

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MILLER PLACE, NEW YORK
MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2024

Date: December 11, 2024
Kind of Meeting: Business Meeting
Place of Meeting: MPHS Auditorium

Those Present:

Board President:	Ms. Lisa Reitan
Board Trustee:	Mr. John Galligan
Board Trustee:	Ms. Johanna Testa
Board Trustee:	Ms. Andrea Spaniolas
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 Human Resources:	Mr. Chris Herrschaft
District Clerk:	Ms. Louise Tromba

Those Absent:

Board Vice-President:	Mr. Bryan Makarius
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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 JANUARY 22, 2025, BUSINESS MEETING

A. PUBLIC SESSION

1. Open Business Meeting and move to Executive Session – MPHS – 6:30 PM

Ms. Reitan called the business meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the board needed a motion to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing specific legal and specific personnel matters. She also noted that following the executive session the Board would reconvene at approximately 8:00 p.m. to continue with the board agenda.

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to move into executive session for specific legal and specific personnel matters.

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Testa to move into executive session for specific legal and specific personnel matters.

Yes 3; No 0; Motion Carried

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to exit the executive session and reconvene the business meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas to exit the executive session.

Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried

2. Ms. Reitan reviewed the emergency procedures

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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 December BOE meeting. He noted that he would like to review district activities that have taken place including several food drives district-wide to assist families in need in the Miller Place community for the Thanksgiving holiday. Each school and district office held separate collections and fundraisers to stock local and district food pantries.

At AMPS, grades K and 1 are implementing the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program that addresses auditory skills to help students integrate their learning and this program is an effective addition to our reading curriculum.

At LADSBS, the 3rd Grade classes are working on their weather units. Some classes experienced the thrill of being meteorologists and as part of their weather unit, students reported on daily weather conditions as part of the morning announcements and created an interactive weather report. Other students used various weather recording tools to create weather stations to record LADSBS weather data for the next 3 weeks. Another class for World Kindness Day used post-it notes to write a compliment about a classmate and together they brainstormed “compliment words” which students delivered to each other. The class learned that not only does it feel good to receive kindness, but it also feels good to give kindness to others. Several 5th Grade classes celebrated Thanksgiving by having their very own Thanksgiving Parade where students used Indi cars to code their own parade route around the classroom. This integrated STEAM lesson saw students create balloon floats to attach to the cars, and then figure out the correct code to get to the end of the parade route. Students in Fourth grade will be taking a virtual field trip to the NYS Fair to investigate energy used and will be participating in a variety of hands-on experiments.

At NCRMS, Ms. Laura Opitz, 7th-grade Science teacher, was honored to speak at the New York State Sea Grant's 6-year program evaluation at Stony Brook University. Ms. Opitz highlighted her 14-year collaboration with New York Sea Grant, showcasing the transformative hands-on field experiences her students have gained at Mt. Sinai Harbor and Cedar Beach. Family and Consumer Science students will be delivering handmade pillows and “Anti-bullying” themed books to AMPS students as acts of service and civics. Students in 6th grade have been practicing the “lost art” of writing letters and addressing envelopes in ELA classes in preparation for post-secondary school learning and careers.

Students in 6th grade had hands-on experience launching rockets they designed and built in science class and this activity was part of their physical science unit. Ms. Sullivan's grade 6 Math class applied math concepts in an innovative way by coding Sphero Indi cars. Students used

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coding blocks associated with colors that represented different mathematical answers, guiding the cars through custom paths based on correct answers.

At MPHS, Future Medical Professionals students had the opportunity to work with EMTs from the Sound Beach and Miller Place Fire Departments, gaining valuable hands-on experience and a firsthand look into the responsibilities of emergency responders. Former Miller Place graduate Ryan Michalski guided the students through emergency techniques and students toured the ambulances and heard from Kiera Nesbitt, an English teacher permanent sub and EMT, who shared her experiences. Additionally the Future Medical Professionals class welcomed guest speaker Cara Fizzuglio, a nurse, community member who teaches nursing at St. Joseph's University and works with Northwell Health who shared her expertise and insights into the medical field. The AP Physics students engaged in a dynamic, hands-on investigation using Dynamics Cart & Track Systems to explore the relationship between mass and acceleration. The College Forensics class had the privilege of hosting Mr. Galdi from the Suffolk County Crime Lab who shared insights into closed cases where forensic evidence played a pivotal role in solving cold case crimes. The Chemistry classes celebrated Halloween with exciting demonstrations that brought scientific concepts to life including learning how energy released by electrons creates colorful light, as seen in fireworks and ended with "smoking cauldrons," where dry ice and soapy water created spooky bubbles. Students in Mr. Skurka's Design and Drawing for Production class took their "peg game" projects to the next level by learning how to apply wood stains as part of the finishing process and this hands-on activity allowed students to experience the full design-to-production workflow, from computer-aided design and layout to wooden construction and final touches like sanding and staining. Love on a Leash visited MPHS Psychology and AP Psychology classes where students learned how dogs work with patients in hospitals, hospices, libraries and public schools to encourage pet therapy with their trained service dogs. Sports History Students visited Yankee Stadium for an exclusive tour including touring Monument Park where Yankee legends have their numbers retired, and were exposed to media and baseball writers' experiences by going inside Press Row to see the vantage point of the writers when articles and blogs are being created.

Mr. Lipshie reminded everyone to check the calendar as concert season is underway for MPHS, NCRMS and LADSBS students. He noted that the Athletics winter season has started. Upcoming reminders for events and meetings including MPHS Driver Safety, Tri-M Honor Society Induction Ceremony, NCRMS Late Winter Sports begin and STEAM Nights. Please visit the Community link on the District website where you can find links with information and activities for various groups that support our students. He wished the community a healthy and happy holiday with their families.

2. Board Members Message

Ms. Reitan stated that we will be forming an Equity Council for policy 5010 Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity in Education policy. The Equity Council will be open to community members, parents, guardians, students and staff who would like to participate in council meetings. The council is seeking open dialogue to discuss and identify opportunities and challenges to make our school equitable and inclusive. A community message will be sent out asking interested parties

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to complete a Google form. Once we have the interested participants then they will be informed of the upcoming meetings.

Ms. Reitan noted that this is our last board meeting of 2024 and on behalf of the Board of Education, wished the entire community Happy Holidays and a safe New 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.

There was no public be heard comments regarding 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 November 20, 2024 Business Meeting.”

F. CONSENT AGENDA – FINANCE/FACILITIES

1. 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.”

2. Bid Award – Bond 2021 Work

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card recommend and request your approval of the bid recommendations of Michael J. Guido, District Architect.

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 opened the bids on December 6, 2024 and hereby awards the bids 25-07 for the MPHS Unit Ventilator Replacement and Tree Clearing for the Roadway – Bond Work 2021, for the listed contracts to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the bid requirements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby delegates the authority to award Bid No. 25-07 - Contract #16A to the Superintendent of Schools, who may make such award to the lowest responsible bidder, subject to and contingent upon the execution of a contract with the successful bidder to be approved by the Board of Education as follows:

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<u>Contract No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
• Contract #16A	Site Work	ACL Construction	\$ 78,000.00
• Contract #16B	General Construction	ACL Construction	\$ 335,000.00
• Contract #17	Mechanical	Central Air	\$1,779,000.00
• Contract #19	Electrical	Relle Electric Corp	\$ 333,129.00

AND FUTHERMORE authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education to sign such agreements.”

3. **Agreement – Walsworth Publishing Company**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the agreement with Walsworth Publishing Company for the Miller Place High School yearbook for the 2025-26 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 Walsworth Publishing Company agreement and furthermore authorizes the Board of Education President to sign the agreement.”

4. **Agreement – SCOPE**

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.”

5. **Agreement – Music Theatre International**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the agreement with the Music Theatre International for the North Country Road Middle School drama production.

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 Music Theatre International agreement and furthermore authorizes the Board President to sign such agreement.”

6. **Donation – Miller Place Athletic Association**

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the resolution to accept a donation of \$5,400.00 from the Miller Place Athletic Association.

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 of \$5,400.00 from the Miller Place Athletic Association.”

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G. CONSENT AGENDA – PERSONNEL

1. Personnel List

Mr. Lipshie and Mr. Herrschaft recommend and request your approval of the attached personnel list.

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 December 11, 2024, as presented.”

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: CPSE AMPS 11-18-24; CPSE-CSE AMPS 11-21-24; CSE LADSBS 11-15-24; CSE MPHS 11-20-24; CSE MPHS 11-22-24; CSE MPHS 11-26-24; CSE NCR 11-21-24; CSE NCR 12-2-24; CSE OOD 11-22-24; CSE OOD 11-26-24.”

2. Contract – Three Village CSD School Year Program

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the Special Education Instructional Services Contract with Three Village CSD, for the dates of service from September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for student identification numbers 000102233, 000101714, 600041587, 600040411, 600041955, 600042656, 600040189, 600041819 and 000102610.

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 Three Village CSD for Special Educational Services from September 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 for student identification numbers 000102233, 000101714, 600041587, 600040411, 600041955, 600042656, 600040189, 600041819 and 000102610 and furthermore authorizes the President of the Miller Place Union Free School District Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreement.”

I. CONSENT AGENDA – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION – None

J. CONSENT AGENDA – OTHER – None

K. CONSENT AGENDA – APPROVAL

Ms. Reitan noted thanked the MPAA for their donation.

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

Ms. Spaniolas moved, seconded by Mr. Galligan to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried

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L. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Student Representative Report

The Board Student Representative, Lucy Chang, gave her report on the events of the Miller Place High School. She noted that everyone is excited, basketball season has started, and concerts are in full swing, the upcoming Winter Wonderland, and we are working on some more fundraisers. She noted that the Winter Wonderland fundraiser is for the Sophomore class this year. All the classes and clubs help with the event. Lucy mentioned that everyone is looking forward to the break.

2. Board Committees:

Wellness Committee

Ms. Testa reported that the Wellness committee met. She noted that food service has been having special events including homemade waffles and guest chef appearances. The annual school wellness assessment was completed with a rating of 52 out of 60, which is considered gold level. Next the Athletic Trainer introduced a student trainer for the fall/winter season and talked about attending a Relative Energy Deficiency in Sports (REDS) conference. REDS is basically a condition that occurs when an athlete does not consume enough calories to meet the demands of training and getting through the day which can lead to health issues and decreased athletic performance. Ms. Testa noted that a life-vac is a non-powered, non-invasive device, used to help clear an obstructive airway in a choking emergency which basically creates a one-way suction to remove food without pushing it further down the airway. This can be used as an alternative or a supplement, as opposed to the Heimlich and finger sweep techniques. There were questions as to whether there are training requirements and approvals required through AHA. Mr. Herrschaft spoke about health and wellness presentations through building administration including cell phone use and social media impacts on health.

3. Bond 2021 Update

The certificate of occupancy paperwork was sent to NYSED Facilities Planning for approval and we are still awaiting the certificates. Regarding the MPHS ventilation project and the tree work for the emergency access road the bid opening was held on Friday, December 6 and the board will be awarding the contracts tonight. The other approved projects will be bid out soon. We expect the bulk of this work to be completed summer of 2025. The 2021 bond project information can be found on the district website under departments > business office > bond information for your reference.

M. DISCUSSION – None

N. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Establish Board Ad-Hoc Committee

Mr. Lipshie is requesting that the board establish an Ad Hoc committee pursuant to Board Policy No. 2250 Board Committees and Board Policy No. 7500 Naming of Facilities to consider a facility naming request submitted to the District.

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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 establishes a Facility Naming Ad Hoc Committee to be convened by the Superintendent of Schools and the ad hoc committee will follow the parameters of Board Policy No. 7500 “Naming of Facilities.”

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools with regard to the membership of such ad hoc committee, provided such membership aligns with Board Policy No. 7500.”

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee as presented.
Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas.

Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried

2. **Regionalization Plan**

The Board of Education needs to vote to not participate in the regionalization planning process. This decision is due to the NYS Education Department by January 15, 2025.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby approves the following:

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education notified boards of education on November 26, 2024 of their option to elect not to participate in the regionalization planning process by submitting written notification by January 15, 2025 to the State Education Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved that the Board of Education elects not to participate in the regionalization planning process and directs the Superintendent of Schools to submit a written notification to the State Education Department by January 15, 2025 of the Board of Education's election.”

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to not participate in the regionalization planning process as presented.
Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Andrea Spaniolas.

Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried

O. BOARD POLICIES – FIRST TIME READING

1600	Use of School-Owned Materials and Equipment
2160	Code of Ethics
2200	Duties of District Clerk
2230	Duties of the External Independent Auditor
2230.E	Duties of the External Independent Auditor-Exhibit
2230.R	Duties of the External Independent Auditor-Regulation
2231	Duties of the Claims Auditor

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2231.E	Duties of the Claims Auditor Warrant Certification
2231.R	Duties of the Claims Auditor-Regulation
2235	Duties of the Extra-Classroom Activities Fund Treasurer
5020.3	Students with Disabilities Pursuant to Section 504
5020.5	Student Harassment & Bullying Prevention & Intervention
5020.5.E.1	Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention - Complaint Form
5020.5.E.2	Student Harassment & Bullying Prevention & Intervention Complaint Appeal Form
5020.5.R	Student Harassment & Bullying Prevention & Intervention
5320	Student Conduct on School Buses
5320.R	Student Conduct on School Buses Regulation
6235	Use of District Funds for Political Expenditures
6236	Use of Federal Funds for Political Expenditures
6700	Purchasing
6700.R	Purchasing Regulation
6710	Principles of Purchasing
6720	Competitive Bids and Quotations
7100	Facilities Planning
8411	School Bus Scheduling and Routing
8411.E	Agreement to Provide Transportation on Private Roads
8411.R	School Bus Scheduling and Routing Regulation
8414.5	Alcohol and Controlled Substance Testing for Drivers
8414.5.R	Alcohol and Controlled Substance Testing for Drivers Regulation
8415	Idling of School Buses, Other School Vehicles and Private Vehicles on School Grounds
8415.R	Idling of School Buses, Other School Vehicles and Private Vehicles on School Grounds Regulation
9010.2	Sexual Harassment
9010.2.E-1	Complaint Form for Reporting Sexual Harassment
9010.2.R	Sexual Harassment Regulation

P. BOARD POLICIES – REVIEW

6730	Contracts for Services, Equipment and Materials
8410	Student Transportation
8413	Transportation for Non-Public Schools

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. The Board of Education follows Policy 1440 – Public Complaints about District Personnel in which the Board discourages complaints or criticisms about individual District personnel at our public meetings. If there is a concern about individual District personnel, please contact the Superintendent of Schools.

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Senior class students expressed concerns regarding the viability of the 2025 senior class trip due to issues securing coach buses through Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the trip. They also mentioned that the class was denied the use of yellow school buses instead of coach buses. Ms. Reitan stated that they should stay in contact with the school principal and that the district would see what other avenues could possibly address the issues in securing coach buses.

T. MOVEMENT TO/FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for matters concerning specific legal and specific personnel.

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas, to go into Executive Session for matters concerning specific legal and specific personnel at 8:32 p.m.

Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to move out of the Executive Session to return to public session.

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas, to move out of the Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

Yes 4; No 0: Motion Carried

U. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Yes 4; No 0: Motion Carried

Respectively submitted by Ms. Louise Tromba, District Clerk