

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 29, 2014, in Conference Room B of the Administration Building, 60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**

President
Vice President

Mr. Kaden
Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Brieff
Mrs. Carey
Mrs. DeGaetano
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools
Deputy Superintendent
Asst. Supt. for Personnel & District Services
Interim Business Administrator
Supervisor of Assessment and Technology
Deputy District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo
Ms. Harris
Dr. Centamore
Mr. Light
Dr. Bloom
Mrs. McLean

Absent: District Clerk

Mrs. Hammond

Call to Order: Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants): Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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 December 18, 2013.

Schedule of Investment Accounts:	Schedule of Investment Accounts, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 738.
Treasurer's Report:	Treasurer's Report, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 739.
Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 740-752.
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 753.
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 754.
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 755.
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 756.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 757-760.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 761.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 762.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 763-765.

Budgetary Transfer Report: Budgetary Transfer Report, November 2013, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 766.

Tax Levy Schedule: Tax Levy Schedule, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 767.

Library Tax Levy: Library Tax Levy, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 767.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report: Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, November 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 768-773.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 94	\$ 17,384.93
	"	95	1,437,600.25
	"	96	1,621,036.98
	School Lunch	25	19,015.00
	Special Aid	31	49,638.16

Approved – Board Packet of January 17, 2014

General Fund	Warrant 86	1,000.00
"	87	761,104.31
"	88	14,252.79
"	89	12,130.62
"	V085	(525.50)
School Lunch	23	3,554.79
Special Aid	28	229.00
"	29	2,503.20

General Fund	Warrant 90	\$4,300.90
"	91	629.40
"	92	11,666.67
"	93	740,303.22
"	V085	(4,930.30)
School Lunch	24	42,970.88
"	V024	(7,174.14)
Special Aid	30	20,401.08

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.

Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools: 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 request to remain in South Huntington Schools for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year, a copy of the request made part of these legal minutes, p. 774.
Motion carried unanimously.

Field Trip Request: Motion by Mrs. Briefff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request to the DECA New York State Competition to be held on March 4-7, 2014, in Rochester, New York. Motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance and Adoption of Advisory Recommendations: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby accepts in all respects and adopts the Advisory Recommendations made by Arbitrator Richard Gaba in his December 18, 2013, decision in AAA Case No. 13 390 00132 13. At Dr. Bennardo's request, Dr. Centamore stated that the arbitration decision is in the District's favor and thus concludes the class size grievance filed by the South Huntington Teachers' Association. Motion carried unanimously.

2014-2015 School Calendar: Dr. Bennardo stated the 2014-2015 school calendar is unique for several reasons; there will be two superintendent conference days in August prior to the start of school. Additionally, emergency days will be made up in a different manner than in the past. In the event one emergency day is used, a conference day will not be cancelled. In the event two emergency days are used, one teaching day shall not be cancelled. If two emergency days are used, the District has the prerogative to schedule one teaching day during a recess period; April 2, 2015, Holy Thursday, would be the first make-up day and would be noted accordingly on the printed calendar for parent notification purposes. Should three emergency closings take place, consideration of instructional days during the February 2015 mid-winter recess break would be considered or during the spring recess period (April 2 through April 10, 2015).

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 2014-2015 school calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Briefff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated December 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 14, 2014, 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. 775-785. Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation of 30
DELL Desktop
Computers:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation from Anchin, Block and Anchin LLP of thirty (30) Dell desktop computers, model OptiPlex 745 or 755. Dr. Bennardo shared that Dr. Bloom deserved credit for this donation; the computers donated were in extremely good condition and would be put to good use.

Motion carried unanimously.

**State Aid
Discussion:**

Dr. Bennardo provided a brief overview of the initial New York State aid figures with a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Bernardo stressed that these numbers, which are part of the Governor's Executive Budget proposal, represented a starting point that was subject to a great deal of negotiation. Comparing the 2013/14 state aid to the 2014/15 proposed state aid, both the Foundation and High Tax aid categories had a zero difference. However, the Gap Elimination Adjustment had an increase of \$366,204. Dr. Bennardo explained that the Gap Elimination Adjustment was money that had been deducted from school district aid since 2009–2010 in order to close the state's budget gap. He further emphasized that while the newspapers were reporting significant increases in aid, the reality was that the vast majority of any increase was a result of expense-driven reimbursements. He further stated that nearly 75% of any new money that came into the district at this point was based upon purchases or services that we paid for with the understanding that the State would reimburse a certain portion of the expenditure. The proposed numbers reflected relatively good news that placed our district in a sustainable position for the year to come. Dr. Bennardo further explained that next year's tax cap, which has a base under 1.5%, leaves us largely reliant on the benevolence of state aid. A brief discussion ensued with Mr. Kaden stating that the High Tax aid category was created for Long Island specifically by Long Island legislators to provide some form of financial relief. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the District did better than most in Suffolk County, which was relative to the fact that the District spent more money. Dr. Bennardo agreed, and added that the District also spent more wisely through aidable sources, such as BOCES. Dr. Bernardo then went on to discuss the recent meetings with the New York State legislators regarding school aid. Any increase in school aid during the upcoming New York State budget negotiations would take place in the Gap Elimination Adjustment Restoration category. South Huntington has been reduced by over three million dollars a year since that time. The Legislature has recently begun restoring some of that aid, but the pace of replenishment is remarkably slow (just over \$300,000 last year). Dr. Bennardo concluded the presentation and stated that any further information/updates from the Governor's office regarding proposed aid would be provided at future Board meetings.

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. 786-799, and authorizes implementation thereof:

- Schedule 7 - Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)
 - Schedule 8 - Re-Employment to Positions (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 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)
 - Schedule 17 - Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)
 - Schedule 18 - Re-Employment to Positions (Non-Instructional)
 - Schedule 19 - Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)
 - Schedule 20 - Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)
 - Schedule 22 - Substitute Employee Appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)
- Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Invitation to Countrywood Primary Center community Read-In to be held on Friday, February 28, 2014
2. Privileged and Confidential Communication from Ingerman Smith, LLP
3. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Mr. Smith re 7th Grade Health Curriculum Lessons 1, 2 and 3, together with outline of lessons
4. Personnel Postings (2)
5. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 1-23-14

In Envelopes:

1. *Spotlight*, January 2014

Information Sent to Board Week Ending January 17, 2014

1. Confidential letter to Mr. Kaden from Patricia Cavuoto re a personnel matter
2. Privileged and Confidential Communication from Ingerman Smith, L.L.P.
3. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re School Grade enrollment Report for the First Attendance Period November 4, 2013, through November 27, 2013
4. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Acker re Students of the Month for December 2013, together with Dr. Bennardo's congratulatory letter
5. Memo to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re Common Core Parent Academy Grade 9
6. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Mr. Toto re visit from librarians of the South Huntington Public Library
7. Personnel Postings (6)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending January 17, 2014

8. Informational packet on the Silas Wood Stem Curriculum Fair 2014
9. Flyer re Silas Wood "Souper" Bowl
10. January 2014 Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
11. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 1-13-14
12. Flyer re Huntington School District "Spirit Award" Recipient, Pat Dillon (Courtesy of Terri Kochan)
13. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 1-16-14

**Committee
Updates:**

None given.

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mrs. Brieff requested to share her notes from the January 24, 2014, Western Suffolk BOCES meeting, as well as the Suffolk County School Superintendents Association's advocacy breakfast on January 25, 2014. Mrs. Brieff reported the following:

- Chancellor Merryl Tisch appointed a subcommittee of five Regents to investigate Common Core; the subcommittee is to report back in February;
- Senators Flanagan and Marcellino requested recommendations for potential Regents candidates, as terms are expiring for several Regents;
- Senator Flanagan's Education Committee's Education Report legislation includes four pieces of legislation that will move to the full Senate for discussion as follows: The P-2 bill; the Unnecessary Testing bill; the Privacy bill; and the Truth in Testing bill.

The Suffolk County School Superintendents Association's advocacy breakfast centered upon three steps—namely, Elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment in 2014/15; Replacement of the Foundation formula for 2015/16; and support of the November 18, 2013, SCSSA letter to Commissioner King re Common Core implementation.

Mrs. Brieff concluded her comments by stating the 13 billion dollar settlement from the Attorney General vs. JP Morgan case will have some monies applied to the State Education budget; and Senator Flanagan will secure an email address and phone number of the regional representative to Governor Cuomo, Mr. Scott Martella, for communication purposes.

Lastly, Dr. Bennardo addressed the Board and requested consideration of a future discussion on an early release procedure to be used in inclement weather. A very brief discussion ensued regarding the current practice of releasing the high school students 20 to 30 minutes early in an effort to ensure the bus schedules for the middle school, primary and intermediate buildings. Mr. Kaden agreed to the discussion concept, however, he stated he could not make any promises for the implementation of such a plan.

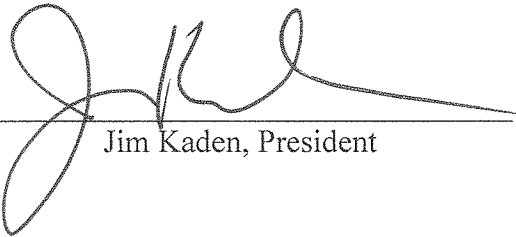
Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate; none responded.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Laura McLean, Deputy District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 738 through 799.