

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 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 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 Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:40 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

School Bus Driver Recognition: Dr. Bennardo stated that on Sunday evening, January 18, 2015, we had a near miss as there was a bus on fire at the bus garage. Dr. Bennardo noted that because of the fast work of a bus driver having his wits about him and notifying the fire department, fifty of our buses were saved from the fire. Dr. Bennardo introduced Transportation Supervisor, Michael Trelfa, and school bus driver Elmer Contreras. Dr. Bennardo sincerely thanked Mr. Contreras on behalf of the district and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. The Board and audience expressed their appreciation of Mr. Contreras with a round of applause.

**Teacher of the Year
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo stated that one of the most exciting nights is the recognition of our teachers of the year. Dr. Bennardo noted that South Huntington teachers are the finest teachers, and this is our opportunity to thank them and let them know how much they mean to us and the students of the district. Dr. Bennardo then introduced Dr. Centamore.

Dr. Centamore welcomed everyone to the Teacher of the Year presentation and began the presentation with several inspirational quotes that he felt were appropriate for the evening's event. Dr. Centamore noted that this was our opportunity to acknowledge our dedicated teachers. Dr. Centamore thanked the Teacher of the Year committee members and Joanne Padilla for all their hard work. Dr. Centamore also thanked and congratulated the honorees and their families. Dr. Centamore asked Mr. Kaden and Dr. Bennardo to join him at the podium for the presentations. Dr. Centamore noted that Mr. Ciappetta would be representing Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci and presenting the honorees with citations. Mr. Ciappetta stated that Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci was in Albany and sent his regrets. He had hoped to be able to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Ciappetta congratulated the honorees on this great honor. Dr. Centamore congratulated all honorees and introduced each principal who spoke about their respective teacher.

This year's teachers of the year are:

- Amy Emde – South Huntington Teacher of the Year/Walt Whitman High School Teacher of the Year
- Seth Goldman – Stimson Middle School Teacher of the Year
- Hilcia Brandt – Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center Teacher of the Year
- Ian Denson – Birchwood Intermediate School Teacher of the Year
- Tonya Lourenco – Maplewood Intermediate School Teacher of the Year
- Adam Slawitsky – Countrywood Primary Center Teacher of the Year
- Madeline Borland – Oakwood Primary Center Teacher of the Year

The South Huntington Teacher of the Year Amy Emde was given an opportunity to speak and expressed her gratitude for this amazing honor. Mrs. Emde thanked her husband, son and family for all their love and support. Mrs. Emde also thanked the administration and staff and noted that she felt honored and fortunate to work with such fine people. Mrs. Emde thanked the parents of her students for entrusting their children to

Teacher of the Year Recognition: our district and concluded by thanking her students. Mrs. Emde stated that her students had given her tenfold what she had given them.
(Continued)

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

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants): Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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 14, 2015.

Schedule of Investment Accounts: Schedule of Investment Accounts, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 815.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 816.

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation: Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 817-826.

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation: Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 827.

Revenue Status Report, General Fund: Revenue Status Report, General Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 828.

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund: Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 829.

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund: Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 830.

- Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 831-834.
- Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 835.
- Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 836-837.
- Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 838-840.
- Budgetary Transfer Report:** Budgetary Transfer Report, December 2014, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 841.
- Tax Levy Schedule:** Tax Levy Schedule, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 842.
- Library Tax Levy:** Library Tax Levy, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 842.
- Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:** Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, December 2014, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 843-846.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 76	\$ 896,021.38
	"	V076	(80.15)
	School Lunch	28	10,695.05
	Special Aid	26	14,720.74

Approved – Board Packet of January 30, 2015

General Fund	Warrant 73	\$ 26,140.45
"	74	320,724.71
"	75	1,731.00
"	V034	11.99
School Lunch	27	7,029.74
Special Aid	25	48,024.34

- 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.
- Approval to Declare a School Bus Obsolete:** Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby declares obsolete a 2005 Thomas Engine school bus with the VIN number 4UZAAXDC35CN937870. The school bus was destroyed in a fire on January 18, 2015, at the district's bus garage parking lot.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Field Trip Request Annual DECA NYS Competition:** 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 field trip request to the annual DECA New York State Competition to be held on March 3-6, 2015, in Rochester, New York.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Proposed Logo Designs:** Dr. Bennardo explained that the district had perimeter signs that were in disrepair. The Facilities Committee decided to look into a new slogan and logo for the district to use on these signs and possibly on letterhead and for other uses. Dr. Bennardo stated that the high school marketing teachers and classes were asked to submit ideas. Dr. Bennardo noted that first the slogan was selected by the Board and now the Board was being given an opportunity to select a new logo from twenty-three submitted ideas. Dr. Bennardo stated that once a design was selected, he would take the design to a professional marketer. Dr. Bennardo noted that the Board had been given a copy of the designs a couple of weeks ago so that they would have had time to review all of them. The proposed logo designs were shown to the audience on a PowerPoint presentation. Each Board member discussed which logos they preferred and why. Following that discussion, it was the sense of the Board to go with logo design #19. Mr. Kaden stated that he would like the logo to be in the district colors of maroon and white.
- Make-Up Days for Emergency School Closings:** Dr. Bennardo stated that the state threshold was to have school opened for a minimum of 180 days. Dr. Bennardo noted that our district had 182 instructional days and three conference days which are five days above the state number. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district had used three snow days so far this year, and it was noted on the school calendar that school would be opened on April 2 if two snow days were used. Dr. Bennardo explained that the Board had the option of not requiring school to be opened on April 2, which is Holy Thursday, and hold that day in abeyance if another snow day was needed. Following a brief discussion, it was the sense of the Board to not open school on April 2 at this time and to allow one more snow day without using April 2. If two more snow days are used, then school would be open on Thursday, April 2; if three more snow days are used, then school would also be open on Friday, April 3.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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 16, 17, 22, January 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30, 2015, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 20, 30 and February 3, 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. 847-857.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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. 858-864, 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 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 20 - Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Facilities Committee Agenda
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re School Grade Enrollment Report for the Second Attendance Period January 5, 2015, through January 30, 2015
3. Personnel Postings (6)
4. *Countrywood Chronicle*, February 2015
5. *Oakwood Calendar*, February 2015
6. *The Silas Scoop*, February 2015

In envelopes:

1. Western Suffolk BOCES 2015-2016 Shared Services Guide

Information Sent to Board Week Ending January 30, 2015

1. Invitation from Mr. D'Elia to participate in the Parents as Reading Partners program
2. Thank you letter to the Board of Education from Thomas Renart, Easter Seals New York
3. Thank you letter to members of the Robotics Team from Dr. Bennardo re presentation at Board of Education meeting

Information and Reports:

4. Thank you letter to members of the Jazz Cats from Dr. Bennardo re their performance at the Board of Education meeting
5. Personnel Posting (1)
6. *NYSIR Legal Digest*, Winter 2015 (Board Members Only)
7. *Spotlight*, January 2015
8. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 1-29-15

Committee Updates:Facilities

Mr. Ciappetta reported that the Facilities Committee met on February 10, and they received the good news that there were Excel funds of \$163,000 available. The committee is recommending using some of that money to offset the cost of the boiler which would leave \$250,000 in the capital budget. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the committee would come up with recommended projects and present their recommendations in March. Mr. Kaden asked for the cost of a new playground at the District Office as Mr. Nitkewicz had expressed interest in this. Ciappetta stated that it would be \$50,000. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he would like the playground at the District Office considered as one of the project. Mr. Ciappetta noted that the committee was considering putting a playground at the District Office, repairs to Student Services, replacement of Birchwood's gym floor and work on the canopy by the PAC at Walt Whitman High School. Mr. Nitkewicz asked that the committee report on all projects being considered. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that the Board as a whole must make the determination, and he felt the Board should be part of the process. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he felt that the Board should not be asked to vote on a project on the day it was presented to them. Mr. Ciappetta noted that the committee would hold a meeting next month.

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he went to Washington, D.C. on Super Bowl weekend for the NSBA Advocacy Institute. Mr. Nitkewicz gave a brief report on his trip. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that they spent Sunday and Monday discussing the reorganization of elementary and secondary schools, issues of funding and policy. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he met with Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, Congressman Steve Israel and Congresswoman Kathleen Rice and took a tour of the U. S. Capitol Building, which was very impressive. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that it was a privilege to be a part of the group from Suffolk County and stated that he did not sit quietly. There was a discussion about funding for the recent influx of immigrants and he quoted Mr. Kaden saying that we need to stop asking and start putting pressure on the government to provide aid. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that Steve Israel had sponsored a bill. Mrs. Brieff asked about the status of the bill. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that it is still pending. Mr. Nitkewicz reported that two of the speakers at the conference were James Carville and Mary Matalin and he found them very interesting. Mr. Nitkewicz thanked Mr. Kaden for recommending him for this committee and thanked the Board and community for sending him to Washington, D.C. for this conference.

Voice of the Residents:

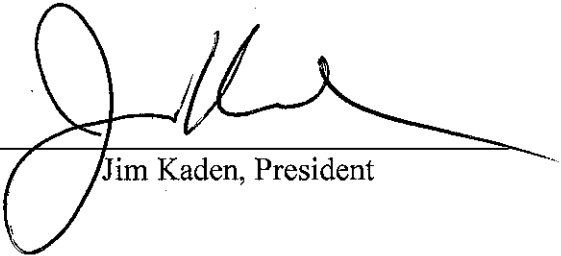
Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

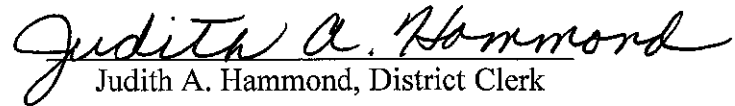
Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 815 through 864.