

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, in the Forum of Stimson Middle School, 401 Oakwood 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 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

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

**Executive Session:**      Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Musical Performance by the Stimson Jazz Cats:**      Dr. Bennardo introduced the Stimson Jazz Cats. They put on a spectacular performance led by music teacher Brian Zamek that was enjoyed by all in attendance. Mr. Kaden thanked the students for their wonderful performance.

**WWHS Robotics Team Demonstration:**      Teachers Jaime Rogers and Ralph Miranda, together with students in the Robotics Club, were present at the meeting to give a demonstration of a couple of the robots they had created. Mr. Rogers began the demonstration by stating that the Robotics Team appreciates the opportunity to give demonstrations as it gives them the opportunity to get the word out about the work they are doing. Mr. Rogers thanked the Board and community for being so supportive of the Robotics Team and

**WWHS Robotics  
Team  
Demonstration:  
(Continued)**

stated that it was very much appreciated. Mr. Rogers explained that everyone is born with a sense of wonder and noted that there is a need for people who can problem solve. Mr. Rogers asked the Board to participate by taking the marshmallow challenge which was to build the highest tower they could with a yard of string, a yard of tape and one marshmallow. As the Board began working on the project, Mr. Rogers continued his presentation by explaining some of the classes held and projects that had been done. Mr. Rogers noted that the club met after school and the students were given the task to find something to accomplish during their class. Mr. Rogers stated that the students received the following:

- safety training
- training on tools and soldering
- instructions on how to use fire extinguishers
- CPR and first aid training

Mr. Rogers noted that the team had participated in Homecoming where one of their robots, Bertha 1.0, would launch tee shirts to the crowd. Mr. Rogers noted that a demonstration of Bertha 2.0, which was still a work in progress, would be held at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Rogers announced that the team would be participating in the St. Baldrick's event on March 18. The proceeds go to help fight childhood cancer. They are thinking of having a challenge between all of the buildings. Mr. Rogers noted that the team would also be selling Wounded Warrior bracelets.

Mr. Rogers then gave an explanation of the codes used in robot building. The students then brought out two robots, including Bertha 2.0, and showed what they were capable of doing. Several of our students and alumni spoke about the effect the Robotics Club had on them personally and scholastically.

The marshmallow challenge towers built by the Board members were shown and they received applause from the audience. By the audience's applause, it was determined that they had all done a very good job on their towers. Dr. Bennardo thanked Messrs. Rogers and Miranda and the students for their wonderful demonstration.

**Lease Proposal  
Presentation -  
Easter Seals of New  
York:**

Dr. Bennardo explained that there was one more area in the old library building at 2 Melville Road that was available for rent. Dr. Bennardo noted that the district was considering renting the space to either Easter Seals of New York or Stars of Tomorrow Inc. Dr. Bennardo had asked both organizations to make a presentation to the Board.

Thomas Renart, Senior Vice President, of Easter Seals of New York was present at the meeting together with Kari Ann Wanat, Senior Director of Early Childhood Services. Mr. Renart began the presentation by stating

**Lease Proposal  
Presentation -  
Easter Seals of New  
York: (Continued)**

that Easter Seals provided services to help children and adults with disabilities and/or special needs as well as providing support to their families. Mr. Renart reviewed some of the Long Island programs:

- Vets2Jobs – assists unemployed veterans in the preparation for and finding of sustainable employment in their community.
- The New York Warriors are a competitive quadriplegic rugby team based on Long Island.
- The Long Island Child Development Center scheduled to open in 2015 will provide unique early childhood education services to children with disabilities.

Mr. Renart reviewed the proposal for use of the leased space. Mr. Renart stated that the area would be used for a Child Development Center that would provide pre-school education/special education and Universal Pre-K for up to ninety children ages two through five. Mr. Renart noted that the school would contain six classrooms as well as conference space, offices and an outdoor playground. Mr. Renart also stated that the program would be opened all year round including a summer session, and all staff would be certified/licensed professionals.

Mr. Renart stated that Easter Seals of New York would provide the following additional services:

- Internship opportunities to the district's high school students interested in community service or pursuing a career in early childhood education, occupational, physical or speech therapy. Students would be mentored by licensed professionals to explore future career paths and would receive 1,000 mentorship hours per year.
- Monthly Applied Behavior Analysis training to district parents of children with developmental disabilities or autism.

Mr. Renart ended his presentation with some of the other services they offer in the Bronx, Port Jervis, Monticello, Valhalla and Rochester. Following the presentation, the Board was given an opportunity for questions.

**Lease Proposal  
Presentation –  
Stars of Tomorrow  
Inc.:**

Tanya Neary, President of Stars of Tomorrow Inc., was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. Ms. Neary stated that Stars of Tomorrow was founded in January of 2001. The studio began as a one room studio in the town of Greenlawn with fifty students and has grown to a three room complex in Huntington Station where over 250 students attend weekly. Stars of Tomorrow employs thirteen dance instructors and three office managers. Ms. Neary noted that instruction is given in all forms of traditional dance: Ballet, Pointe, Lyrical, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Modern and Musical Theatre as well as supplementary classes such as Acrobatics and Cheer/Pom. Ms. Neary also stated that there were classes that catered specifically to boys and others for special needs children.

**Lease Proposal  
Presentation –  
Stars of Tomorrow  
Inc.: (Continued)**

Ms. Neary noted that Stars of Tomorrow, Inc. had continually grown during its time in business. Ms. Neary stated that this rental would allow her to build a fourth dance room, where they could offer a greater selection of classes and possibly incorporate music and voice lessons to the students' training. Ms. Neary noted that she owned her own lighting, ceiling tiles, duct work and HVAC units, which could be used.

Ms. Neary outlined the benefits she would provide to the district:

- The creation of an after-school program solely for the students of South Huntington. Students would be grouped by grade level K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 and a fifth group for those with special needs.
- The creation of additional summer camp opportunities for the students of South Huntington.
- 1,650 discounted hours per year, valued at \$37 per hour monthly, per student, which incorporates a \$17 per month discount for any instructional class and a waiver of the \$20 registration fee required of clientele outside the district programs.
- Adult education classes in dance, ballroom, yoga, zumba and aerobics.
- Use of facilities for all district dance teams, cheer squads, etc. at the district's request.
- Choreography at no charge for any of the district's musicals, plays or other performances.
- Work/Study and/or internship opportunities for high school students in a variety of areas. Dance instruction, curriculum development, choreography, dance production, small business management and costume design.
- Stars of Tomorrow, Inc. will transfer performance facility rentals to the district.
- Stars of Tomorrow, Inc. will donate yearly towards upgrades to Whitman's PAC in coordination with the Facilities Director.

Ms. Neary stated that Stars of Tomorrow, Inc. was in the process of developing a non-profit organization, entitled REACH, which stands for Renewing Education in Arts for the Children of Huntington. Ms. Neary noted that the focus would be to provide the following benefits:

- Scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing an education in the arts.
- Working in coordination with the Guidance Department to award need based scholarships, which would allow students to dance completely for free, including the necessary attire and supplies.
- Subsidized and/or free trips to see works of dance performed at local and regional theaters.
- Donations to the dance teams for uniforms and equipment.
- Contributions to school plays and musicals for costumes, props, sets and other related expenses.

**Lease Proposal  
Presentation –  
Stars of Tomorrow  
Inc.: (Continued)**

The father of a Silas Wood student spoke on behalf of Stars of Tomorrow, Inc. explaining how the program had helped his child.

Ms. Neary concluded her presentation by stating that she was very willing to work closely with the district to understand any additional needs of its students. Following the presentation, the Board was given an opportunity for questions.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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 November 19, 2014.

**Schedule of  
Investment  
Accounts:**

Schedule of Investment Accounts, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 701.

**Treasurer's  
Report:**

Treasurer's Report, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 702.

**Monthly Trial  
Balance and Bank  
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 703-712.

**Monthly Collateral  
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 713.

**Revenue Status  
Report, General  
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, General Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 714.

**Revenue Status  
Report, School  
Lunch Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 715.

**Revenue Status  
Report, Special Aid  
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 716.

<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 717-720.		
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 721.		
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 722.		
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 723-725.		
<b>Budgetary Transfer Report:</b>	Budgetary Transfer Report, November 2014, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 726.		
<b>Tax Levy Schedule:</b>	Tax Levy Schedule, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 727.		
<b>Library Tax Levy:</b>	Library Tax Levy, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 727.		
<b>Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:</b>	Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, November 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 728-731.		
<b>Bids:</b>	The following bids, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 732-733.		
	Stimson Interior Work	Schedule 15-01C	
	Birchwood Masonry Probe	15-02C	
<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General Fund	Warrant 61	\$1,620,498.41
	School Lunch	23	18,907.26
	Special Aid	22	\$3,231.50
	2003 Bond	6	842.80
	<u>Approved – Board Packet of December 19, 2014</u>		
	General Fund	Warrant 57	\$371,344.53
	"	58	520,000.00
	"	59	487,723.15

<b>Schedule of Bills</b>	General Fund	60	100.03
<b>(Warrants):</b>	School Lunch	22	33,806.09
<b>(Continued)</b>	Special Aid	21	43,225.79

Approved – Board Packet of December 12, 2014

General Fund	Warrant 51	\$ 3,299.95
"	52	5,992.10
"	53	6,425,507.34
"	54 Dental	11,666.67
"	55	25,538.65
"	56	9,136.43
"	V048	(25,350.00)
"	V049	(300.00)
"	V053	(35,436.53)
School Lunch	21	6,720.88
Special Aid	20	54,018.14
2003 Bond	5	40,405.00

**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 Michael Flynn, Western Suffolk BOCES, re Annual Meeting and BOCES Budget Vote and Election

**Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools:** 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 approves the request to remain in South Huntington Schools, a copy of the request made part of these legal minutes, p. 734.  
Motion defeated unanimously.

**Scholarship Donation by Munistat Services Inc.** Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of \$500 from Munistat Services Inc. for a scholarship in the name of Munistat Services, Inc. to a deserving student of the current graduating class who is pursuing a course of study at a college or university.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation by Debbie and Jim Kaden:** Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of \$5,000 to be used for a mobile concession that could be used by organizations to perform fundraising activities at events at the various schools in the district; and  
Be it Further Resolved, that in the event the Board of Education cannot honor this request, the money may be used for any purpose the Board of Education sees fit.  
Motion carried 6-0, with Mr. Kaden abstaining.

**Field Trip Request:** 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 field trip request to attend the National H.S. Cheerleading Championships schedule for February 5-9, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Travel/Conference Approval:** 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 approves the travel and conference for the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to attend a 48-hour immersion study/visit at Brocton, Massachusetts.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Logo Discussion:** Dr. Bennardo stated that the Board had approved the slogan and now there were logo designs to review. Dr. Bennardo noted that the art teachers had helped the students with their logo ideas. Once approved, the new logo and slogan would be put on the district's perimeter signs and used on the district's letterhead. The Board received a booklet with twenty-three designs for their review and discussion at a future Board of Education meeting.

**Speakers Bureau Discussion:** Dr. Bennardo stated that the Cabinet would like to have a speakers bureau, consisting of Board of Education members, leaders in industry, government people, etc., available to the district. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district would reach out to the community to solicit volunteers. Dr. Bennardo noted that a brochure would be done once the information had been finalized. Mr. Ciappetta stated that he would sign up to be included in the list of speakers.

**2015-2016 School Calendar:** Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2015-2016 school calendar.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden suggested that the calendar be made available to the public quickly.



**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 October 15, 22, 29, November 7, 13, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2014, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated November 25, December 8, 9, 15, 16 and 22, 2014, and January 1 and 6, 2015, 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. 735-754.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Lease Agreement  
with Camp W:**

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 the lease agreement with Camp W for space at Birchwood Intermediate School.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, 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. 755-768, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2 - Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 7 - Temporary Replacement Appointments (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 15 - Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and  
Reports:**

1. Congratulatory letter to Witman Hernandez Fernandez from Dr. Bennardo re selection as November Athlete of the Month for Boys Soccer
2. Congratulatory letter to Samantha DeGaray from Dr. Bennardo re selection as November Athlete of the Month for Girls Volleyball
3. Congratulatory letter to Whitman's November Students of the Month from Dr. Bennardo
4. Congratulatory letter to members of the cheerleading team from Dr. Bennardo re performance at UCA Cheerleading Competition
5. Congratulatory letter to students selected as All-County by the Suffolk County Music Educators Association from Dr. Bennardo

**Information and  
Reports:  
(Continued)**

6. Thank you letter to students who performed at the PTA holiday luncheon from Dr. Bennardo
7. Congratulatory letter to the Fall 2014 Varsity Minds in Motion athletes from Dr. Bennardo
8. Congratulatory letter to the students given the Scholarcat award from Dr. Bennardo
9. Congratulatory letter to Anthony DeLorenzo from Dr. Bennardo re selection to the Junior Islanders Hockey Team
10. Congratulatory letter to Birchwood and Maplewood Student Council Officers from Dr. Bennardo
11. Letter to the Whitman Marching Band Parent Association from Dr. Bennardo
12. Commendation letter to teachers involved in the "Build-a-Bike" program from Dr. Bennardo
13. Letter to Mrs. Hucke and Mrs. Mooney from Dr. Centamore re initiation of the collective bargaining process
14. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re School Grade Enrollment Report for the Second Attendance Period November 3, 2014, through November 26, 2014
15. Letter to Students, Parents and Guardians from Ms. Acker re Advanced Placement Information Night
16. Personnel Postings (4)
17. *The Silas Scoop*, January 2015
18. *Countrywood Chronicle*, January 2015
19. January 2015 Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
20. Privileged and Confidential Documents from Ingerman Smith, Inc. (2)
21. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 12-18-14, 12-25-14, 1-1-15

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 19, 2014

1. Personnel Postings (4)
2. January 2015 Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
3. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 12-15-2014
4. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 12-11-14

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 12, 2014

1. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Facilities Committee Agenda
2. Personnel Postings (7)
3. Save the Date flyer for the N-SSBA, NCCSS and SCSSA conference, "Stand Up 4 Long Island's Public Schools!," scheduled for January 29, 2015
4. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 12-4-14

**Committee  
Updates:**

Facilities

Mr. Ciappetta reported that the committee met on December 16, and they discussed the following:

- Bids on the Stimson interior work and Birchwood masonry work
- The \$50,000 grant from Senator Carl Marcellino which can only be used for capital improvement. The committee was considering work on the softball field at Central, including backstop, fencing, batting cage, dugout, etc., and a scoreboard for the baseball field. The committee also looked at a playground at the District Office, but the cost of \$44,000 was prohibitive for the amount of students that would use the playground. The committee was also considering a fenced-in play area at the District Office.
- Teen Center parking lot drainage problems
- Teen Center garage which is falling apart

Mr. Nitkewicz expressed concern regarding the fact that the District Office did not have a playground, and he asked if the committee had met with anyone from the SHIP program to discuss this matter. Ms. Harris noted that one parent had expressed concern about the lack of a playground, but she noted that the teachers stated that they would prefer a fenced-in play area for using bikes and balls, etc. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he would prefer to hear from the SHIP teachers before taking a vote on the Marcellino grant. Following further discussion, the Board took the following action:

**Motion Regarding  
Marcellino Grant:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Facilities Committee's recommendation to improve the softball field at Central and purchase a scoreboard for the baseball field at Walt Whitman High School.

Motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Nitkewicz opposed.

Mr. Ciappetta asked that discussion of the Teen Center be put on the next Board of Education meeting agenda. Mr. Kaden asked that a teacher from the SHIP program be present at the next Board meeting to discuss the playground situation at the District Office.

**Comments from  
Board Members  
and Staff:**

Mr. Kaden asked if the Board had a preference with regard to the two lease proposals. After a brief discussion, Mr. Ciappetta and Mr. Kaden asked that the two organizations make their best offer to Mr. Light for consideration at the next Board of Education meeting.

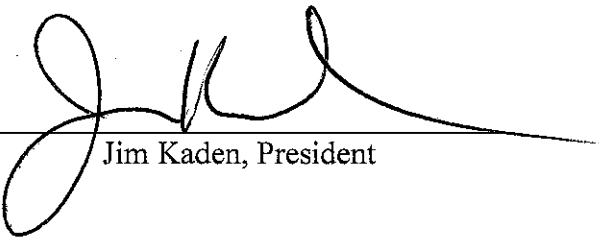
Mr. Nitkewicz had a question regarding the Facilities Committee meeting minutes. He asked if there was discussion about the District Office playground. He didn't see anything about it in the minutes. Mr. Ciappetta responded that there was a very brief discussion, but he noted that it had been discussed at other committee meetings. Mr. Ciappetta noted that there was a tape recording of the meeting.

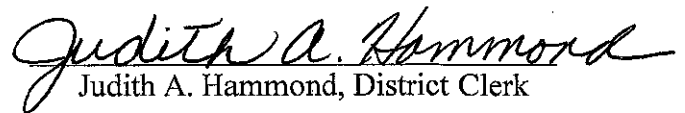
**Voice of the Residents:** Visitors were invited to participate.

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

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

  
Jim Kaden, President

  
Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 701 through 768.