

April 15, 2015

A Budget Adoption meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, April 15, 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  
Mrs. Harris  
Dr. Centamore  
Dr. Bloom  
Mr. Light  
Mrs. McLean

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

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

Mr. Kaden opened the Budget Adoption/Business Meeting at 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Adoption  
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo began the meeting and provided a brief overview of the previous budget sessions. He stated that this was a unique budget in that the district used a 3.3% estimation of state aid as the Executive Budget did not include state-aid runs. He indicated that planning for the budget was conducted by predicting state revenue based upon previous years' GEA restoration money and reimbursable expenses. The estimation of available revenues used a tax levy increase of 1.71%, \$1,856,781, and state-aid increase of 3.3%, \$998,227. The final determination of revenue resulted in a state-aid increase of 5.78%, amounting to \$1,741,334. He explained that while he did not wish to look a "gift horse" in the mouth, he was cautious regarding the state-aid packages that have characterized these past two years. This year's state aid was based largely on the GAP elimination refund, the state-rebated

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money the State had taken from school districts. The aid increase was also based on reimbursed expenses for funds that were spent in the day-to-day operations of the district. Dr. Bennardo further explained that by removing the GEA from the equation, our state-aid increase was much closer to the 2% mark. He further highlighted the district's aid:

Total aid in 2014/2015: \$30,119,826  
 Total aid in 2015/2016: \$31,861,160  
 Total increase: \$1,741,334  
 Foundation aid: \$153,869  
 Reimbursements: \$458,803  
 GEA: \$1,128,662

Dr. Bennardo emphasized that the goal of Administration and the Board of Education was to move forward in a prudent manner, address areas of need responsibly, and ensure that the district can sustain additions for a five-to-ten year period.

Dr. Bennardo continued with an overview of the district's instructional needs. At the high school, the recommendation was to increase teachers by 2.3 FTE, a combination of foreign language, math, social studies, physical education, art and bilingual math. At Stimson, the recommendation was to increase staff by 2.8 FTE, including AIS/reading, special education and bilingual science. At Silas Wood, a 1.4 FTE recommendation was made for reading and bilingual science. For the K-5 needs, Dr. Bennardo explained that there was a recommendation for an increase of 6 classroom teachers, 1 special education teacher, a 1.4 ESL teacher (district-wide) and a .4 registration teacher, a new requirement of Part 154, for a total of 8.8, including a .5 FTE transportation clerical for a total of 15.8 FTE. Dr. Bennardo reported that while Mr. Trelfa has moved the Transportation Department into a much more efficiently run customer-service type of operation, the part-time clerical will benefit the department with much needed assistance handling phones, responding to parent inquiries, etc. Additionally, a grant writer/marketing/alumni coordinator-community relations liaison was also recommended, with the cost for this position covered by a grant. This position will enable the district to double-down on revenue-enhancing opportunities.

Extra-curricular additions included a Grades 6-12 Natural Helpers Program, a very successful program that involves students from across the board, from the academically-minded student to the athlete to the music/art student—the program is designed to add support and create a more empathetic culture within the schools. Dr. Bennardo continued that there is also an intramural program serving Grades 5-8, as well as a unique form of support at the old South Huntington Library with each tenant providing an after-school activity from the arts, to SAT tutoring, to internships with video and designing. Dr. Bennardo referenced the old library as being an instructional hub of the district.

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Dr. Bennardo moved on and indicated that the district had two years of deficit spending, which allowed for the cycle of borrowing approximately \$3.5 million dollars/year and repaying it with unspent money the following year, with an additional \$3.5 million dollars put into reserves. Additionally, there was a recommendation this year to use \$1,000,000 of this reserve money for a one-time expenditure to the facilities code line. Dr. Bennardo asked Mr. Light to continue the presentation.

Mr. Light reported that taking the \$1,000,000 out of reserves was possible due to contribution reductions in both retirement systems—the ERS and TRS. Additionally, he cited an increase of \$203,601 added to the Health Insurance code, which is due to anticipated increased costs of coverage for employees. Mr. Light shared that \$500,000 is being added to the Maintenance & Grounds codes, which will provide the district with means to complete projects and avoid a bond for this purpose. Mr. Light summarized and stated that the new budget is \$156,069,907, which carried a zero GAP, an increase of \$4,229,677 from our current budget, and a 2.79% increase from the 2014/2015 budget.

Mr. Light reported that revenue sources for the district were 70.8% from property taxes, 20.2% from state-aid, 5.5% from miscellaneous income, 2.8% from fund balance, and .7% from reserves.

Mr. Light stated that the budget carried a 1.71% tax levy, and a 2.6% tax rate increase. This proposed budget was under the tax cap, which will enable tax rebates for community residents.

Mr. Kaden asked if the Board had any questions. Mr. Nitkewicz inquired if the 2.79% increase in the proposed budget was within the tax cap; Mr. Light provided assurance it was to which Mr. Kaden shared that the tax cap levy is within the cap.

Mr. Kaden addressed the audience and asked if there were questions. Mr. Bartolomeo provided his thoughts on previous budget development processes and his cautious concern for the future. Mr. Kaden responded and shared his thoughts on future budgets and stated that while the cost of living is at 2% and labor costs are similar, budget development is manageable. However, should inflation bring a 5% cost of living increase or higher, labor costs will also increase, and that increase will be detrimental. Mr. Kaden continued and stated he believed that situation would crush district's finances within a two-year time span.

Consensus was reached that the budget be adopted at this point of the meeting.

**Resolution for  
Adoption of the  
2015/2016 School**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the budget of \$156,069,907 be adopted and the amount thereof, less state aid and other income, be raised by tax upon taxable property of

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- Budget:** South Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, County of Suffolk, New York, for the school year 2015-2016.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- 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. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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 March 25, 2015.
- Schedule of Investment Accounts:** Schedule of Investment Accounts, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1054.
- Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1054.
- Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:** Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1055-1064.
- Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:** Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1065.
- Revenue Status Report, General Fund:** Revenue Status Report, General Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1065.
- Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:** Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1066.
- Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:** Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1066.
- Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1067-1070.
- Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1071.

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**Budget Status  
Report  
(Expenditures)  
Special Aid Fund:**

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1071-1072.

**Budget Status  
Report  
(Expenditures)  
Capital Fund:**

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1072-1074.

**Budgetary Transfer  
Report:**

Budgetary Transfer Report, February 2015, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 1075.

**Tax Levy Schedule:**

Tax Levy Schedule, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1075.

**Library Tax Levy:**

Library Tax Levy, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1075.

**Extraclassroom  
Activity Fund  
Report:**

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, February 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1076-1079.

**Bids:**

Mr. Ciappetta reported that this particular bid was basically the same bid presented at the last Board meeting for rejection, as the Stimson interior upgrades and the basketball court refurbishment was packaged under one SED project number. The rejection, he continued, was for the interior upgrades. Mr. Kaden asked if the Facilities Committee was recommending that the Board not vote for it, to which Mr. Nitkewicz stated the Board must vote to reject the bid. Mr. Kaden asked if there was a motion to amend the previous adoption that had been voted on. Mr. Nitkewicz responded that the Board should vote on Items C, D, E and F separately.

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the resolution for the Adoption of the Agenda be amended to require a separate vote on Items C, D, E and F for adoption.  
Motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the resolution for the adoption of Items D, Financial Items, and F, Schedule of Bills, be adopted.  
Motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.  
Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, to reject Item E., Bids, seconded by Mrs.

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Briefly, be it Resolved that Bid No. SED58-04-13-03-0-012-020 is hereby rejected.

Motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

The following bid, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1080-1081.

Stimson-Interior Upgrades & Basketball Court Refurbishment  
SED 58-04-13-03-0-012-030

**Schedule of Bills  
(Warrants):**

General Fund	Warrant 97	\$18,512.65
“	98	895,482.05
“	99	11,666.67
“	100	49,314.11
“	101	12,302.23
“	102	502,774.67
School Lunch	37	7,254.51
Special Aid	36	11,474.10

Approved – Board Packet April 1, 2015

General Fund	Warrant 94	\$15,469.90
“	95	347,114.65
“	96	11,386.57
“	VO90	(2,000.00)
School Lunch	36	18,260.04
Special Aid	35	33,142.13

Approved – Board Packet March 27, 2015

General Fund	Warrant 92	\$1,727,160.46
“	93	71,794.40
School Lunch	35	3,640.87
Special Aid	33	49,785.99
“	34	2,457.00

**Vote on Minutes  
through Schedule of  
Bills (Warrants):**

Mr. Kaden asked for any additional comments or questions on the above items. Mr. Ciappetta indicated that he would prefer future bids be placed under New Business, or at least the rejections of bids be placed under New Business on the agenda. Mr. Kaden shared that he could count the number of bid rejections on one hand that have been presented to the Board. In response, Mr. Nitkewicz suggested the Board make motions to amend the agenda to vote on each item separately, when necessary, rather than “reinventing the wheel.” (Amended motions for Items C, D, E and F noted under Bids.)

**Approval of Board  
of Education  
Meeting Dates for  
2015/2016:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the Board of Education meeting dates for 2015/2016, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1082-1083.

Motion carried unanimously.

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**Increase to Budget  
Insurance Claim for  
Bus Lost to Fire:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the increase to budget code 5510-13-TRN-210 with the check from NYSIR in the amount of \$97,369.00 representing the first and final payment for the school bus lost to a fire in January, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation/Wall of  
Honor:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the donation of a Wrestling Hall of Fame with a total dollar value of \$3,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared that the Wildcat Wrestling Program, a Grade 2-8 program, is run by Mr. Brian DeGaetano, Mrs. DeGaetano's husband. Last year Mr. DeGaetano, together with the Booster Club, donated a new wrestling mat that was sorely needed. Back in 2012, Super Storm Sandy destroyed the Club's Wrestling Hall of Fame, and Dr. Bennardo shared that the district is so very grateful to the Wrestling Club for its continued support in replacing this historical marker.

Mrs. DeGaetano also shared, and stated for the record, that she wished to thank the Booster Club, as well as Mrs. Annmarie McQuade and the student-wrestlers involved in the program, for their hard work and time spent before, during, and at the conclusion of the Kid Wrestling Tournament. She expressed deep appreciation for the amount of time they worked, from 6 a.m. to the end, working and representing the district in such a fine fashion.

The Board provided applause in support of Mrs. DeGaetano's statements.

**Field Trip Request  
for Other than  
School Hours:**

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 all-expense paid field trip to the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, on April 30, 2015 through May 4, 2015, for five students and two chaperones. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bloom shared that this is the first year the district is competing in this event, the National Science Bowl. The Department of Energy was picking up the entire cost of the trip for the students/chaperones.

**West Hills Day  
Camp Parking Lot  
Agreement:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the five-year agreement between the District and the West Hills Day Camp for continued use of the high school's parking lot during the summer months while the camp is in session. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Light shared that this agreement is the third extension that the

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District and West Hills Camp have entered into. There will be a 2% increase each year of the five-year agreement.

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

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated February 13, 24, 25, March 3, 4, 9 10, 12, 13, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 12, 13, 17, 20, 24, 25, 27, 31, and April 13, 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. 1084-1101.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. 1102-1108, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 19: Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 20: Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and  
Reports:**

1. *Countrywood Chronicle*, April, 2015
2. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to all student participants of "Fame, Jr." production
3. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Mr. R. Callahan re various College-to-Career activities
4. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Health & Wellness Fair Committee Members
5. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Ms. Marion Raspantini/Ms. Jane Samuels re efforts with Health & Wellness Fair
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS World Language Honor Society members re UNICEF efforts
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to three students selected to Boys State
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to students involved with Science Bowl Competition
9. News Articles: *The Long Islander*, April 2, 2015 (3 articles)
10. Letter from Principal Acker to Seniors/Parents/Guardians re Senior Prom
11. *SCOPE Forum*, Winter-2015



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Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 1, 2015

1. Postings (4)
2. The Silas Scoop
3. The Long Islander, March 26, 2015 (3)
4. Scope Forum/Winter 2015

Information Sent to Board Week Ending March 27, 2015

1. Letter to Mr. Kaden and Fellow Board Members from Maryann Zumpano and Michael Flynn, Western Suffolk BOCES, re BOCES Tentative Budget for 2015-2016 and *Budget News*, Winter 2015 (Board Members, Superintendent and Business Administration Only)
2. Congratulatory letter to Whitman's Students of the Month for February from Dr. Bennardo
3. Congratulatory letter to Birchwood's Boosters for the month of February from Dr. Bennardo
4. Commendation letter to students who participated in Girls' Sports Night from Dr. Bennardo
5. Thank you letter to teachers involved in the Festival of the Arts from Dr. Bennardo
6. Congratulatory and thank you letter to Mrs. Raspantini from Ms. Harris re Health and Wellness Fair from Dr. Bennardo
7. Thank you letter to Mrs. Samuels from Ms. Harris re Health and Wellness Fair
8. Flyer re SW's Mario's Month of April
9. Personnel Postings (8)
10. Parent University Brochures
11. Letter to Dr. Bennardo from Charles J. Voorhis, Nelson, Pope and Voorhis, re Bristol Assisted Living

**Committee Updates:** Mr. Nitkewicz reported on the Audit Committee's most recent meeting where a review was conducted of the internal auditor's findings. Mr. Nitkewicz reported that internal auditing for school districts became a necessity after the Roslyn scandal a decade or so ago. The Committee consists of Mr. Kaden, the superintendent, three members from the public, Mr. Light and himself. Mr. Nitkewicz further stated that the Committee acts as a financial watchdog and oversees the "check book" of the district. Mr. Light shared at this time that the district's internal audit firm is Nawrocki Smith LLP and the claims auditing company is Cerini & Associates. Mr. Nitkewicz expressed satisfaction with the auditing firms. A brief discussion ensued whereby Mrs. Brieff asked if there is a limit on the number of years a district can retain an internal auditing firm; Mr. Light responded every five years there is a bidding process.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Nitkewicz thanked the Administration for the amount of time and effort in the development of the 2015/2016 budget. He appreciated the careful choices made. He also spoke highly of the various bargaining

units, especially the Teachers' Association, for their continued support in working with the Board of Education and Administration.

**Voice of the Residents:**

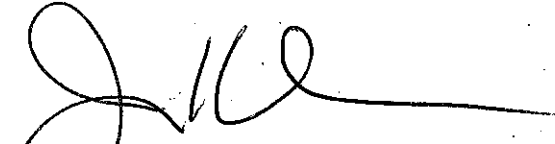
Visitors were invited to participate.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



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Jim Kaden, President



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Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1054 through 1108.