

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, October 15, 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. LaCara  
Mr. Nitkewicz

**Staff:**

Superintendent of Schools  
Deputy Superintendent  
Asst. Supt. for Personnel and District Services  
Asst. Supt. for Instruction and Curriculum  
Business Administrator  
District Clerk

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

**Absent:**        Board Member  
                  Board Member

Mrs. Carey  
Mrs. DeGaetano

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

**Executive Session:**    Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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. 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.

**School Board  
Recognition Night:**

Dr. Bennardo stated that the district wanted to acknowledge and honor the Board of Education during School Board Recognition Week. Dr. Bennardo thanked the Board for their continued service and the countless hours they volunteer to the district. Dr. Bennardo also thanked the students and parents who were present at the meeting to help honor the Board members on this special night. Dr. Bennardo then introduced principals Eileen Kerrigan and Barbara Kenney. The principals introduced their students who presented each Board member with a handcrafted gift and read aloud thank you notes that they had prepared. The Board members gave a heartfelt thanks to the students and their principals.

Dr. Bennardo introduced PTA Council President Dominic LeClaire. Mr. LeClaire thanked the Board for their service to the community and

**School Board  
Recognition Night:  
(Continued)**

introduced students who presented each Board member with a gift and "candy gram" of thanks from the PTA. Mr. Kaden and the other Board members sincerely thanked Mr. LeClaire and the PTA.

**NYSSBA Level 3  
Board Mastery  
Award  
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo presented the New York State School Board Association Level 3 Board Mastery Award to Mr. Ciappetta. To achieve this level of mastery, Mr. Ciappetta accumulated 250 points by attending NYSSBA training seminars and conferences. Mr. Ciappetta was given a certificate and commemorative padfolio from the NYSSBA in recognition of this honor.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Report on Audit  
Report, 2013-2014:**

Marianne Van Duyne of R.S. Abrams & Co. was present at the meeting and thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to report on the audit findings. Ms. Van Duyne thanked Mr. Light, Mrs. Vultaggio, Ms. Rapp and the Business Office staff for the great job they did in providing all the documents needed for the audit and for working so well with the auditors. Ms. Van Duyne noted that two audits were performed, Financial Statements and Extraclassroom Activity Funds. Ms. Van Duyne stated that the district received an unmodified opinion which means that everything went very well. Ms. Van Duyne also noted that a management letter was issued. Ms. Van Duyne reported that all internal controls were very good with no material weaknesses. Ms. Van Duyne outlined this year's recommendations that were made in the following areas:

- Receivables for the Summer School Handicap Program
- Unexpended Surplus Funds
- Purchasing: Confirming Purchase Orders
- Extraclassroom Accounts

Ms. Van Duyne stated the Business Office had been very proactive in implementing recommendations from last year's report and reiterated that everything went smoothly this year.

The Board was then given the opportunity for questions. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he was very pleased with the report. He thanked the auditors and the members of the community who served on the Audit Committee. Mr. Kaden asked Ms. Van Duyne if there were any new requirements coming up that would cost the district money. Ms. Van Duyne briefly discussed future changes with regard to TRS and ERS reporting on financials. Mr. Kaden thanked Ms. Van Duyne for her report.

**Moment of Silence:**

Mr. Kaden asked for a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of Walt Whitman High School senior, Maggie Rosales.

**Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, 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 September 17, 2014.

**Audit Report, 2013-2014:** The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, audit reports prepared for the district by the firm of R.S. Abrams & Co., L.L.P., for the fiscal year 2013-2014 and Extra-Classroom Activity Funds for the fiscal year 2013-2014.

**Schedule of Bills (Warrants):**

<u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>			
General Fund	Warrant 38		\$ 364,509.05
"	V029		(157.65)
School Lunch	12		35,616.46
Special Aid	11		54,937.78

Approved – Board Packet of October 3, 2014

General Fund	Warrant 35		\$ 205,425.41
"	36		11,666.67
"	37		2,880.00
"	V000		(209.80)
"	V029		(3,352.57)
"	V035		(5,860.17)
School Lunch	11		6,741.31
Special Aid	10		125,193.56

**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.

**Tax Levy Rate:** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, to lay the motion concerning the tax levy rate on the table.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Light explained that there were two options for the Board to consider. Mr. Light stated that under Option #1 the amount to be levied by real property taxes was \$108,653,751. The actual assessed value is lower than anticipated. Mr. Light noted that this would result in less taxes unless the tax rate was increased over estimated to compensate for the loss. Mr. Light stated that under Option #2 the amount to be levied by real property taxes was \$108,193,751. The actual assessed value is lower than originally estimated, resulting in less tax revenue. This difference would need to be made up by increasing the appropriated balance by \$460,000. Mr. Light noted that New York State would be giving a tax rebate with both options. Following discussion, the Board agreed to accept Option #1 and took the following action:

**Tax Levy Rate:  
(Continued)**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that pursuant to Section 8 of the Suffolk County Tax Act and based upon the assessed valuation of \$44,012,287, which has been certified to the District by the Assessor of the Town wholly within the School District, the following computed tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to be adopted and ordered certified to the Supervisor of the Town, together with the dollar amount to be raised by the President of the Board:

	<u>AMOUNT TO BE LEVIED</u>	<u>COMPUTED TAX RATE</u>
Per \$1,000.00		
For Regular School Purposes	\$ 108,653,751	\$ 2,468.71
For District Public Library	5,780,976	131.35
School & Library Tax/\$1,000	114,434,727	2,600.06
Motion carried unanimously.		

**Appointment of  
Voting Delegate  
and Alternate for  
the NYSSBA  
Annual Business  
Meeting:**

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 designates Lisa R. Brieff to serve as Voting Delegate and Jim Kaden to serve as Alternate Voting Delegate at the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting to be held on October 27, 2014, at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel in New York City.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nitkewicz complimented Mrs. Brieff and stated that she works tirelessly to be up-to-date on all legislative issues.

**Budget  
Development  
Calendar  
Approval:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2015-2016 Budget Development Calendar.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip Request  
to Peru:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the field trip request for Grade 11-12 students enrolled in Spanish beyond FLACS level to travel to Peru on April 2-11, 2015.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The Board expressed some concern with regard to safety of traveling and was assured of the safety of the area and traveling arrangements. The Board also had several other questions that were answered to their satisfaction by Mr. Callahan.

**Confidential  
Personnel  
Resolution:**

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 and authorizes the execution of the Settlement Agreement and Release involving a certificated employee made known to the Board of Education, a copy of the Settlement Agreement and Release made part of these legal minutes, pp. 472-476.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion on the Logo Initiative:**

Dr. Bennardo reported that one of the items discussed at a recent Facilities Committee meeting was the boundary signs. The signs are outdated and in need of replacement. Dr. Bennardo stated that students in Lee Nober's sports marketing classes were asked to come up with some ideas for a slogan. The Facilities Committee members reviewed the submitted slogans and agreed to bring the following six slogans to the Board for approval:

- Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow
- Your Future Begins Here
- Preparing Students for Success in a Changing World
- Laying the Foundation for Achievement
- A Tradition of Excellence
- Building a Brighter Tomorrow

Following a brief discussion, it was the sense of the Board to use the slogan, Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow.

**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 September 10, 11, 12, 18, 22, 23, 24, 29, October 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7, 2014, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated September 23, 30, October 6 and 7, 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. 477-487.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Educational Responsibility for Unaccompanied Minors:**

Mr. Kaden explained that Lorraine Deller of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association had asked if the South Huntington Board would sponsor a resolution at the New York State School Boards Association Annual Meeting. The resolution was to request that the NYSSBA advocate for state and federal assistance with the influx of unaccompanied minors into New York State. Following discussion, the Board took the following action:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District does hereby agree to sponsor the following resolution at the NYSSBA Annual Meeting: Resolved, that the New York State School Boards Association advocate for state and federal legislative and regulatory action in addressing the educational and fiscal issues attended to the influx of unaccompanied minors into New York State.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Request to Remain  
in South  
Huntington  
Schools:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District does hereby approve the request to remain in South Huntington Schools, a copy of the request made part of these legal minutes, p. 488. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sun Ming  
Property:**

Mrs. Brieff reported that she received an email from the President of the Sweet Hollow Civic Association asking if the Board would consider supporting the association's opposition to the development of a strip mall and six apartments on the property of the Sun Ming Chinese Restaurant on Jericho Turnpike. Mrs. Brieff stated that there would be a ZBA hearing on December 4 at Town Hall. Mrs. Brieff reported that the concerns of the Sweet Hollow Civic Association, as stated in their email, were:

- No other property in the area with apartments above.
- Hilly terrain which would be difficult for school buses to travel.
- Flooding in the area.
- Apartments would bring children to the area which would be a burden on the school district.

Mr. Kaden noted that the Transportation Department had looked at the area and reported that it would not be a problem for the buses. Mr. Kaden stated that he felt this was a town issue, not a school board issue. Mr. Kaden stated that it was his personal opinion that he would rather see almost anything on the property in place of the abandoned building. Mr. Kaden also noted that the Town of Huntington had a need for apartments for young people who cannot always afford to buy a house. Mr. Kaden stated that by not having apartments available, illegal apartments are then created. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he agreed with Mr. Kaden's opinion that this was not a school board issue. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that he was the Accessory Apartment Hearing Officer for the Town of Huntington and stated that illegal apartments were a problem and there was a need for legal apartments in the town. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that from an advocacy perspective an email is fine, but he stated that he would take the association's request more seriously if they had come to the meeting to discuss this matter. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he felt the Board should not take a position on this matter. Mrs. LaCara agreed that this was not a school board issue. Mr. Ciappetta stated that he would not support their position. Mrs. Brieff stated that she did not have a problem with this development, but she would not want to say that a school board did not have a role in development of the town. Mrs. Brieff stated that she felt that the Town of Huntington should contact the Board regarding development within the boundaries of South Huntington Schools. After further discussion, it was the sense of the Board to respond that this was a Town of Huntington issue and not a school board issue.

**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. 489-498, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11 - Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 13 - Salary Change (Instructional)

Schedule 15 - Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 16 - Terminations (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:**Information and Reports

1. Congratulatory letter to Whitman's September Students of the Month from Dr. Bennardo
2. Congratulatory letter to Whitman's September Athletes of the Month from Dr. Bennardo
3. Commendation letter to the members of the Oakwood Singers from Dr. Bennardo re their performance at the October 1 Board of Education meeting
4. Confidential letter to a parent from Dr. Bennardo
5. Personnel Postings (13)
6. Memo to Members of the Board of Education from Mark Masin and Mary Jo O'Hagan, N-SSBA, re 2014 Proposed Resolutions Worksheet
7. Confidential communication from Ingerman Smith re a personnel matter
8. Confidential communication from Ingerman Smith re student matters
9. News articles, *The Long-Islander*, 9-25-14 and 10-2-14

Information Sent to Board Week Ending October 3, 2014

1. Memo to the Board of Education from Dr. Bennardo re Approval of Policy §7213 – Response to Intervention
2. Memo to Mr. Kaden from Mr. Light re Audit Committee Agenda
3. Commendation letter to students who participated in the summer Project Excel program from Dr. Bennardo
4. Congratulatory letter to Connor Galvin from Dr. Bennardo re selection as National Merit Semi-Finalist
5. Congratulatory letter to Gabrielle Ramirez from Dr. Bennardo re the Shapiro-McCormick Young Woman Leader Award
6. Congratulatory letter to students who were elected as an officer of the National Honor Society from Dr. Bennardo

**Information and Reports:  
(Continued)**

- 7. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re School Grade Enrollment Report for the First Attendance Period September 2, 2014 through September 30, 2014
- 8. Invitation to Project Excel's Orientation Celebration to be held on October 6 in the South Cafeteria of Walt Whitman High School
- 9. Letter to Parents and Students of the Graduating Classes of 2015 and 2016 from Ms. Acker re Military Recruitment "Opt Out"
- 10. Personnel Postings (7)
- 11. *Countrywood Chronicle*, October 2014
- 12. *October 2014 Calendar*, Oakwood Primary Center
- 13. *The Silas Scoop*, October 2014

**Committee Updates:**

None given.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta noted that the Hall of Fame induction celebration would take place on Saturday, October 18. Mr. Ciappetta asked Ms. Harris to give a timeline for the day's activities. Ms. Harris stated that there would be a breakfast honoring the inductees at 8:30 a.m., the induction ceremony would be held on the field and the homecoming parade would be on Jericho Turnpike. There would also be a tailgate party, coin toss and homecoming football game. Ms. Harris noted that this year they expected the largest number of guests per inductee. Ms. Harris stated that it would be a great weekend.

Mr. Nitkewicz thanked all who attended or contributed to the Autism Speaks Walk at Jones Beach on behalf of Edward's Army. Mr. Nitkewicz sincerely thanked everyone who participated.


**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

**Adjournment:**

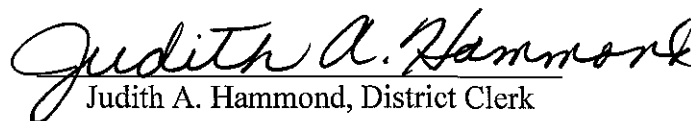
Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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




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Jim Kaden, President




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Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk