



Farmingdale School District

DATE: September 22, 2021

KIND OF MEETING: Board Meeting

PLACE: Band Room and Howitt Auditorium, Howitt Middle School

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Goldberg, Mrs. D'Amico, Mr. Espinosa, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Lively, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Soete

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Defendini, Dr. Ripley, Dr. Brennan, Dr. Olsen, Mr. Motisi, Richard Guercio, Esq. (Executive Session Only), Christopher Shishko, Esq. (Executive Session Only), Reesa Miles, Mrs. Rogers

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Band Room at the Howitt Middle School by Mr. Goldberg, President of the Board of Education.

Executive Session Motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively, to meet in executive session to discuss specific legal, collective bargaining and personnel issues in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Motion carried 6-0

Meeting recessed for executive session at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Giordano arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Reconvene Meeting

Meeting reconvened in the Howitt Auditorium at 8:00 p.m.

The public portion of the meeting was called to order by Board President Michael Goldberg at 8:00 p.m. He began by explaining the format of the meeting. He stated that the Board of Education provides two opportunities for the public to express ideas and share thoughts. The first would be after we receive an update from our Superintendent. The second would be after the business portion of the meeting had concluded. He stated that both sessions would be 30 minutes in duration and all speakers would be limited to 3 minutes to give as many people a chance to speak as possible. Members of the public were asked to approach any one of the three microphones in the front of the auditorium. He asked that anyone speaking state their name and address prior to beginning your comments so that the District Clerk can accurately reflect the minutes of tonight's meeting. Mrs. Rogers would let me know when you have thirty seconds left so you can wrap up your comments before the end of the three minutes. You must be stationed at a microphone to express your ideas and share your thoughts with the Board.

Mr. Goldberg stated that the Board of Education respects the varied opinions of the

Pledge of Allegiance

community Any behaviors that threaten the integrity of the meeting would not be tolerated and would cause the meeting to be adjourned. Complaints or challenges should follow procedures listed under Policies 1400, 1410 and/or 1440, which are included on the materials table. Mr. Goldberg pointed out the emergency exits. He thanked all for their cooperation. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Michael Goldberg asked for a motion to change the order of business.

On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mr. Espinosa, the order of business contained in the public meeting agenda, set forth in Policy 2350, was amended to allow the Board to vote upon the consent agenda, review and vote on the September 22, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education.

Motion carried 7-0

Consent Agenda

Business Report

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Acceptance for File of Financial Reports

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report - July 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept for file the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2021 pursuant to the authority contained in Section 170.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and in accordance with Board Policy 6600.

Acceptance of the Revenue and Expenditure Report - July 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept for file the Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of July 2021 pursuant to the authority contained in 170.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and in accordance with Board Policy 6600.

Acceptance of the Claims Auditor Report - August 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept for file the Claims Auditor Report for the month of August 2021 pursuant to the authority contained in Section 170.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and in accordance with Board Policy 6600.

Approval of Contracts and Agreements

Approval of RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale UFSD Board of Education approve the following

**Special
Education and
General
Education
Contracts**

contracts for Special Education and General Education services for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and that the Board President be authorized to sign said contracts.

HENRY VISCARDI SCHOOL
ITUTOR.COM
JF EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING
US MEDICAL STAFFING, LLC.

**Approval of a
Consulting
Services
Agreement
with Lea
Mercantini
Leibowitz**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve an Agreement between the Farmingdale School District and Lea Mercantini Leibowitz for the purpose of professional development and to authorize the Board President to sign said agreement.

**Approval of a
Consulting
Services
Agreement
with
DocDeana
Enterprises**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve an Agreement between the Farmingdale School District and DocDeana Enterprises for the purpose of professional development and to authorize the Board President to sign said agreement.

**Approval of a
Settlement
Agreement
and General
Release
Regarding a
Former
Employee
Named in
Executive
Session**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education approve a Settlement Agreement and General Release regarding a former employee named in Executive Session and that the Board President be authorized to sign said agreement.

**Approval of a
Settlement &
General
Release
Agreement**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the attached settlement agreement in the matter of ACME Bus Corp. v. Farmingdale Union Free School District, Adversary Proceeding No.: 20-08184 and hereby authorizes the Board President to execute same; and it is further

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby authorizes Guercio & Guercio, LLP to take further action as necessary to file the settlement agreement and resolve Adversary Proceeding No.: 20-08184 on behalf of the District.

**Approval of
the Pear Deck
Agreement for
the 2021/22**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale School District Board of Education approve the Pear Deck Agreement (an interactive learning tool) for the 2021/22 School Year and authorize the Board President to sign the appropriate agreement.

School Year

Appointment of a Land Surveyor RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appoint Lisa McQuilkin Land Surveying, P.C. to conduct a land survey in relation to the proposed litigation discussed in executive session.

Approval of a CTE Application for Theatre Performing Arts Resolved, that the Farmingdale Board of Education approve a CTE Application for Theatre Performing Arts, and to authorize the Board President to sign said agreement.

Acceptance of a Donation to the Kevin J. Armstrong Memorial Scholarship Fund RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education acknowledge, accept and thank Ms. Margery Armstrong for a monetary donation to the Kevin J. Armstrong Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Acceptance of a Donation to the Forever Friends Memorial Scholarship Fund RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education acknowledge, accept and thank Trina Boneville from Tre Sorelli at Gatsby and the staff at Woodward Parkway Elementary School for a monetary donation to the Forever Friends Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Acceptance of a Donation to the William J. Geandomenico Memorial Scholarship Fund RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education accept the donation to the William J. Geandomenico Memorial Scholarship Fund, and to acknowledge and thank Anne-Marie Geandomenico and Michael Leahy for a monetary donation to the William J. Geandomenico Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Approval of Declaration of Obsolete Equipment - September 2021 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education declare the attached items as obsolete and disposed of in accordance with Board Policy 6900.

Items for Action

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Approval of a Variance of Policy No. 2410, Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education approve a Variance of Policy No. 2410, Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies, to revise Exhibits #1500-E.1, Public Use of Facilities, and #1500-E.2, Public Use of Facilities in the Absence of an Approved Budget.

Appointment of Committee on Special Education/Preschool RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education appoint members to the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education in accordance with Board Policy 4321.14.

Appointment of Sokoloff Stern, LLP to Serve as Special Counsel RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the law firm of Sokoloff Stern, LLP to serve as special counsel for the Board of Education in connection with the matter discussed in executive session and any action arising therefrom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the retainer agreement with Sokoloff Stern, LLP for this matter and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute such retainer agreement, on behalf of the Board of Education.

Approval of Individual School Emergency Response Plans for 2021-22 RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education approve the Emergency Response Plans for Albany Avenue Elementary School, Northside Elementary School, Saltzman East Memorial Elementary School, Woodward Parkway Elementary School, Howitt Middle School and Farmingdale High School as defined in the New York State S.A.V.E. Legislation for the 2021-2022 school year.

Superintendent's Report

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Personnel Items -- Instructional

Audit Committee Resignation RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the service of Audit Committee member L. David Altadonna

Resolution

and to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, L. David Altadonna has served as a founding member of the Farmingdale Union Free School District Audit Committee; and

WHEREAS, his volunteer service to the community has provided for efficient business practices aligned with General Municipal Law, generally accepted accounting principles and best practices; and

WHEREAS, he has demonstrated unique qualities of professionalism, inspiration, dedication and respect in his volunteer service to the school district and to the community; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts with regret his notice of resignation from the Audit Committee and thanks him for his service to the district and to the community.

**Instructional:
Approval of
Summer Per
Diem Work
for
Instructional
Staff**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve summer per diem work for part time employees (1/200th of salary) related to CSE, CPSE and associated work, limited to three (3) days, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools and/or his designee.

**Instructional:
Resignations**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Resignations," effective on the date noted hereon and for the reason stated.

**Instructional:
Leave of
Absence 2021 /
2022**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept an instructional personnel action: "Leave of Absence 2021 / 2022", effective for the dates noted hereon and for the reasons stated.

**Instructional:
Appointments
/ 2021-2022**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / 2020-2021", in accordance with Board Policy 9230. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

In order to be eligible for tenure, an individual receiving a probationary appointment as a classroom teacher or building principal must receive annual composite or overall APPR ratings of H or E in at least three of the four preceding years, and if the Individual received a rating of I in the final year of the probationary period, he or she will not be eligible for tenure at that time.

Instructional:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the

Appointment Regular Substitute 2021/2022 Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve an instructional personnel action: "Appointment Regular Substitute / 2021-2022", in accordance with Board Policy 9230. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

Instructional: Appointments / Project Read (Part-time, Hourly Position) RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Appointments: Project Read (Part-time, Hourly Position)", at the stated rate per hour, in accordance with Board Policy 9230. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget. Part time positions are annual appointments.

Instructional: Coaching and Extra Curricular Appointments RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Coaching and Extra Curricular Appointments", in accordance with Board Policy 5200. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget. Stipends are contingent upon completion of assignments.

Instructional: Appointment of On Call, Per Diem Substitute Teachers RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of instructional personnel actions: "Appointment of On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Teachers", subject to termination at any time.

Personnel Items -- Non-Instructional

Non-instructional: Change in Assignment / CSEA RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Changes in Assignment / CSEA", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

Non-Instructional: Promotional Appointment / CSEA RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Promotional Appointment / CSEA", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointment does not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

Non-Instructional: Appointment / CSEA RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Appointment / CSEA", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointment does not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

- Non-instructional: Rescind Appointment / CSEA DWO** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Rescind Appointment / CSEA DWO", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations.
- Non-Instructional: Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement / TASM** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement / TASM" effective on the date noted hereon and for the reason stated.
- Non-Instructional: Resignations / TASM** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Resignations / TASM," effective on the date noted hereon and for the reason stated.
- Non-instructional: Confirmation of Changes in Assignments / TASM** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional, personnel actions: "Confirmation of Changes in Assignments / TASM", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointment does not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.
- Non-Instructional: Appointments / TASM** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / TASM", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointments do not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.
- Non-Instructional: Resignations / School Lunch Program** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District accept a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Resignations / School Lunch Program," effective on the date noted hereon.
- Non-instructional: Rescind Resignation / School Lunch Program** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Rescind Resignation / School Lunch Program", in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations.
- Non-instructional: Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel action: "Appointment / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Cleaners", subject to termination at any time.

**Substitute
Cleaners**

**Non-
instructional:
Appointments
/ On-Call, Per
Diem
Substitute
Food Service
Workers**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Food Service Workers", subject to termination at any time.

**Non-
instructional:
Appointment /
On-Call, Per
Diem
Substitute
Security Aide**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action: "Appointment / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Security Aide", subject to termination at any time.

**Non-
instructional:
Appointment /
On-Call, Per
Diem
Substitute
School
Monitors**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute School Monitor", subject to termination at any time.

**Non-
instructional:
Appointment /
On-Call, Per
Diem
Substitute
Teacher Aides**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a schedule of non-instructional personnel actions: "Appointments / On-Call, Per Diem Substitute Teacher Aides", subject to termination at any time.

**Approval of
the Committee
on Preschool
Special
Education
Placements
Report and
Acceptance for
File of Said
Report**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Farmingdale UFSD Board of Education approve and accept for file the Committee on Preschool Special Education Placements Report by the Director of Special Education dated August 29, 2021, in accordance with New York State Education Part 200 Regulations.

**Approval of
the Committee
on Special
Education**

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Farmingdale UFSD Board of Education approve and accept for file the Committee on Special Education Placements Report by the Director of Special Education dated August 29, 2021, in accordance with New York State Education Part 200 Regulations.

**Placements
Report and
Acceptance for
File of Said
Report**

Items for Discussion and Action

Approval of the Tax Levy for the 2021/22 School Year RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education approve the attached tax levy for the 2021/22 school year.

Discussion:
Board President Michael Goldberg asked Assistant to the Superintendent for Business Michael Motisi for an update on the setting of the tax levy. Mr. Motisi explained that the resolution presented allows the district to transmit tax information to the Town of Oyster Bay and the Town of Babylon. He stated that a fact sheet would be posted to the district website and that he was available for district resident queries about their tax bill.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Anthony Giordano, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Approval of Policy #1500-E.1, Public Use of Facilities and Policy #1500-E.2, Public Use of Facilities in the Absence of an Approved Budget RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education adopt Policy #1500-E.1, Public Use of Facilities, and Policy #1500-E.2, Public Use of Facilities in the Absence of an Approved Budget, in accordance with Board Policy 2410.

Discussion:
Board President Michael Goldberg introduced Dr. William Brennan and asked for an update on the changes to this policy. Dr. Brennan stated that both exhibits had been updated to reflect the building usage rates for those groups that do not meet the residency requirements. The change is specifically for the high school pool use only.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Approval of the Board of Education Standing Committee Assignments for the 2021-22 School Year RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Board of Education adopt the Board of Education Standing Committee Assignments for the 2021-22 school year. Committee Members will serve until a new membership is established.

Discussion:
Board President Michael Goldberg reviewed the Board Committee assignments for the 2021-2022 school year. He noted each assignment from 2020-2021 and one change was made to the alternate Farmingdale Public Library liaison. Mrs. D'Amico would

take on this responsibility in 2021-2022.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Approval of a Voting Delegate for the 2021-22 NYSSBA Convention RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District appoint Kathy Lively as voting delegate to represent Farmingdale Schools at the Annual Meeting of the New York State School Boards Association October 24, 2021 convention.

Discussion:
Board President Michael Goldberg stated that the New York State Schools Boards Convention would be held in a virtual environment. Many of the items for discussion would be related to things we learned during the past year and a half as adjustments were made due to the on-line learning that occurred during the pandemic. He stated that it is important now more than ever to listen and to learn from school boards across the state.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Item for Discussion

2021 Proposed NYSSBA Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions Mr. Goldberg stated that the Board had received the resolutions' workbook from the New York State School Boards Association to go over each item to determine recommendations for support that will be presented at the October 18 delegates meeting. There are 25 resolutions that will be considered, from education funding to resources for students with disabilities; absentee ballots for budget votes to changes in Open Meetings Law. He stated that the Board of Education will report back to the community as the work continues.

RESULT:	DISCUSSED
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Superintendent's Update

Monthly Update Board President Michael Goldberg asked the Superintendent of Schools for his monthly update. Mr. Defendini began with a message of thanks to district administration, to staff, to students and to the families of Farmingdale Schools for their work and cooperation in helping to make the start of the 2021-2022 school year a success. He stated that he is proud of the work that we are doing; the heartbeat of the schools has returned. Faculty are back in front of students; students are back to full in-person learning. He announced that the district's annual Band Camp would begin Thursday morning. Protocols are in place to keep the students and staff safe and to enjoy a bit of this Farmingdale tradition. We had learned that the Newsday Marching

Band Festival and the All County Music Festivals would be cancelled this year so he was especially pleased to have our own program again.

Mr. Defendini expressed his excitement over the start of the football season and the thrill to have the marching band and pep band performances. The players continued the Daler tradition; the cheerleaders and kick line performed well.

Mr. Defendini also addressed the issue with transportation. He noted that this is not only a problem for Farmingdale Schools but is an issue throughout the state and the country. He noted that the Massachusetts National Guard had been activated to help get students to school in that state. Information was shared through the community on behalf of the bus company to distribute employment information. Mr. Defendini thanked Mr. Motisi and the Transportation Office employee for their tireless efforts.

Mr. Defendini reported on the Aquatic Center construction, noting that the roofing system had been delivered and the work would begin next week.

Mr. Defendini concluded his update with thanks to the various PTA units and the PTA Council for all of their efforts towards a successful Opening Day 2021. He noted the picture days, welcome back events and the building barbecues as examples of the work that makes us special and expressed his gratitude for the partnerships around us.

Public Participation

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the first public participation.

A resident read a letter to the Board regarding the original mask optional plan and the transition to the mask required policy. She handed in a petition with approximately 400 signatures that requested that the school participate in the mask/unmasked litigation

A resident asked that the Board support the community members in the litigation over masks. He spoke about allowing 8th graders the opportunity to participate in the competition cheer team at the high school. He noted that the streets surrounding the Howitt Middle School drop off and pick up times were very dangerous.

A student spoke about allowing the 8th grade cheerleaders to participation in the competition cheer program. She stated that the competition team needed flyers and that the 8th graders were ready to join them. The captain of the competition cheer team also asked for the expansion of the program to allow for a middle school and a JV competition cheer program.

A resident asked the Board if they would address the behaviors of residents during the August 25 board meeting. He stated also that writing letters to elected officials was not productive.

A resident spoke about the Department of Health's authority to create mandates for schools. She spoke about the legislative branch of the government. She felt that the Department of Health stepped outside their authority.

A resident spoke about the back to school night and the sadness felt when they were told that parents and other visitors would not be allowed in the classroom.

A parent spoke about the social/emotional impact of COVID on her elementary aged children and that they are afraid to be in schools as that is the only place where masks are required.

A parent spoke about her disappointment with the virtual open school night and not being able to go into school for birthday parties.

A parent spoke about meeting face to face and the importance of keeping cameras on during virtual meetings.

A parent spoke about his concern regarding the potential of mandated COVID vaccines for children.

Board of Education Minutes

Board of Education - Board Meeting - Aug 25, 2021 8:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Board of Education - Special Meeting - Sep 1, 2021 6:00 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
SECONDER:	Mario Espinosa, Trustee
AYES:	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

Board Correspondence

Board President Michael Goldberg asked the District Clerk if there had been any board correspondence during the past month. Mrs. Rogers reported that the board had received emails both in support of and against mask wearing in schools, an email regarding mask breaks, an email regarding mask wearing in physical education classes, a request for expanded information on the weekly COVID reports, information about CO2 sensors, asbestos abatement, parental rights, local control, a question about the Facilities Advisory Committee, and an opinion on the events during public participation at the August 25 meeting. A resident shared a copy of a New York Times opinion column regarding board meetings.

Board Committee Reports

Board President Michael Goldberg asked if there were any Board Committee reports.

Mr. Espinosa reported on the recent Farmingdale Public Library Board of Trustees meeting. He stated that there is a COVID Exhibit on display; there are building repairs beginning shortly and new fencing around the perimeter of the property.

Mr. Goldberg reported that he and the other trustees had attended the first PTA meetings of the school year. The meetings were held virtually with impressive attendance and participation. He thanked the PTA for all of the school opening events

around the district, including welcome back barbecues, picnics and picture days.

Mrs. Soete reported on the Farmingdale Remembers 9/11 memorial service at the Farmingdale Public Library. She commented on Mrs. Tucker's chorus performance and the turn out of families personally impacted 20 years before as well as community members who were there to honor those lost.

Mrs. Lively reported on the activities of the Farmingdale Youth Council, including the component organizations like Farmingdale Soccer, Baseball, PAL, St. Kilian's CYO and Farmingdale Aquatics. Winter program registration is available on the website.

Mrs. Lively also reported on the Chamber of Commerce, noting that this group and the local businesses provide for internships for our students as well as scholarships for graduating seniors. She noted that there would be a Comedy Night fundraiser on October 14 and a shredding event on October 2.

Mr. Morales reported on the PAL flag football program. He noted that the grounds are perfect and that the players were having trouble playing on grass! PAL basketball will be starting in mid-November. A meeting of the PAL board would take place on October 4 at the PAL Clubhouse on Front Street.

Mr. Goldberg congratulated Farmingdale High School Teacher Jim Hughes on his induction to the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Public Participation

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the second public participation.

A parent asked for information regarding this year's prom. Mr. Defendini stated that he would remind Dr. Thompson to send the information out to parents.

A resident spoke about the school district's comprehensive safety plan and noted information about the surveillance system. He referenced a FOIL request from 2000.

A resident spoke about student anxiety due to mask wearing and the inability to go anywhere without having a mask with them.

A parent spoke about her decision to home school her child and the impact to her social emotional well being. She urged the Board to join the Massapequa and Locust Valley litigation.

A parent spoke about the impact to parents of not being able to visit their children's classrooms. She noted that the petition was the result of a Facebook group.

A parent spoke about the psychological damage her child has incurred due to last year's remote learning. She urged the Board to meet with the attorneys representing Massapequa and Locust Valley.

A parent spoke about moving out of state due to New York's mandates.

A parent spoke about her child's germ phobia.

The captain of the Varsity Cheer team requested that the Board allow 8th graders to move up to the competition team. She stated that she had been part of the Farmingdale Hawks cheer program since she was five years old. She has been coaching the current 8th graders and knows that they are capable of moving to the high school program.

A parent asked the Board to commit to a timeline for a decision about participating in the litigation.

A parent spoke about the time sensitivity of joining the litigation.

Adjournment On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion carried 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk