

May 12, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, May 12, 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 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. Carey, 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.

Public Hearing of Budget:

Dr. Bennardo stated that the budget process began with a review of the past two years. For the 2013/2014 school year, the tax levy cap increase was 3.02% (\$3,144,277) and the state-aid increase was 2.3% (\$614,978). At that time there was a negative gap that resulted in the following reductions:

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

Additionally, significant savings in central office, fuel, bonds, etc., were garnered.

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For the 2014/2015 school year, the tax levy cap increase was 1.41% (+\$1,514,040) and the state-aid increase was 10.6% (+\$2,900,824). After roll-forward expenditures, there was a positive gap of \$1.6 million. This allowed for a total of 10.7 FTEs, as well as a return of the middle school theater (thanks to Mrs. Buhse's Art and Sole 5K Run donation), middle-level after-school art, middle-level STEAM program, and a video-production program.

Dr. Bennardo reported that the tax levy for the 2015/2016 school year was 1.71% (\$1,856,781); the state-aid was 5.78% (\$1,741,334); and other revenue was -7.42% (-\$671,244). A three-month comparison of mandated increases, compared to available revenues, left the district with a positive gap with which to recommend to voters some prudent and targeted additions to the instructional program. Dr. Bennardo expressed the need for cautious optimism and stated that anything recommended must be sustained over a five-to-ten year period. Dr. Bennardo shared that the budget included the following:

Walt Whitman High School:

- .6 FTE Foreign Language to staff a 4th year foreign language option
- .2 FTE Math to implement a computer-science course
- .2 FTE Social Studies, an enrollment-driven need
- .3 FTE Physical Education, an enrollment-driven need
- .2 FTE Art, for contingent scheduling
- .8 FTE Math, for Bilingual Math

For a total of 2.3 FTE

Stimson Middle School:

- 1.4 FTE AIS/Reading
- 1.0 FTE Special Education (IEP-driven program needs)
- .4 FTE Bilingual Science

For a total of 2.8 FTE

Silas Wood Sixth-Grade School:

- 1.0 FTE Reading
- .4 FTE Bilingual Science

For a total of 1.4 FTE

K-5 Needs:

- 6.0 FTE Classroom teachers
- 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher
- 1.4 FTE ESL/Districtwide
- .4 FTE Registration teacher

For a total of 8.8 FTE

Combined, together with a .5 Transportation clerical, was a total of 15.8 FTE. There is also a grant writer/marketing/alumni coordinator/community relations liaison, which will be a teacher-on-assignment position. Dr. Bennardo continued and reported the Grades 6-

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12 Natural Helpers Program will also be initiated, which is similar to a “Best Buddies” program. It had existed at the high school in the past, however, this program will also include Silas Wood and the middle school students; Mrs. Harris will work on the particulars with these grade levels. Dr. Bennardo reported that the intramural program was for Grades 5-12. At this point Mr. Ciappetta asked how will advertising for the intramural program be handled; Dr. Bennardo responded that it will be done through a mailing home to all families.

Dr. Bennardo spoke of the long-range commitment whereby \$1 million was recommended for the Facilities budget code. This money was for purposes of necessary repairs and protection against long-term debt. Dr. Bennardo reported on the Efficiency Plan, a State plan whereby districts find and certify 1% administration and operation savings, the State, in turn, provides rebates to residents for the school tax increase for the 2015/2016 year.

Mr. Light reviewed the revised proposed budget; the budget increase is \$4,229,277, a 2.79% increase over last year’s budget, for a total of \$156,069,907. Mr. Light further explained that the tax rate increase is 2.95% and the tax levy increase is 1.7%. Mr. Light stated that the assessed value has gone down thereby residents are paying more in taxes. The veterans’ exemption was also approved by our Board of Education, and Mr. Light shared this has an impact on taxes, as well. Dr. Bennardo interjected that the businesses in the area have moderated; new business propositions were brought to Town Hall, however, when the Town votes these down, taxes were not reduced accordingly.

Dr. Bennardo concluded the presentation with a reminder that Tuesday, May 19th was the budget vote and elections at Walt Whitman High School with the polls opened from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Mr. Nitkewicz asked how many years have districts had the tax cap; Dr. Bennardo responded that this is the fourth budget under the cap. Dr. Bennardo further stated that this year one million dollars will be taken from reserves and applied to the facilities code. Mr. Ciappetta asked if there is a contingency within the budget. Dr. Bennardo reported that there was a low of five positions to a high of seven positions in contingency positions. Mrs. Brieff asked about the grant writer position and where would we secure such a candidate? Dr. Bennardo responded that we have teachers on staff who are well qualified for this position. It could very well be a teacher-on-assignment who could fill this position.

Mr. Kaden asked if there were further questions; the Hearing of the Budget presentation concluded.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

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

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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 April 15, 2015.
Schedule of Investment Accounts:	Schedule of Investment Accounts, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1218.
Treasurer's Report:	Treasurer's Report, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1218.
Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1219-1238.
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1239.
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1240.
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1241.
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1242.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1243-1250.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1251.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1252-1253.

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Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1254-1258.

Budgetary Transfer Report:

Budgetary Transfer Report, March 2015, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1259-1260.

Tax Levy Schedule:

Tax Levy Schedule, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1261.

Library Tax Levy:

Library Tax Levy, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1261.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, March 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1262-1269.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):

General Fund	Warrant 111	\$1,097,989.65
"	112	11,666.67
School Lunch	40	39,011.69
Special Aid	39	133,255.76
<u>Approved Board Packet of May 1, 2015</u>		
General Fund	Warrant 107	\$29,511.41
"	108	14,078.44
"	109	1,453,038.76
"	110	1,200.00
"	V108	(14,078.44)
"	V109	(1,200.00)
School Lunch	39	39,297.42
Special Aid	38	17,073.31

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.

TANS 2015-2016:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District, approve as follows:

Section 1: Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called "Notes") of South Huntington Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (herein called "District"), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$32,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law").

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**TANS 2015-2015
Continued:**

Section 2: The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

- (a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.
- (b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.
- (c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.
- (d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3: The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of an interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4: Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution of such Notes, and to execute arbitrage certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5: The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6: This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the
Joan Davidsohn
Memorial
Scholarship:**

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 establishment of a memorial scholarship entitled The Joan Davidsohn Memorial Scholarship to be funded by Walt Whitman High School staff donations and starting in June of 2016, \$500 will be allocated from fundraising efforts of the Girls Leaders Organization.
Motion carried unanimously.

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Dr. Bennardo thanked the high school staff for establishing this memorial scholarship, and the Girls Leaders Organization, which will assist in providing financial assistance to a college-bound student each year.

**Approval of
Donation from
Toyota
Corporation for
New Scoreboard at
WWHS:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District approves the donation of \$20,000 and three separate checks, each in the amount of \$10,000, totaling \$50,000, from the Toyota Corporation to be used in the purchase of a new scoreboard at Walt Whitman High School.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo reported that this donation represents a business partnership that Dr. Wright and the Booster Club have forged for the benefit of the District. The new scoreboard will have elaborate graphics, and will be placed at the high school

**Approval of
Personnel
Confidential
Resolution:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves and authorizes settlement of an action before the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Suffolk, Index #24477/2013 between the District and a certain retired employee known to the District and in accordance with the terms of the Release and Settlement between the parties; and,

Be it further Resolved, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President or his designee to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate said settlement, which has been reviewed by the Board of Education, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1270.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of
Revised Board of
Education Meeting
Dates 2015-2016:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the revisions made to the 2015-2016 Board of Education meeting dates, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1271-1272.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo explained that Mr. Ciappetta had expressed concern for the lack of a second business meeting in June of 2016. The budget development process resulted in a series of board meetings that are required in a specific timeframe, and tend to be clustered together. Dr. Bennardo continued and shared that after careful review, elimination of the April 13 budget adoption/business meeting and rescheduling the budget adoption on the previously scheduled April 19 meeting (also the BOCES Budget Vote/Elections) and adding a June 1 business meeting would not negatively impact the budget process and would provide the additional business meeting in early June.

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

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated March 10, 17, 18, 19, 20, 27, 30, April 13, 14, 21, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 20, 27, 30, April 23, 27, and

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28, 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. 1273-1292.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agreement between SHSD and the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District for Submission of the Government Efficiency Plan:

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby designates the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District as lead entity for purposes of submission of the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of the South Huntington Union Free School District;

Be it further Resolved that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and the Chief Financial Officer to certify the submission of the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of the South Huntington Union Free School District and provide it to the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District as lead entity.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo explained that this was the one percent efficiency plan that certifies one million dollars in savings, which then provides for residents to receive the tax rebate monies. Mr. Light worked with the BOCES cohort in combining all of the necessary work, and the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District will act as the lead in the submission of the paperwork required of each district. Mr. Light commented that there was one lead district among the 13 to 14 districts involved. He stated that this was simply procedural and that all districts were following suit in a similar manner. Mr. Ciappetta asked if this was the last year of the rebate, to which Mr. Light responded that the last year will be 2018/2019.

Approval of Annual School Budget Vote and Election Official:

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the appointment of Mrs. Patricia Posa to work as an election official for the May 19th budget vote and election in place of Mrs. Carol Litwin, who has communicated that she cannot be present.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Yummy-Tummy Arts in the Community Award:

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 one-time scholarship award of \$100 to \$150 to the art students who recently painted murals in her local store.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo expressed thanks to the owner of Yummy-Tummy Candies in recognizing the students with this one-time scholarship award.

Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, to table this request.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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. 1293-1300, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 10: Tenure Appointments

Schedule 13: Salary Change (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:

Information and Reports

1. Letter from Mrs. Acker to Parents/Guardians re finals/Regents/RCT Examinations

2. Memo from Mr. Smith re Stimson Middle School Upcoming Events for May and June, 2015

3. The Countrywood Chronicle

4. Attendance Period April 1 through April 31, 2015 from Mrs. Harris

5. Personnel Postings (3)

6. The Long Islander (1)

7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to April Birchwood Booster students

Information Sent Home May 1, 2015

1. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Stimson students recognized with National French contest

2. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS students recognized with the National French contest

3. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to students involved with Spring Fling

4. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to students involved with production of "Grease"

5. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Oakwood students involved with "Blast to the Past"

6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to students involved with the Town of Huntington's Arbor Day tree planning activity

7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Walt Whitman students for the month of April

9. Oakwood Primary Center's May Activity Calendar

9. Thank you letter to the Board of Education from Western Suffolk BOCES

10. SHTA Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, April 27, 2015

11. The Long Islander Articles (2, front and back)

12. The Silas Scoop from Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center

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**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta stated that he wished to extend his gratitude to those members of our staff and community that volunteered at the recent Special Olympics. He specifically thanked Mr. Wright, who originated the event, and again reiterated praise for those involved.

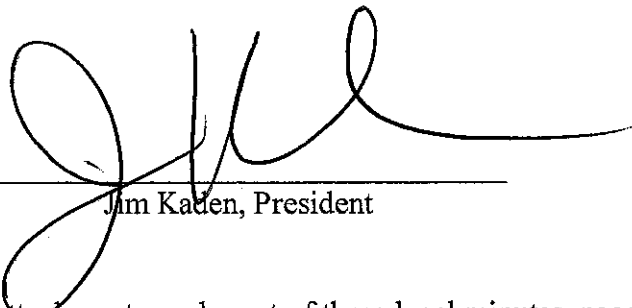
**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1218 through 1300.