

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, in the Performing Arts Center of Walt Whitman High School, 301 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: Board Members:

President

Mr. Kaden
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
District Clerk

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

Absent: Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta

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

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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 Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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.

Teacher of the Year Presentation: Dr. Bennardo stated that each year we have the good fortune of honoring our teachers. Dr. Bennardo noted that the teachers being honored made a difference and this was our opportunity to thank them and let them know how much they mean to us and the students of the district. Dr. Bennardo stated that everyone respected and appreciated them for all they do.

Dr. Centamore welcomed everyone to the Teacher of the Year presentation and began the presentation with several quotes that he felt were appropriate for this evening's event. Dr. Centamore noted that this ceremony was a proud, long standing tradition that was looked forward to every year. Dr. Centamore thanked the Teacher of the Year Committee and Joanne Padilla for all their hard work. Dr. Centamore introduced Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci who had attended the meeting to present

Teacher of the Year Presentation: (Continued) the teachers with a New York State Assembly Citation and pin. Assemblyman Lupinacci offered his congratulations and the congratulations of the State of New York to the honorees and their families. Mr. Lupinacci commented on the dedicated staff at South Huntington and noted that he had attended our schools and had also been a Board of Education member for many years. Mr. Lupinacci thanked the teachers for all their hard work. Dr. Centamore then asked Board President Jim Kaden and Superintendent David Bennardo to join him in acknowledging the Teachers of the Year. Dr. Centamore congratulated all honorees and introduced each principal who spoke about their respective teacher.

This year's teachers of the year are:

- Jaime Rogers – South Huntington Teacher of the Year/Walt Whitman High School Teacher of the Year
- Keith Gonsel – Stimson Middle School Teacher of the Year
- Natalie Miller – Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center Teacher of the Year
- Kellianne Roth – Birchwood Intermediate School Teacher of the Year
- Christine Columbano – Maplewood Intermediate School Teacher of the Year
- Susan Schwartz – Countrywood Primary Center Teacher of the Year
- Simone DaRos – Oakwood Primary Center Teacher of the Year

The South Huntington Teacher of the Year Jaime Rogers was given an opportunity to speak and expressed his respect for Keith Gonsel and thanked him for his service to our country. He also acknowledged the other teachers of the year. Mr. Rogers stated that he didn't have the words to express the amazing feeling he had as a result of receiving this honor. Mr. Rogers thanked his father and his wife for all their love and support. Mr. Rogers' students gave a demonstration of a robot they created to the delight of the audience. Mr. Rogers concluded by noting that South Huntington was a very supportive district and he thanked everyone for this honor.

Mr. Kaden and Dr. Bennardo presented each teacher with a plaque and Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci presented each with a New York State Assembly Citation and pin. Closing remarks were made by Dennis Callahan, President of the South Huntington Teachers' Association, and Superintendent of Schools David Bennardo.

Recess: A brief recess was held to allow for photos to be taken.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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 Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 January 15, 2014.

Single Audit Report, Federal Funds, 2012-2013:

The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, Single Audit Report prepared for the district by the firm R. S. Abrams & Co., LLP, for federal funds for the 2012-13 school year.

Schedule of Investment Accounts:

Schedule of Investment Accounts, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 808.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's Report, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 809.

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 810-822.

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 823.

Revenue Status Report, General Fund:

Revenue Status Report, General Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 824.

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 825.

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 826.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 827-830.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 831.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 832.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 833-835.

Budgetary Transfer Report: Budgetary Transfer Report, December 2013, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 836.

Tax Levy Schedule: Tax Levy Schedule, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 837.

Library Tax Levy: Library Tax Levy, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 837.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report: Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, December 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 838-841.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 99	\$ 800.00
	"	100	4,238.11
	"	101	31,133.74
	"	102	1,066,560.61
	"	103	11,666.67
	"	V088	-400.00
	"	V099	-800.00
	"	V102	-1,468.50
	School Lunch	27	26,534.69
	Special Aid	21	60,390.31
	2003 Bond	16	65,514.85

Board Approved – February 4, 2014

General Fund	Warrant 97	\$77,288.18
"	98	39,952.88
School Lunch	26	7,206.78
Special Aid	32	28,057.01
2003 Bond	15	1,216.46

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.

Communications: 1. Thank you note from Rufus Shepard

Appointment and Agreement with Interim Assistant Principal at Maplewood Intermediate School:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby appoints Patrick Scarola to the position of Interim Maplewood Intermediate School Assistant Principal commencing on or about March 24, 2014, in accordance with the Agreement of Employment between the district and Patrick Scarola, a copy of the agreement made part of these legal minutes, p. 842-843.
Motion carried unanimously.

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 December 17, 18, 19, January 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 30, 2014, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 14, 21, 27 and February 4, 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. 844-855.
Motion carried unanimously.

State Aid Update:

Dr. Bennardo noted that at the last Board meeting there was a discussion regarding the *Newsday* article and the fact that our state aid was being increased by \$1.2 million. Dr. Bennardo stated that \$900,000 of the state aid was reimbursement money. Dr. Bennardo noted that GEA was the place where there could be movement and we would want to keep our efforts in that direction. Dr. Bennardo cautioned that it would be best not to react to Common Core. Dr. Bennardo stated that suspension of Common Core would be premature and South Huntington would stay the course. Mr. Kaden noted that he felt it was a dangerous time in education right now. Resident Eleanora Ferrante noted that pensions were going up and she asked what impact that would have on the budget. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district was prepared for that.

Permission to Enter Into Lease Discussion for Property at 2 Melville Road:

Dr. Bennardo stated that it was the district's goal to get the old library building at 2 Melville Road fully occupied. Mr. Light stated that Dream Tree Academy was interested in renting space on the second floor. The academy would like to have some renovations done to sub-divide for instructional areas. Dream Tree Academy would be willing to pay for half of the cost of the construction. In addition, the Dream Tree Academy would offer limited hours of services, both individual and group, to our students.

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 authorizes the district to enter into lease discussions with Dream Tree Academy for rental space at 2 Melville Road.
Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Early Release Policy:

Dr. Bennardo stated that he wanted to offer a plan for a change in the early release policy. Dr. Bennardo noted that there was always a risk when you release early. Dr. Bennardo stated that he was talking about an extreme condition plan. Parents of students in grade K-2 would be required to have someone to meet them at the bus stop. At the start of the school year they would be required to return a slip to the classroom teacher confirming that an emergency plan was in place. In the event that a person was not at the bus stop, the child would be returned to school and supervised until they could be picked up. All attempts would be made to provide prior notice that this emergency early dismissal plan might be activated for the coming day. Dr. Bennardo noted that K-2 buses would be the last buses released. Students in grades 3-8 would be able to be released as usual without a parent but a conformation of this early release procedure would be distributed at the start of the school year. A signed form noting that the procedures were understood and a plan was in place would have to be returned to the classroom teacher. Dr. Bennardo noted that he would begin early in the school year contacting parents regarding the early release policy. Mr. Kaden requested that this information be published on the website to get some input. Mrs. Brieff agreed that it was important to get input from the parents. Mr. Kaden stated that he had concerns regarding early release. Dr. Bennardo stated that he would get feedback.

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. 856-865, and authorizes implementation thereof:

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 13 - Salary Change (Instructional)

Schedule 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17 - Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 19 - Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:Information and Reports

1. Memo To Building Principals and Supervisors from Dr. Centamore re Board of Education Teacher of the Year Presentation
2. *The Silas Scoop*, February 2014
3. *Countrywood Chronicle*, February 2014
4. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 1-27-14

**Information and
Reports:
(Continued)**

In envelopes:

1. Western Suffolk BOCES Shared Services Directory 2014-2015
(Board Members Only)

Information Sent to Board February 4, 2014

1. Memo to Component District Board Presidents, et al. from Dr. Michael Mensch, Western Suffolk BOCES, re Western Suffolk BOCES Annual Meeting, BOCES Budget Vote and Election
2. Congratulatory letter to Birchwood Boosters for the month of December from Dr. Bennardo
3. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Facilities Committee Agenda, February 5
4. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re Saturday Academy Program
5. Personnel Postings (3)
6. February Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
7. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 1-30-14
8. Negotiations Agreement with SHTA, July 1, 2012-June 30, 2015
(Board Members Only)

**Committee
Updates:**

None given.

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he was privileged to represent Long Island in Washington, D.C. at the National Advocacy Institute. While there, he attended a Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association conference, met with legislators on Tuesday and took a tour of the White House. He also met with Representative Steve Israel and attended a breakfast with Senator Charles Schumer. They discussed issues of concern to Long Island and the need for more local control. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that it was a very good experience and noted that their next meeting was scheduled for March.

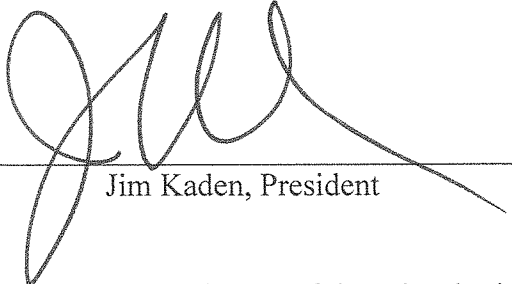
Mr. Nitkewicz thanked the Board members and administrators who attended the recent dinner in Manhattan honoring him with the Touro Law Center Alumni Public Service Award. Mr. Kaden extended his congratulations to Mr. Nitkewicz.

**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 808 through 865.