

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, in the All Purpose Room Countrywood Primary Center, 499 Old Country Road, Huntington Station, New York.

**Present:      Board Members:**

President

Vice President

Mr. Kaden

Mr. Ciappetta

Mrs. Brieff

Mrs. Carey

Mrs. LaCara

Mr. Nitkewicz

**Staff:**

Superintendent of Schools

Deputy Superintendent

Asst. Supt. for Personnel &amp; District Services

Interim Business Administrator

Supervisor of Assessment and Technology

District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo

Ms. Harris

Dr. Centamore

Mr. Light

Dr. Bloom

Mrs. Hammond

**Absent:**      Board Member

Mrs. DeGaetano

**Call to Order:**      Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**Musical Presentation:**      Dr. Bennardo expressed holiday greetings to the audience and introduced the Countrywood Singers. They put on a delightful performance led by teacher Adam Slawitsky that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Mr. Kaden thanked the students for their wonderful performance.

**Recognition of Antonio Guerrieri for Eagle Scout Project:**      Mr. Kaden presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Antonio Guerrieri for his completed Eagle Scout project. Antonio's project was the construction of a pergola that provided an entrance to a walkway leading to a garden at Maplewood Intermediate School. Antonio gave a brief overview of the project for the audience. The Board and audience expressed their appreciation to Antonio.

**Adoption of Agenda:**      Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):**      Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:

**Minutes:**      Minutes of Board meeting held on November 6, 2013.

<b>Schedule of Investment Accounts:</b>	Schedule of Investment Accounts, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 632.
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	Treasurer's Report, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 633.
<b>Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 634-647.
<b>Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 648.
<b>Revenue Status Report, General Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 649.
<b>Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 650.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 651.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 652-655.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 656.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 657.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 658-660.

**Budgetary Transfer Report:** Budgetary Transfer Report, October 2013, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 661.

**Tax Levy Schedule:** Tax Levy Schedule, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 662.

**Library Tax Levy:** Library Tax Levy, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 662.

**Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:** Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 663-666.

**Claims Audit Report:** Claims Audit Report, October 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 667-670.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General Fund	Warrant 71	\$ 11,155.27
	"	72	845,852.59
	"	73	11,666.67
	"	74	5,062.50
	"	75	448,923.78
	"	V069	(44.07)
	School Lunch Fund	20	72,534.14
	Special Aid	25	28,376.57
	2003 Bond	14	52,559.53

Approved – Board Packet of December 6, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 68	\$ 8,698.43
"	69	4,770,070.20
"	70	4,409.78
School Lunch	19	18,343.38
Special Aid	23	127,734.22
"	24	18,375.00

Approved – Board Packet of November 22, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 65	\$128,352.98
"	66	190,048.06
"	67	19,500.00
"	V000	(524.50)
"	V063	(231.80)
School Lunch	18	1,075.14
Special Aid	22	36,096.68

**Vote on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):** Mr. Kaden asked for any additional comments or questions on the above items, and then called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Rate of Pay for  
Individuals Called  
in to Assist with  
Mailings:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, Whereas, the New York State minimum wage is currently at \$7.25 per hour; and

Whereas, the New York State minimum wage will be \$8.00 per hour effective December 31, 2013; \$8.75 per hour effective December 31, 2014; and \$9.00 per hour effective December 31, 2015; now therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves, for those individuals called in to assist with collating and labeling of various district mailings, an hourly rate of pay of \$7.15 per hour immediately; \$8.00 per hour effective December 31, 2013; \$8.75 per hour effective December 31, 2014; and \$9.00 per hour effective December 31, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation from  
Marching Band  
Parents  
Association:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation from the Marching Band Parents Association of a vibraphone valued at \$4,998 to the Front Ensemble of the Walt Whitman High School Marching Band.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Establishment of  
the Billy  
Lucatuorto  
Scholarship:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the establishment of The Billy Lucatuorto Scholarship to be awarded annually to a student who has overcome a personal (not family based) challenge in the amount of \$500, and

Be it Further Resolved that the amount of the annual scholarship could be increased based on the donations received.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution  
Reducing the  
Business  
Investment  
Exemption for  
Eligible Real  
Property:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, Whereas, New York State Real Property Tax Law §485-b provides that a public school district may reduce the per centum of the business investment exemption for eligible real property; and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of the District to reduce such exemption; therefore, be it

**Resolution  
Reducing the  
Business  
Investment  
Exemption for  
Eligible Real  
Property:  
(Continued)**

Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby reduces the exemption as follows:

<b>Year of Exemption</b>	<b>Percentage of Exemption</b>
1	0
2	0
3	0
4	0
5	0
6	0
7	0
8	0
9	0
10	0

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to effectuate this resolution by duly filing the resolution with the Suffolk County Executive, and the Supervisor and Assessor of the Town of Huntington.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Memorandum of Agreement with Local 424 Cafeteria Workers:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement made between the South Huntington Union Free School District and the United Public Service Employees Union on November 25, 2013, and

Be It Further Resolved, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the Memorandum of Agreement.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution  
Authorizing  
Counsel to Protect  
District's Interests  
in Bankruptcy  
Court re  
Transportation  
Contract with K-  
Corr, Inc.:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, Whereas, the Board of Education has become aware that its transportation contractor, K-Corr, Inc. has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District; and

Whereas, as a result of said filing, counsel has advised that it is required to and is prepared to file such necessary documents with the Bankruptcy Court as will protect the interests of the School District;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education hereby authorizes counsel to take any and all necessary steps to file any and all such documents in the Bankruptcy Court of such other court as in its professional judgment will protect the School District's interests.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**NYSSBA Winter  
Law Conference:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves attendance at the NYSSBA Winter Law Conference to be held on January 9, 2013, at the Islandia Marriott. Motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution  
Authorizing the  
Superintendent to  
Take Action  
Concerning the  
Assignment of  
Transportation  
Contracts:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved by the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District that the Superintendent shall be authorized to take all necessary actions on behalf of the Board of Education to either consent, or withhold consent, concerning the application of K. Corr/Rayburn/Courtesy Bus Co., Inc. for a bankruptcy assignment of its contract for student transportation services with the South Huntington Union Free School district to a third party. Motion carried unanimously.

**GEA Discussion:**

Dr. Bennardo stated that the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was first enacted by the Legislature for the 2009-2010 school year to close the state's budget gap. The state budget allocates aid to school districts, and then takes away a portion of that aid through the GEA. Dr. Bennardo noted that \$2.8 million was taken out last year. Dr. Bennardo stated that the New York State School Boards Association, Nassau County Council of School Superintendents, Suffolk County School Superintendents Association and most school districts are endorsing the elimination of the GEA. Mr. Kaden stated that his concern was that our district benefitted from high tax relief. Mr. Kaden stated that he was not sure if it was in our best interest to back this as we might lose the high tax relief. Dr. Bennardo noted that our district received a 4% increase in state aid last year based on high tax relief. After further discussion, it was the sense of the Board to not endorse elimination of the GEA at this time.

**APPR Common  
Core Letter  
Discussion:**

Dr. Bennardo stated that the Board of Education was asked to support the Western Suffolk BOCES and SCSSA letter campaign on Common Core. Dr. Bennardo noted that there were some very aggressive camps. Dr. Bennardo stated that our letters endorsed the Western Suffolk BOCES and SCSSA letters but noted that while we supported the quest for higher standards, we would not support nor endorse examination boycotts or actions that violated State Education Department requirements. The Board supported the letters as outlined by Dr. Bennardo.

**Recommendations  
for Placement by  
CSE/CPSE:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated October 10, 16, 23, 24, 28, November 1, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, December 2, 3, 4 and 10, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated November 12, 25, 26, 27, December 3 and 11, 2013, is satisfied that the procedures of Chapter 853 of the Education Law were followed and accepts the recommendations for placement set forth, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 671-687. Motion carried unanimously.

**Attendance at the  
Dr. Martin Luther  
King, Jr.  
Commission  
Awards Luncheon:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves Board and Cabinet attendance at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Awards Luncheon to be held on January 17, 2014, at the Hyatt Regency Wind Watch in Hauppauge, New York. Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed the recommendations of the Chief School Administrator, is satisfied that the provisions of Section 3012 of Education Law were followed, and thereby accepts those recommendations as set forth in schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 688-698, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2 - Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 5 - Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11 - Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 12 - Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave

Schedule 15 - Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17 - Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 20 - Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22 - Substitute Employee Appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and  
Reports:**

1. Congratulatory letter to Whitman's All-County, All-Division, All-League and Honorable Mention Athletes from Dr. Bennardo
2. Personnel Postings (4)
3. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 12-10-13
4. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 12-13-13

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 6, 2013

1. Invitation from Ingerman Smith, L.L.P. to Affordable Care Act Round Table Discussion to be held on Monday, December 16
2. Personnel Postings (8)
3. *December 2013 Calendar*, Oakwood Primary Center
4. *Countrywood Chronicle*, December 2013
5. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 11-25-13

Information Sent to Board Week Ending November 22, 2013

1. Memo to Board President of component District from Dr. Michael J. Mensch re Western Suffolk BOCES 2013-14 Goals (Board Members Only)
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Annual Risk Assessment
3. Personnel Postings (2)
4. November Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
5. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 11-21-13

**Committee  
Updates:**

Facilities

Mr. Ciappetta reported that the committee met earlier this evening and discussed the following:

- South Huntington Youth Wrestling Club's offer to donate \$5,000 for wrestling mats. Mr. Ciappetta noted that we would need an additional \$5,000 or more to cover the cost of the mats.
- One of our tenants at the old library building, Erich Preis, would like to hang one of his murals onto the brick on the outside of the old library building. Mr. Ciappetta stated that he would like to see the mural before a final decision is made.
- Long-range project needs for improving Stimson Middle School.
- Proposed art gallery at Walt Whitman High School. Mr. Kaden suggested that the committee come back to the Board with the full cost of this project.

**Comments from  
Board Members  
and Staff:**

Mr. Kaden wished everyone a happy holiday season and hoped all would enjoy the holiday break.

**Voice of the  
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

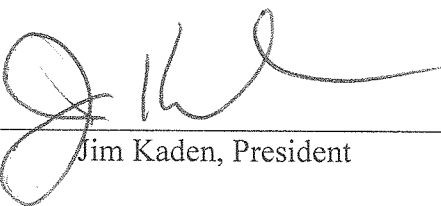
A resident asked if our district would be impacted by the Atlantic Bus Company bankruptcy. Dr. Bennardo stated that the majority of our buses are owned by the district and Huntington Coach handles most of our contract busing.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Kaden, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 632 through 698.