

A special meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District, scheduled as a budget work session on the proposed 2014-2015 school budget, was held on Wednesday, March 5, 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 meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Work Session: Dr. Bennardo began the presentation with a quick recap of last week's presentation and noted that he would publicly address, at the meetings, questions that he received from a large number of people. Dr. Bennardo stated that in the weeks to come the presentations would include an examination of all revenues at the district's disposal as compared to expenditure needs. Dr. Bennardo reviewed the district's revenue reserve:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| New State Aid | 1.2 million |
| Tax Cap Levy | Approx. 1.5 million |
| Other Revenue | .3 million |

Dr. Bennardo stated that the question most asked by residents was what the difference was between the tax levy and the tax rate. Dr. Bennardo explained that the tax levy was the total amount of property taxes that a school district could collect to balance its budget, after accounting for all other revenue sources including state aid. Dr. Bennardo noted that the tax levy was the basis for determining the tax rate. The tax rate was then determined by spreading the tax levy increase across all the property assessments in a community. If the assessments of an area grow, the tax rate could be lower than the tax levy. If the assessed values of a community decline, the tax rate will be higher than the tax levy. Dr. Bennardo noted that, essentially, the tax rate is the amount of money that each property owner must be charged to arrive at the tax levy dollar figure. Dr. Bennardo stated that last year our tax levy was 3.03%, but our

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tax rate was 3.718%. Dr. Bennardo noted that this year's rate cannot be determined until the tax cap is set, and the local assessments are figured by the town assessor. Dr. Bennardo stated that the assessed values in the area are still declining, but that rate of decline is slowing. Dr. Bennardo then turned the presentation over to Mr. Light for a review of the general support and transportation costs.

Mr. Light began his presentation by explaining that the statewide system of codes was used in all school districts in New York. Mr. Light reviewed the functions within the 1000 code and then gave highlights of this code:

- The 1000 code represents 8.8% of the proposed 2014-2015 budget. The increase for this code is 1.01%.
- Board of Education code is being increased by \$1,104, which is a 3.6% increase.
- District Clerk code is being increased by \$699, which is a 2.8% increase.
- District Meeting code is being increased by \$2,030, which is an 8.2% increase.
- Chief School Administrator is being increased by \$17,257, which is a 4.4% increase.
- Business Administration is being increased by \$9,963, which is a 1.06% increase.
- Auditing code remains the same.
- Treasurer code is being increased by \$1,687, which is a 1.4% increase.
- Purchasing code is being increased by \$3,333, which is a 1.8% increase.
- Legal code remains the same.
- Personnel code is being decreased by -\$3,478, which is a -0.7% decrease.
- Public Information code will remain the same.
- Plant Operations code is being increased by \$50,443, which is a 0.9% increase.
- Maintenance of Plant code is being increased by \$49,309, which is a 1.8% increase.
- Central Storage code is being decreased by -\$1,235, which is a -1.7% decrease.
- Central Print & Mail code is being decreased by -\$2,638, which is a -1.5% decrease.
- Data Processing code is being increased by \$2,765, which is an increase of 0.9%.
- Insurance code would remain the same.
- School Association Dues code is being increased by \$925, which is a 1.9% increase.
- Judgements and Claims code would remain the same.
- BOCES Administration and Capital would remain the same.

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Mr. Light noted that the total increase for the 1000 code was \$132,164, which was an increase of 1.01%.

Mr. Light stated that the administration was recommending the lease/purchase of a pickup truck. The truck would be leased over five years, after which the district would own the truck. The pickup truck would be purchased through state contract pricing and would be equipped with a snow plow. It would replace an obsolete non-repairable vehicle. The Board and audience were then given an opportunity for questions on the 1000 code.

Mr. Light began the review of Code 5000, Transportation, with facts:

- Transportation System is the size of that of a small city.
- Transporting 7,500 students safely to and from school on a daily basis.
- Transporting students for private, parochial, special education schools and BOCES programs.
- Transportation for interscholastic athletics and field trips
- Use 33 district owned large buses.
- Use 26 contracted large buses.
- 23 district owned vans and 51 contract vans used for private, parochial, special education and emergency service.

Mr. Light reviewed the district's mileage policy and outlined what functions fell within this code. Mr. Light then reviewed the codes:

- This code represents 5.68% of the overall budget.
- District Transportation Services code is being decreased by -\$18,309, which is a -0.5% decrease.
- Garage Building code is being increased by \$38,541, which is a 12.1% increase.
- Contract Transportation code is being increased by \$18,000, which is a 0.4% increase.

Mr. Light noted that the total increase for the 5000 codes was \$38,232, which was an increase of 0.4%.

Mr. Light stated that the administration was recommending the lease/purchase of two small dual-service vans to replace obsolete non-repairable vehicles. The district would use state contract pricing. The Board and audience were then given an opportunity for questions on the 5000 code.

Dr. Bennardo turned the presentation over to Dr. Bloom for review of grants. Dr. Bloom stated that grants are competitive compensation, which are over and above the traditional federal programs, such as Title I, Title II and Title III. These competitive grants are put out by other

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entities, such as corporations and New York State, and set us apart from others. These 2013-2014 grants are:

- Virtual AP
- STLE I and STLE II
- RTTT

Dr. Bloom then reviewed some of the items that were being covered by the 2013-2014 grants. Dr. Bloom noted that the Virtual AP grant would be continued for 2014-2015 with approval by the New York State Education Department. Dr. Bloom outlined grants that were awaiting action for 2014-2015:

- National Endowment for the Arts
- 13 STEM Grants
- PTECH
- Youth Connect
- Counseling
- Stepping Up to Technology
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy

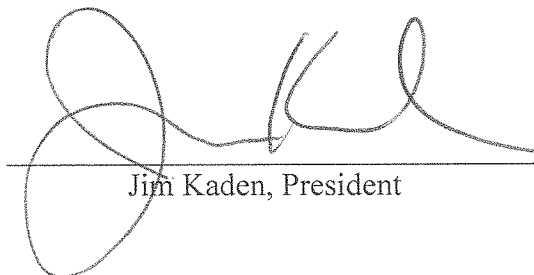
Dr. Bennardo concluded the presentation with the district's tasks going forward:

- Continue to lobby New York State for an increase in state aid (GEA).
- Continue to work on the "other revenue" category.
- Continue to monitor student enrollment data and class selections to provide most accurate staffing needs.
- Continue to compare general revenues to needs.

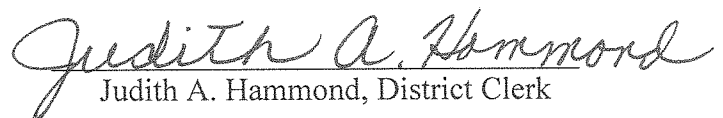
Following the presentation, the Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion. Dr. Bennardo noted that next week's topic would be an examination of benefit codes.

Adjournment:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk