questions in the Q&A box with your full name not your screen name. If you do not identify yourself, we will not be reading the question. She reminded everyone that they can review the questions being asked in the Q&A box. The members of the public present asked questions in the Q&A box about COVID testing, transportation to athletic events, graduation and other event plan information, lunch table shields, locker rooms usage, possible different dates for students to return full-time (earlier), number of attendees at the meeting, quarantine and absences, vaccinations, live streaming issues, and item drop off to students. The questions were read by the Ms. Craddock. Dr. Cartisano and the Board of Education answered the questions depending upon who the question pertained to.

The Board then moved to the consent agenda for approval.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. 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, 2020 Executive Session; December 9, 2020 Executive Session – Early; December 9, 2020 Business Meeting; and December 30, 2020 Business Meeting.”

**B. FINANCE/FACILITIES:**

**1. Treasurers Report:**

Enclosed are the Treasurers reports as submitted by Mr. Donald Pearce for the period ending November 30, 2020.

**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 Treasurers Reports for the period ending November 30, 2020.”

**2. Financial Reports:**

Enclosed are the Financial Reports as submitted by Ms. Darlene Levi for the period ending November 30, 2020.

**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 period ending November 30, 2020.”

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3. **Extra Classroom Activity Report:**

Enclosed are the Extra Classroom Activity Reports as submitted by Ms. Carrie Sandt for the period ending November 30, 2020.

**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 Extra Classroom Activity Reports for the period ending November 30, 2020.”

4. **Claims Auditor Report:**

Enclosed are the Claims Auditor Report as submitted by MacDonald & Rand LLP - Certified Public Accountants for the period ending November 30, 2020.

**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 Report for the period ending November 30, 2020.”

5. **2021-22 Educational Data Services, Supplies and Materials Contract Bid #21-02:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mrs. Card are requesting approval of the following 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 #22-02.

**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 #22-02 during the 2021-22 fiscal year and to be utilized for ordering school supplies in the 2022-23 fiscal year and furthermore the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to sign such agreement.”

6. **Designation – Official Newspaper:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mrs. Card are requesting approval of the following resolution to designate South Shore Press as an additional official newspaper for publication of legal notices on an as-needed basis for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby designates the South Shore Press as a District official newspaper for publication of legal notices on an as-needed basis for the 2020-21 fiscal year.”

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C. **PERSONNEL:**

1. **Personnel List:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mr. Lipshie recommend and request your approval of the attached personnel list of January 13, 2021.

**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 January 13, 2021, 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. **Authorization – Facilitating of COVID-19 Testing:**

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby authorizes payment of \$25.00/per hour to persons for the facilitation of COVID-19 Testing.”

D. **SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **CSE Recommendations:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mrs. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the following CSE recommendations.

**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 following recommendations of the CSE’s dated: CSE 11-20-20 NCR; CSE 11-23-20 AMPS (2); CSE 12-1-20 NCR; CSE 12-1-20 OOD; CSE 12-3-20 NCR; CSE 12-7-20 LADDIE; CSE 12-9-20 MPHS ;CSE 12-10-20 NCR; CSE 12-16-20 LADDIE; CSE 12-18-20 NCR; CSE 12-22-20 NCR; CSE 12-22-20 MPHS; CSE-CPSE 12-3-20 AMPS; CSE-CPSE 12-10-20 AMPS; CSE-CPSE 12-15-20 AMPS.”

2. **Contract with Shoreham Wading River Central School District:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mrs. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the following Special Education Instructional Services Contract with the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District for Special Educational Services from September 8, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for student identification numbers 000100996; 000101018; 600040373; 000101412; 000102347 and 000101813.

**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

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Special Educational Services from September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 for student identification numbers 000100996; 000101018; 600040373; 000101412; 000102347 and 000101813 and furthermore, authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education to sign such agreements.”

**E. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – None**

**F. OTHER – None**

Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried

**VI. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**A. MPHS Executive Council Student Representative Comments**

Student Representative, Marena Capocci, thanked the Board of Education, Superintendent, teachers and staff for bringing the student’s back to school. She then gave an update on the High School activities. She stated that Winter Sports were starting and training for other sports was in progress. Students enjoyed a successful Spirit week and participated in Honor Society inductions and the Oak and Oar breakfast. The Service Club ran fundraisers before the holidays to raise money for donations of food and gift cards to community families in need. Students enjoyed participating in clubs that they could connect with their fellow students. Marena stated that students are planning for future festivities under the current social guidelines as well as making plans if things get better as well. She stated that the students are planning a Spirit Day to wear their class jersey and t-shirts.

**B. Board of Education Committees – None to Report**

**VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**A. Memorandum of Agreement with The Miller Place Teachers’ Association:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mr. Lipshie are requesting your approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Miller Place Teachers’ Association for the Contract Extension 2021-2025.

**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 Memorandum of Agreement – Contract Extension 2021-2025 the Miller Place Teachers’ Association, and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”

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Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented.  
Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Panico and duly put to a roll call vote, which resulted as follows:

<u>Roll Call Vote:</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Mrs. Johanna Testa, President	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Richard Panico, Vice President	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Noelle Dunlop, Trustee	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>
Mr. Keith J. Frank, Trustee	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>
Mrs. Lisa Reitan, Trustee	<u>X</u>	<u>      </u>

**Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried**

**B. Memorandum of Agreement with The County of Suffolk:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mrs. Card are requesting your approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Suffolk County Department of health for the provision of COVID-19 Testing if required.

**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 Memorandum of Agreement with the Suffolk County Department of Health for the provision of required state COVID -19 Testing at local school districts and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”

Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented.  
Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Panico to accept the resolution as presented.

**Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried**

**C. Memorandum of Agreement with Port Jefferson Emergency Medical Services:**

Dr. Cartisano and Mrs. Card are requesting your approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with Port Jefferson Medical Services to conduct COVID-19 Testing at the Miller Place Union Free School District if required.

**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 Memorandum of Agreement with Port Jefferson Medical Services to conduct COVID-19 Testing at the Miller Place Union Free School District and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”



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Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to approve the resolution as presented.  
Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Panico to accept the resolution as presented.

**Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried**

**D. Reopening of Schools Plan Re-Adoption:**

Dr. Cartisano is requesting your re-approval of the updated Miller Place UFSD Reopening Schools Plan for the 2020-21 school year. There were some minor changes for live streaming.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the updated Re-Opening Plan developed for the Miller Place School District for the 2020-21 school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to re-approve the Reopening of Schools Plan as presented  
Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Panico to accept the resolution as presented.

**Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried**

**E. Remote Learning Plan Re-Adoption:**

Dr. Cartisano is requesting your approval of the updated Miller Place UFSD Remote Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year. There were some minor changes for live streaming.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** “**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the updated Miller Place UFSD Remote Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to re-approve the Remote Learning Plan as presented  
Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Panico to accept the resolution as presented.

**Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried**

**VIII. DISCUSSION - None**

**IX. BOARD POLICIES**

- A. First Time Reading:** None
- B. Review:** None
- C. Action:** None

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**X. OTHER – None**

**XI. PUBLIC BE HEARD**

Mrs. Testa asked the community to please submit their questions in the Q&A box with your full name not your screen name. If you do not identify yourself, we will not be reading the question. She reminded everyone that they can review the questions being asked in the Q&A box. The members of the public present asked questions in the Q&A box about email contact information, next board meeting date, Senior information and deadlines, and a thank you for all of the hard work of the staff. The questions were read by the Ms. Craddock. Dr. Cartisano and the Board of Education answered the questions depending upon who the question pertained to.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Mrs. Testa asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Frank moved, seconded by Mr. Panico to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 P.M.

**Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried**

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