

MILLER PLACE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MILLER PLACE, NEW YORK
MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2025

Date: January 22, 2025
Kind of Meeting: Business Meeting
Place of Meeting: MPHS Auditorium

Those Present:

Board President:	Ms. Lisa Reitan
Board Vice-President:	Mr. Bryan Makarius
Board Trustee:	Mr. John Galligan (arrived at 6:40)
Board Trustee:	Ms. Johanna Testa
Board Trustee:	Ms. Andrea Spaniolas
Superintendent of Schools:	Mr. Seth Lipshie
Assistant Superintendent:	Ms. Susan Craddock (left at 9:13)
School Business Official:	Ms. Colleen Card (left at 9:13)
Executive Director for Educational Services:	Ms. Sandra Wojnowski (left at 9:13)
Director Human Resources:	Mr. Chris Herrschaft (left at 9:13)
District Clerk:	Ms. Louise Tromba

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 FEBRUARY 26, 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 6:35 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. Makarius moved, seconded by Ms. Testa to move into executive session for specific legal and specific personnel matters.

Yes 4; No 0; Motion Carried

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to exit the executive session and reconvene the business meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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

Yes 5; 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 wished everyone a Happy New Year. He highlighted some events and activities that have taken place since the last meeting.

Several School Improvement Teams created an initiative called Peace and Kindness in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to commemorate his legacy. Building-wide activities were created for students to participate in. Staff and students were encouraged to wear white or blue clothing. At AMPS, students engaged in a variety of activities that promote peace, respect, appreciation, awareness that differences make us interesting, and that friendship and teamwork make the world a better place. LADSBS experienced a “Blizzard of Kindness” where students wrote about acts of kindness that they have witnessed on snowflakes which decorated the hallways. At NCRMS during lunch periods, students signed a Kindness Pledge committing to spreading kindness throughout our school. Additionally, thank-you cards were available to write thoughtful notes to a teacher, friend, or staff member who has made a positive impact.

He noted that a member of the Harlem Wizards basketball team performed tricks and unique skills for students at NCRMS, LADSBS and AMPS. They had a sneak peek of the incredible talent and fun the Wizards will bring to Miller Place next month where our very own Miller Place faculty will take on the Harlem Wizards in a game filled with laughter, teamwork, and incredible basketball action on February 28, 2025 at the Miller Place High School.

He was excited to announce the implementation of the New York State Seal of Biliteracy. This prestigious recognition and designation is awarded to graduating students who demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages, showcasing their interpretive, interpersonal, and presentation skills.

At Andrew Muller Primary School, January 13, 2025 marked the first day that Physical Education classes were held in the new state-of-the-art gymnasium! The Kindergarten classes began a unit on pushes and pulls where they explored concepts of forces and interactions. Grade 1 began a unit on Light and Sound where they explored the cause and effect of vibration on matter to produce sound and how objects can only be seen if light is present. Concepts related to shadows and mirrors were explored. Grade 2 began a unit on earth’s features including globes, maps and how these features change through erosion caused by wind and water.

At Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School, “So Fun City” sponsored by the Miller Place PTO presented a team building game show for students. Grades 3-5 worked as a team to complete tasks and win challenges. Our students, faculty and staff participated in STEAM team building

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activities to encourage teamwork, participation and kindness by worked together to complete challenges and cheer for one another to foster school spirit. To ring in the new year in the Library Media Center at LADSBS, students learned the importance of sticking together and standing up against bullying with a sponsored project "I Pledge to Stick Together Against Bullying." Students had conversations during library classes about what kindness is, how we can be kind to one another, and what kind of vision we have for our school. The students took a pledge to stick together against bullying and signed their pledge to a collective school banner. LADSBS held the first of three STEAM Nights with over 200 students participating where they explored a variety of STEAM-related activities like Egg Drops, Catapults, Indi Cars, Doodle-bots, Zip Lines and more, all guided by the LADSBS faculty.

The Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School was recently awarded a \$1,500 Professional Learning Grant offered through the Mid-East Suffolk Teacher Resource and Computer Training Center. The project was spearheaded by 3rd Grade Teachers Allison Brenner and Justine Mock. The grant required a "design, development, and implementation of a project that supports innovative, creative classroom work that is based upon current research." The grant will allow all classroom teachers to be given a copy of the "24 Game," an innovative math card game that encourages problem solving and critical thinking.

The North Country Road Middle School National Junior Honor Society volunteered their time to Long Island Lending a Helping Hand's Holiday Toy Distribution event where students helped unload boxes of toys and gifts, set them up on display, and assisted parents and caregivers of families in need who were given the opportunity to "shop" for gifts for their children. The 8th-grade musicians from Band, Orchestra, and Chorus had the opportunity to perform for the students at Andrew Muller Primary School. Their performances provided a glimpse of what's to come for these future middle schoolers. Students from Mrs. Luchsinger's and Mrs. King's 6th-grade classes worked on creating thoughtful holiday cards for our Veterans. This tradition at NCRMS continues the sending of special messages to the Stony Brook Veterans Home.

At Miller Place High School, 18 music students were inducted to the Tri-M Honor Society. Eleven select members of the Miller Place High School orchestra performed at the Long Island String Festival Association at Hauppauge High School. The 10th-grade students had the honor of hearing from Jane Pashman, who shared her grandmother's story of survival during the Holocaust. Mrs. Pashman recounted life in Hungary surviving the ghetto, selection platform, and eventual liberation. Her presentation went beyond the facts and figures of the Holocaust to share a deeply personal human story that left a lasting impression on students and staff alike while emphasizing resilience and the importance of bearing witness to history and allowed our students to become witnesses so that we remember the lessons of the Holocaust.

Miller Place High School welcomed back alumni for an inspiring panel discussion with current students. The alumni shared valuable insights on post-secondary academics, college life, transitioning from high school to college, strategies for success, building meaningful relationships with professors, and securing internships. This event provided an excellent opportunity for alumni to give back while helping current students prepare for their futures and build meaningful connections.

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In the Sports Medicine classes, Ms. Nesbitt, a volunteer EMT, brought real-world expertise to our students where they learned about the requirements to become an EMT, explored life-saving technology such as the LUCAS CPR machine and toured an ambulance packed with essential equipment. Business students, Stephen Ye and Jordan Miletti, competed in the prestigious Wharton Global High School Investment Competition where they gained hands-on experience in strategy, teamwork and risk management. AP Seminar and AP Research students had an exciting visit to Stony Brook University for a day of learning and collaboration where students worked closely with the university's library media specialists, gaining valuable insights into advanced research techniques and exploring the vast academic resources available on campus. The experience was designed to enhance their research skills and deepen their understanding of the scholarly process. The School Foreign Language National Honor Society students visited Bryant Park in New York City and explored the world of art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mr. Lipshie reminded everyone to check the calendar for upcoming events including: Incoming 9th Grade Parent Orientation, Grades 7 & 8 Dance, AMPS STEAM Night; Lunar New Year – Schools Closed; NCRMS STEAM Night; Grade 6 Dance; and Mid-Winter Recess. He also reminded everyone to visit the Community link on the website where you can find links with information and activities for various groups that support our students.

2. Board Members Message

Ms. Reitan welcomed everyone back to the New Year as this was the first board meeting since the new year. Ms. Reitan asked if the Holocaust presentation could be presented to the 11th and 12th grade classes. - We start our budget season at the next board meeting and asked the community to please attend the next board meeting so that you can be part of the process.

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 December 11, 2024 Business Meeting.”

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F. CONSENT AGENDA – FINANCE/FACILITIES

1. Treasurer Reports

This resolution accepts the Treasurer Reports as submitted by the District Treasurer.

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 period ending November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024.”

2. Financial Reports

This resolution accepts the monthly Financial Reports as submitted by the District Treasurer.

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, 2024 and December 31, 2024.”

3. Extra Classroom Activity Reports

This motion is to approve the monthly Extra Classroom Activity Reports.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts the Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports for the period ending November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024.”

4. Claims Auditor Reports

This resolution accepts the Claims Auditor Reports as submitted by MacDonald, Rand & Vollaro LLP - Certified Public Accountants.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts as presented the Claims Auditor Reports for the period ending November 30, 2024 and December 31, 2024.”

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.”

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6. Contracts – Health Services

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the health service contracts as required per educational law, section 912, with the school districts providing health services to the District's resident students who attend private or parochial school for the 2024-25 school year that are reimbursed for these services.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby approves the health service contracts for the 2024-25 school year and furthermore authorizes the Board President and the Superintendent of Schools to sign such contracts with the Middle County Central School District.”

7. Bid #26-02 - Educational Data Services, Supplies and Materials Contract for 2024-25

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting approval of the resolution to continue our agreement with the Educational Data Services, Inc., for participation in the New York Cooperative Bid group for the purpose of bidding and purchasing services, supplies and materials Bid #26-02.

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 #26-02 during the 2024-25 fiscal year and to be utilized for ordering school supplies in the 2025-26 fiscal year and furthermore the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to sign such agreement.”

8. Budget Transfer

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Card are requesting your approval of the budget transfer of \$282,000 to purchase laptops as part of the District-wide technology replacement plan.

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 acknowledges and approves the attached budget transfer of \$282,000 to purchase laptops for the District-wide technology replacement plan.”

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 January 22, 2025, as presented.”

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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 12-11-24; CPSE AMPS 12-12-24; CPSE AMPS 12-17-24; CPSE AMPS 12-20-24; CSE AMPS 12-17-24; CSE LADSBS 12-4-24; CSE LADSBS 12-11-24; CSE LADSBS 12-13-24; CSE MPSHS 12-11-24; CSE MPHS 12-19-24; CSE NCR 12-16-24; CSE OOD 1-10-25, CSE OOD 1-16-25; CSE OOD 12-16-24.”

2. Contracts – Shoreham Wading River Central School District

Mr. Lipshie and Ms. Wojnowski are requesting your approval of the Shoreham Wading River Central School District and the Miller Place School District for the school year 2024-2025.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: “BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that Board of Education of the Miller Place Union Free School District hereby accepts the attached contract (Re: students #600040373, 600042017, 100996, 600040166, 600042207) and furthermore authorizes the President of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to sign such agreements.”

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.

Mr. Makarius moved, seconded by Mr. Galligan 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, Lucy Chang, gave her report on the events of the Miller Place High School. She noted that there has been a lot of planning and events to get us through the very cold and brutal winter season. Everyone is excited for the Wizards game and the Mardi Gras dance that the seniors are planning this year. This dance is kind of in place for the of the homecoming dance that we don’t usually do. With LISFAF there was a lot more people that went this year out of any other year. A lot of us sat either for second, third or fourth and we did very well. This Saturday there is going to be Science Olympiad where we are going to compete and see if we can grab another first. They are excited for Steam night. There has been a lot of

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planning with tournaments. There is going to hopefully be a badminton tournament and dodge ball tournament sometime in the Spring. They are also planning to have the variety show some time in May, so it will be a nice fun Spring.

2. Board Committees, if applicable

Health & Safety Committee

Mr. Makarius reported that the Health and Safety committee met. He reviewed that Mr. Herrschaft talked about the workplace violence policies and what the school district has done by putting barriers in separate areas, appropriate lighting, security guards and communications. He stated that Mr. Guido talked about bond work status including: the AMPS gymnasium being completed; MPHS unit ventilators bid; LADSBS electrical gear was installed; NCRMS FACS room was completed; LADSBS art room was completed and that the bond projects are coming along nicely. He noted that there was a mandatory dismissal drill held in November. All of the repairs have been completed due to the spring storm that caused damage at LADSBS. There was a concern about e-bikes and scooters being located at the front of the NCRMS building and they are looking to locate an appropriate place to put an additional bike rack.

Curriculum Committee

Ms. Spaniolas reported that the Curriculum committee met with teachers, parents and board members attending the meeting. Ms. Spaniolas reviewed highlights from the meeting as follows: Students attended *A Christmas Carol* at Theatre Three in our local community to conjunction with them reading the book in class. Fifth grade students did a study on the book *Wonder* and then had a Wonder Day where each student completed a book review, composed a letter to the author, and then watched the movie to compare it with the book. LADSBS also had Athletes Helping Athletes visit and engage with Fifth Grade students and this visit was a huge success. The NCRMS student government planned and hosted the annual operations and bus driver appreciation day. NCRMS is also going to be participating in the NCRMS steam night by making a gummy bear tower. Sixth Grade students conducted a rocket launch and Seventh Grade science classes went to Cedar Beach which connects students to our community for this annual field trip. NCRMS FACS students delivered handmade pillows and anti-bullying books to AMPS students, and it is wonderful to see older students connecting with younger students in our school district. A police officer come in to talk to students about cyber safety which is an important topic. Sixth Grade students learned about letter writing and properly addressing envelopes.

3. Bond 2021 Update

Ms. Reitan asked Ms. Card to give her bond update. Ms. Card stated that the AMPS gymnasium is in use and the students are enjoying the new space. Regarding the MPHS ventilation project, the board will be signing 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.

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M. DISCUSSION – None

N. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – None

O. BOARD POLICIES – First Time Reading

6700	Purchasing
6700.R	Purchasing Regulation

P. BOARD POLICIES – Review

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
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
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
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

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Q. BOARD POLICIES – Action

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

Ms. Reitan asked if there were any questions on the policies in action. There were no board questions.

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to approve the policies in action.

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas, to approve the policies in action.

Yes 5; No 0; Motion Carried

R. OTHER – None

S. PUBLIC BE HEARD

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

There was no public be heard comments.

T. MOVEMENT TO/FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Reitan asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for matters concerning specific contractual negotiations.

Mr. Galligan moved, seconded by Ms. Spaniolas, to go into Executive Session for matters concerning specific contractual negotiations at 8:23 p.m.

Yes 5; 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 9:34 p.m.

Yes 5; No 0: Motion Carried

U. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

Mr. Makarius moved, seconded by Ms. Testa, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Yes 5; No 0: Motion Carried

Respectively submitted by Ms. Louise Tromba, District Clerk