

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, in the Performing Arts Center of Walt Whitman High School, 301 West Hills Road, 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

District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo

Ms. Harris

Dr. Centamore

Mr. Light

Dr. Bloom

Mrs. Hammond

Call to Order:

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Overview
A Look Back and
Then Ahead:**

Dr. Bennardo began his presentation by noting that, at this point, many of our numbers are fluid. Over the next five weeks, the numbers may change as our state aid number is finalized as the state process plays out. Dr. Bennardo stated that the heart of the budget process consisted of the comparison between our anticipated revenues and expenditures. Dr. Bennardo noted that when expenditures are more than revenues, the district was left with the option to cut programs, staff, or take money from reserves. When revenues are more than expenditures, the district is left with the option of addressing needs and/or placing some funds in reserves for years when the reverse is true.

Dr. Bennardo reviewed the ways a district can raise revenue:

1. Taxation (capped by law)
2. State Aid (dependent upon both formula and the benevolence of the Governor and legislators)
3. Other (grants, tuitions, fees, rents, etc.)

Dr. Bennardo reviewed the primary expenditure increases in the budget:

1. Salaries
2. Pensions
3. Health Care
4. Utilities
5. Insurances
6. Transportation

**Budget Overview
A Look Back and
Then Ahead:
(Continued)**

Dr. Bennardo then gave a history of our budget and state aid changes over the past five years.

Dr. Bennardo stated that the budget that was developed last year and approved in the spring of 2013 had approximately a two million dollar negative gap between expenditures and revenues and required significant reductions in staff and services. In addition, efficiencies and savings were applied in areas such as fuel, electricity, while grants were applied to offset budget lines. Dr. Bennardo noted that the cooperative nature of the process, coupled with some creativity and efficiencies, allowed the district to close the gap, while maintaining instructional programs.

Dr. Bennardo then compared the budget and expenditure numbers for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 and the state aid numbers for 2013-14 and 2014-2015. Dr. Bennardo also gave a review of how the tax levy cap was calculated. Dr. Bennardo noted that we knew our tax cap levy, which should not change very much over the next few weeks. Dr. Bennardo also noted that our state aid number might change as the state process played out. Dr. Bennardo stated that, at this point, the responsible option was to use the numbers as they currently exist. We also know our "Other" revenue category. Dr. Bennardo stated that this category could increase as we work towards new initiatives, but again, the responsible approach was to use the existing numbers at this point. We know the grants that we have on hand and would again use those numbers while we aggressively pursue new initiatives.

Dr. Bennardo noted that over the next several weeks the Board would be reviewing a line-by-line analysis and have public discussion of our expenses including contracts, personnel, benefits, instructional need, transportation, equipment, facilities and administration. These numbers would be juxtaposed against available revenue to determine a budget position going forward.

Dr. Bennardo outlined the upcoming Budget Work Sessions:

March 5	Budget – Looking Forward
March 12	Code 1000 – General Support
	Code 5000 – Transportation
	Code 9000 – Benefits (Part I)
March 19	Code 9000 – Benefits (Part II)
	Code 2000 – Instruction (Part I)
March 26	Code 2000 – Instruction (Part II)

Dr. Bennardo noted that the entire presentation would be on our website. Following Dr. Bennardo's presentation, the Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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 Mr. Ciappetta, 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 January 29, 2014.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 107	\$ 180,618.44
	"	108	545,221.13
	"	V000	(13,141.83)
	School Lunch	29	16,129.87
	Special Aid	35	11,783.00

Approved – Board Packet of February 14, 2014

General Fund	Warrant 104	\$ 202,833.24
"	105	44,671.60
"	106	14,429.56
"	V104	(9,891.97)
School Lunch	28	427.23
Special Aid	34	18,241.95
2003 Bond	17	667.84

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. Letter from Bob Santo of The American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Early Release Policy: Dr. Bennardo noted that there was a brief discussion of an early release policy at the last Board of Education meeting and the Board had requested that the information be published on the website in order to get some input from the community. Dr. Bennardo stated that the proposal was to begin early release at 11 a.m. at the high school to get the older students home first to assist with childcare. The primary schools would be the final run. This would prevent a backup of buses to the other schools if the younger students had to be returned to their schools in the event that no one was at the bus stop to accept the child. This would only be implemented in the case of extreme deteriorating road conditions or when the forecast changed considerably during the school day.

Dr. Bennardo stated that this change would begin next year. The school year would begin with parent communication so to make sure that all parents completely understood the policy. Parents would be asked to have a plan in place in the event of early release. Students in Grades

Early Release Policy: (Continued) K-2 would be required to have someone to meet them at the bus stop. Parents would be asked to return a signed slip to the classroom teacher confirming that they had an emergency plan in place. In the event that no one was at the bus stop, the child would be returned to school and supervised until a pick up could be arranged. Students in Grade 3-8 would be able to be released as usual. Parents would be required to return a signed form indicating that the procedures were understood and a plan would be in place. Parents of students in Grades 9-2 would receive an opening letter delineating early release procedures and highlighting all notification plans. Dr. Bennardo noted that this proposal would be a tool, not a regular practice. Dr. Bennardo also noted that all attempts would be made to provide prior notice that this emergency early release plan might be activated for the coming day.

Dr. Bennardo stated that the district received eight responses to the request for feedback and noted that it was a split bag. Dr. Bennardo noted that this was not an easy call. Some Board members expressed concern regarding notification to parents and the feasibility of parents getting home before their children were dismissed from school. Dr. Bennardo assured the Board that parents would be notified by voice message and email. In addition, it would be put on the district's website and Facebook. Dr. Bennardo reiterated that parents of students in Grades K-8 would be required to have back-up emergency plans filed with their schools and in the event that no one was at the bus stop for students in Grades K-2, the children would be returned to school and supervised until a pick up could be arranged.

Following further discussion, it was the sense of the Board to allow the administration to consider an early release in the most extreme circumstances.

Establishment of the Susan Satriano Scholarship: 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 establishment of the Susan Satriano Scholarship, a one-time scholarship in the amount of up to \$1,000 to be awarded to a graduating senior who will be attending college in the fall and who has a parent in treatment for cancer, in remission or has passed away from cancer.
Motion carried unanimously.

Establishment of the Faye Consorte 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 Faye Consorte Scholarship, a one-time scholarship in the amount of a minimum of \$250 to be awarded to a graduating senior who will be attending college in the fall and who personifies the qualities and values of Faye Consorte.
Motion carried unanimously.

Agreement with Advance 2000 for Districtwide Telephone Maintenance/Repair:

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 one year agreement with Advance 2000 for districtwide telephone maintenance/repair, January 2014-December 2014.
Motion carried unanimously.

Two Requests to Remain in South Huntington Schools:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the requests to remain in South Huntington Schools, a copy of both requests made part of these legal minutes, p. 873-874.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of an Additional Regular Business Meeting Date:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, Whereas, the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approved the 2013-2014 Board of Education meeting dates at the April 10, 2013, Board of Education meeting; and

Whereas, the meeting dates were reaffirmed at the organizational meeting of July 2, 2013; and

Whereas, the Board of Education would like to designate Wednesday, March 26, 2014, as an additional regular business meeting; now, therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby designates March 26, 2014, as a regular business meeting date in addition to being a Budget Work Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated January 21, 27, 28, 31, February 6, 10, 11 and 12, 2014, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 14, 21 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. 875-881.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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. 882-888, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 7 - Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

**Personnel:
(Continued)**

Schedule 12 - Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave
 Schedule 15 - Appointments (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 18 - Re-Employment to Positions (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 19 - Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 22 - Substitute Employee Appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)
 Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and
Reports:**

1. Congratulatory letter to Walt Whitman's Students of the Month for January from Dr. Bennardo
2. Letter of appreciation to Anthony Nuzzo from Dr. Bennardo re repair of one of the district's truck
3. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re Common Core Parent Academy for Grade 9
4. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re Saturday Academy Program
5. Personnel Posting (1)
6. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-20-14

In envelopes:

1. Facilities Committee Agenda for February 25, 2014
2. Audit Committee Agenda for February 27, 2014

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 14, 2014

1. Board of Education Budget Retreat Material, 2-18-14
2. Letter to Mr. Kaden from Joan Johnson, Western Suffolk BOCES, re Procedure for Nomination of BOCES Board Members
3. Privileged and Confidential Communications from Ingerman Smith, L.L.P. (2)
4. Invitation to the Wildcat Marching Band Lightwaves 2013 Awards Banquet to be held on February 28, 2014
5. Congratulatory letter to Members of the Dance Team from Dr. Bennardo re performance at Championships
6. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re School Grade Enrollment Report for the First Attendance Period January 6, 2014, through January 31, 2014
7. Letter to Class of 2018 Students and Parents from Ms. Acker re Club and Activity Fair to be held on March 6, 2014
8. Letter to Junior Parents/Guardians from Ms. Acker re Junior Prom
9. Letter to Senior Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re second semester of the academic school year
10. Personnel Postings (6)
11. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 2-10-14
12. Resident Postcard with Important Budget Dates

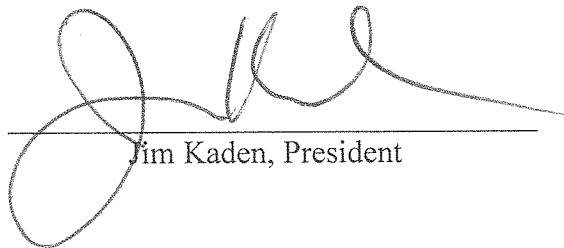
Committee Updates: None given.

**Comments from
Board Members and
Staff:** None given.


**Voice of the
Residents:** Visitors were invited to participate.

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 8:55 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 873 through 888.