

March 11, 2015

2014-2015 - 891

A Budget Work Session and regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District were held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 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. 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. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, 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 Mrs. Brieff, 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.

Budget Work Session: Dr. Bennardo began his presentation by stating that this year the district did not know their state aid numbers as the Governor was holding back state aid until the legislature agreed to his education reforms. Dr. Bennardo noted that until we received the state aid runs, the district would use a little over 3% as the number for state aid in calculating this year's budget. Dr. Bennardo also noted that the Board gave their blessing for a different format of budget presentations this year. Dr. Bennardo stated that tonight we would start with the whole budget and at the next meeting go over the different codes.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

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Dr. Bennardo reviewed the 2013-2014 budget. The tax levy cap increase was 3.02% or \$3,144,277. Our state aid increase was 2.3% or \$614,978.

Dr. Bennardo noted that the negative gap resulted in the need to reduce a:

- District Supervisor of Assessment and Technology
- District Music Supervisor
- Assistant Facilities Supervisor
- Assistant Transportation Supervisor
- English Chairperson Consolidation (2014/2015)

Dr. Bennardo stated that the district also garnered significant savings in central office, fuel, bonds, etc.

Dr. Bennardo then reviewed the 2014-2015 budget. The tax levy cap increase was 1.41% or \$1,514,040. The state aid increase was 10.6% or \$2,900,824. Dr. Bennardo stated that after roll-forward expenditures, the district had a positive gap of \$1.6 million. This allowed for:

- 2.1 High School Academic Enrollment Need
- .6 Stimson AIS and Scheduling Need
- .6 Silas AIS
- .6 Silas Special Area Teaming (Enrollment Driven)
- .2 Silas Foreign Language Need
- 1.0 Grades 3-5
- 1.0 Grades K-2
- 1.0 District Special Education
- 1.0 District Reading Support
- 1.0 District K-2 Enrollment
- 1.0 Facilities Maintenance Worker
- .6 District Bilingual Social Worker

Dr. Bennardo noted that other additions included middle school theater, middle level after-school art, middle level STEAM program, and video-production program. Dr. Bennardo also noted that last year's budget was unique in that there were numerous class numbers that were right on the border of needed FTE adjustments. In addition, the district had the unexpected arrival of 100 new students and some unforeseen service and number-driven needs. Therefore, the 10.7 addition at budget time was bolstered by a very robust contingency resource and grant allocations. That allowed for the gradual addition of ESL and some special education,

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

as well as assorted partial FTE additions in academic areas throughout the year. Dr. Bennardo stated that while we were able to cover these expenses, our goal this year was to anticipate more of these needs and work more of the FTEs into the first-round budget. Fortunately, we have now been through a cycle of new immigration, and our other academic class numbers are a bit cleaner in that there are fewer borderline classes and needs. Therefore, the upfront recommendations are a bit easier to predict this year. That, of course, does not eliminate the possibility of unexpected additions but does provide a slightly better picture of future needs.

Dr. Bennardo then reviewed the look forward to 2015-2016. Dr. Bennardo stated that our tax levy cap increase was 1.71% or \$1,856,781, the conservative state aid estimate was 3.3% or \$998,227, and the pension decrease was \$1.8 million. Dr. Bennardo noted that after roll-forward expenses and accounting for the possibilities of Triborough expenses in the contract, we had a positive gap of \$1.3 million with the conservative revenue estimates we had shared.

Dr. Bennardo then turned the presentation over to Mr. Light who reviewed the reserve and fund balance information. Mr. Light explained that the district had two years of deficit spending (2010/2011 and 2011/2012) and was now in a cycle of borrowing approximately \$3.5 million a year for ourselves and repaying it with unspent money the following year, with an additional \$3.5 million put into reserves. Mr. Light noted that there was a recommendation this year to use \$1,000,000 of these reserves for a one-time expenditure to the facilities line. Mr. Light stated that the unspent portion of the budget that was not committed to paying ourselves back (\$3.5 million) was coming down gradually as a proportion of the budget. Mr. Light then reviewed the reserve history from 2007/2008 through 2013/2014.

Dr. Bennardo outlined the possible FTE additions to be funded through our positive gap, if the Board of Education and administration so desired:

Potential Secondary Needs

- WWHS
 - .6 Foreign Language (to fully staff a 4th year option)
 - .2 Math (to implement a computer science course)
 - .2 Social Studies (enrollment-driven need)
 - .3 PE (enrollment-driven need)
 - .2 Art (contingent scheduling)
 - .8 Math (Bilingual Math)

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Potential Secondary Needs (Continued)

- Stimson
 - 1.4 AIS/Reading
 - 1.0 Special Education (IEP driven program needs)
 - .4 Bilingual Science
 - 2.8
- Silas Wood
 - 1.0 Reading
 - .4 Bilingual Science
 - 1.4

Potential K-5 Needs

- 6.0 Classroom Teachers
- 1.0 Special Education Teacher
- 1.4 ESL (district-wide)
- .4 Registration Teacher
- 8.8

Dr. Bennardo summarized that 15.3 teachers at an average cost of \$77,000 each would equal \$1,178,100.

Dr. Bennardo then reviewed the 2015/2016 primary and intermediate class-size projections and the 2015/2016 middle level and high school total enrollment projections.

Dr. Bennardo reviewed other minor additions which included a Grades 6-12 Natural Helpers Program (\$30,000), Intramurals for Grades 5-8 (\$28,213), and a supplemental dance program as a result of services-in-kind from a new tenant.

Dr. Bennardo stated that he expected there would be additional grant and state aid revenue to be discussed at a later date. Dr. Bennardo noted that potential items for consideration could be:

- Grant Writer Marketer (Grant Funded)
- .5 Transportation Clerical (Budget)
- .4 Tech/Art Support at Stimson Middle School

Following the presentation, the Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion. Information requested for the next budget work session include:

- the number of grant-funded positions in the district; and
- a breakdown of all grants in the budget.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, 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 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 February 11, 2015.

Single Audit Report for Federal Funds for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014: The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, the Single Audit Report prepared for the district by the firm R. S. Abrams & Co., LLP, for federal funds for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	<u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>		
	General Fund	Warrant 84	\$ 906,752.92
	"	85	208,450.00
	School Lunch	32	645.25
	Special Aid	30	17,537.00
	2003 Bond	8	22,863.76

Approved – Board Packet of February 27, 2015

	General Fund	Warrant 82	\$ 4,464.64
	"	83	1,713,717.48
	School Lunch	31	37.02
	Special Aid	29	30,883.64
	2003 Bond	7	25,750.00

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.

Lease Extension – Huntington Historical Society: 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 a three-month lease extension with Huntington Historical Society at the 2 Melville Road location for the period April 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015.
Motion carried unanimously.

Donation from Wildcat Booster Club for Concession Trailer: Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District does hereby accept the donation of \$9,653.06 from the Wildcat Booster Club to go towards the purchase of a concession trailer.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Requests 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 hereby approves the two requests to remain in South Huntington Schools, a copy of the requests made part of these legal minutes, p. 899-900.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Agreement with
Advance 2000 for
District-wide
Telephone:**

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 one-year agreement to provide telephone maintenance district wide from Advance 2000.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Recommendations
for Placement by
CSE/CPSE:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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 20, 21, 23, 29, February 4, 11, 12, 13, 19, 24, 25, 26 and 27, 2015, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated February 10, 26 and March 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. 901-910.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation of Monies
from Art and Sole
Run:**

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 donation of \$3,809.96 for a SMART Board for the art classroom at Birchwood Intermediate School; \$1,800 for a dance program at Countrywood Primary Center; \$1,400 for the theatre performance of "The Rain Forest" at Oakwood Primary Center; and \$521.08 for wireless microphones at Oakwood Primary Center for a total donation of \$7,531.04 from funds obtained from the Art and Sole Run which was held on May 31, 2014.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation to Walt
Whitman High
School's Life Skills
Program:**

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 by Edward and Rosemary Nitkewicz of the following items, valued at \$597.36, to the Life Skills Program at Walt Whitman High School:

- Wii-U Console and Gaming Unit
- Wii-U remote controls (2)
- Wii-U battery charging station
- Wii-U "The Voice" program and microphone system
- Wii-U "Just Dance" program
- Wii-U dual charging station
- 2-year extended warranty

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. 911-919, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 7 - Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 8 - Re-Employment to Positions (Instructional)

Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11 - Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 18 - Re-Employment to Positions (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 20 - Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Health and Wellness Fair Flyers
2. Personnel Postings (2)
3. *Countrywood Chronicle*, March 2015
4. March Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
5. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-26-15

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 27, 2015

1. Memo to Mr. Kaden from Mr. Light re Audit Committee Agenda
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Meeting Minutes of Facilities Committee of February 10, 2015
3. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re Electronic Devices in the School
4. Letter to Parent or Guardian from Mr. Smith re Assessment and Regents Testing
5. Personnel Postings (3)
6. Confidential Document from Ingerman Smith L.L.P.
7. Letter from Brian Sales, N-SSBA, re 2015 Distinguished Service Award and Dedicate School Board Service Award
8. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-19-15

Committee Updates:

None given.

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mrs. Brieff noted that she is soliciting for the Miles for Michael 5K Run being held on May 30, 2015. Mrs. Brieff asked if anyone knew of a business that would like to make a donation, please let her know. Mrs. Brieff noted that they were accepting gift certificates for raffle baskets on the day of the run. Mrs. Brieff stated that she recently received a generous donation of \$1,000 from Umberto's Pizzeria in Huntington.

Mr. Ciappetta reported that improvements being made at Stimson Middle School were to the classrooms, doors, lockers and basketball court.

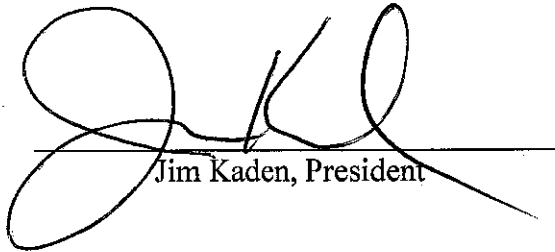
Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

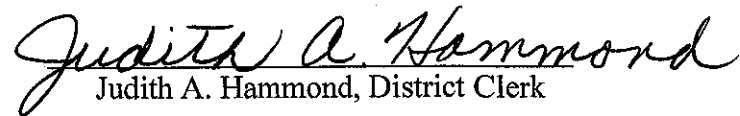
Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 899 through 919.