

May 19, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the Performing Arts Center at 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

**Staff:**

Superintendent of Schools  
Deputy Superintendent  
Asst. Supt. for Personnel and District Services  
Asst. Supt. for Instruction and Curriculum  
Business Administrator  
Deputy District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo  
Ms. Harris  
Dr. Centamore  
Dr. Bloom  
Mr. Light  
Mrs. Ferranti

**Absent:**        Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member  
District Clerk

Mr. Nitkewicz  
Mrs. LaCara  
Mrs. DeGaetano  
Mrs. McLean

**Call to Order:**        Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Tenure Recognition:**        Dr. Bennardo took the opportunity to welcome all the teachers that were newly tenured and commented that “they were the ones with the second biggest smiles on their faces.” To our retirees, he commented, that they will love every minute of gardening and caring for their grandchildren, with smiles from ear to ear. He welcomed our student leaders and stated that our school district was built upon great teachers.

Dr. Bennardo introduced Dr. Centamore, who congratulated all the students and staff recognized this evening. Dr. Centamore stated that the granting of tenure was the first step in the career of an educator, beginning the process of establishing a strong foundation by mentoring and providing professional development to our teachers and new administrators so that their success becomes our children’s success. He wished all a long and successful career.

**Retiree Recognition:**        Dr. Centamore shared that it was an honor and privilege to recognize the many individuals tonight with combined service to our children and community of nearly 630 years of experience. He stated that the bar was set high for those newly appointed teachers to follow, and many young lives were touched throughout each and every career. Dr. Centamore called each retiree to the podium to receive their plaque and certificate presented by Mr. Kaden and Dr. Bennardo.

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**Student Leadership Awards:**

Dr. Bennardo addressed the audience and thanked them for joining us in congratulating our staff, teachers and administrators for all their hard work and dedication. He proceeded to thank them for creating this tremendous product in our children. To the parents, who had the challenging part of raising smart and caring children, he applauded them on their fine work. He then introduced Mr. Toto, principal of Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center.

Mr. Toto expressed that it was a great privilege to work with the student officers and their advisors. He was especially proud that they were able to fundraise over \$400 for Heavenly Hats, and was certain that these students will continue to be involved in our community as they move forward. Mr. Toto then identified each student officer.

Mr. Smith, principal of Stimson Middle School, began by congratulating all the retirees and tenured teachers. He expressed great pleasure in recognizing the seventh- and eighth-grade officers and their advisor, for all their hard work and dedication. Each student received individual recognition. Mr. Smith stated that these students were dedicated to all things “Stimson,” in and out of the classroom. These were the students that fit more into a 12-hour day than most of us. He thanked them for all they did to make Stimson special.

Ms. Acker, principal of Walt Whitman High School, presented the leadership awards to the student officers. Ms. Acker shared that the student leaders were the backbone of the array of events that took place at Walt Whitman High School. The events were endless, and all the students were filled with high school spirit. Ms. Acker introduced the action-packed, fast-paced, always smiling, Mr. Goldman, the freshmen class advisor, who spoke of the “sticks of dynamite,” honest leaders of tomorrow. Each officer came forward to be recognized.

Ms. Acker introduced, Ms. Papianou, the sophomore class advisor, who shared that this was a spectacular group of gifted leaders, honorable and hard working. Each student officer and assistant came forward for recognition.

Ms. Acker introduced Mr. Donlon, the junior class advisor and referred to him as the “party-planner extraordinaire.” Mr. Donlon referred to his group as his “bubble of joy” on this special night and recognized the hard work that these young men and women put in. He thanked them for everything they did. He was happy to return the fishing pole! Each student officer was introduced and came forward to be recognized.

Ms. Acker introduced Ms. Zamow, the senior class advisor, who praised the excellent organizational skills of these young men and women and how they were non-stop at fundraising, the Senior Follies, the talent show, blood drives, Senior Banquet and Senior Prom, and many more events. This group worked together better than any other team she

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worked with. Ms. Zamow thanked them for a really enjoyable year, and said she will miss them very much. Each student officer came forward to be recognized, and Ms. Zamow announced where each student will attend college.

**Principal's List:**

Ms. Acker expressed her sincere pleasure in recognizing and honoring this selected group of outstanding students. Each of these students had met and/or exceeded the requirements. They took the most challenging, rigorous courses and maintained a 95% or better grade-point average. Ms. Acker shared that she was very proud to be their principal. Each student was called to the podium to be recognized, as Ms. Acker spoke of their individual high school achievements and accomplishments, concluding each presentation with the student's college choice for the fall.

**Salutatorian –  
Valedictorian  
Recognition:**

Ms. Acker proudly announced the Walt Whitman High School Class of 2015 Salutatorian, Isabel Sakarin. Isabel was accepted to attend Vassar College in the fall.

Ms. Acker continued and proudly announced that the Walt Whitman High School Class of 2015 Valedictorian was Jonathan P. Sparling, who will attend SUNY Geneseo in the fall.

The audience provided both Isabel and Jonathan a resounding applause.

Ms. Acker then revealed the 2015 Principal's List plaque and announced that the plaque will be proudly hung in the south cafeteria, a long-standing tradition. Credit was provided to the high school's PTA for the funding of the plaque.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, 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 April 28, 2015.

**Bids:**

The following bids, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, p. 1308.  
General Ledger Counsel/Labor Relations Counsel Schedule 15-06R

**Schedule of Bills  
(Warrants):**

General Fund	Warrant 113	\$589,343.82
"	114	14,562.36
"	V084	(643.48)
"	V113	(149.95)
School Lunch	41	\$37,049.60

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Special Ad	40	\$10,006.78
Capital Reserve	11	\$715.00

**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.

**Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools:** Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the request for two students to remain in Walt Whitman High School and Stimson Middle School respectively for the duration of the 2014-2015 school year, a copy of the request made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1309-1310.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel Resolution Business Administrator:** Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby appoints Lawrence Light to the position of Business Administrator commencing on July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, with terms and conditions as set forth in the agreement between South Huntington Union Free School District and Lawrence Light.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Donation from L.U.N.A. Reflections, Inc. for GLO's:** Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the donation of \$1,580.55 to the Walt Whitman High School Girls Leaders Organization for the purpose of a scholarship for former educator, Joan Davidsohn.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Budget Transfer Approval:** Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the Budget transfer in the amount of \$560,000 to cover the cost of shifting of routes from the South Huntington School District to Huntington Coach.

Mrs. Brieff questioned, "What is the amount of transfer that the District needs Board approval for?" Mr. Light responded: \$250,000. Mr. Ciappetta questioned, "What is the reason why we are using more Huntington Coach buses?" Dr. Centamore replied that a Transportation study was taken a few years back that identified big buses transitioning to Huntington Coach use; the smaller vans would be maintained for district runs. By utilizing their larger buses, substantial savings will be realized by the District.  
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 March 9,

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12, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, April 16, 28, May 4, 5, 11 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 27, 30, April 13, 20, 23, 27, 28, May 1, 5, 8, 11, and 12 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. 1311-1329.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, 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. 1330-1336, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (instructional)

Schedule 12: Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave

Schedule 16: Terminations (Non-instructional) (Revised)

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and Reports:**

1. Legal Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re Changes to the New York Lobbying Act, May 12, 2015
2. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Councilwoman Edwards re Town Youth Summer program
3. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to National Honor Society students
4. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to National Junior Honor Society students
5. Letter from Mr. Toto to Parents/Guardians re Final Exams
6. Letter from Mr. Toto to Parents/Guardians re Reminders for End of Year Student Conduct
7. Invitation from SHTA to End of Year Retirement Party, June 9, Crest Hollow County Club
8. Personnel Postings (5)
9. SHTA Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, May 11, 2015
10. *The Long-Islander*, May 7, 2015
11. *Spotlight*, May 2015

**Committee Updates:**

Mr. Kaden stated that the next Audit Committee Meeting is May 21, 2015. He also stated that the last and final Board Meeting for this school year was June 17, with the summer meetings scheduled for July 7 and August 12.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta asked Dr. Bennardo what the letter from Councilwoman Tracey Edwards was about. Dr. Bennardo replied that the Town had an open “building use” with our district. They want to formalize their building use and have more of a “youth bend” using our facilities. Through the committee that the County Executive put together, they want

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to bring more activities for children between the hours of 5-8 p.m., such as free basketball, free yoga, free cooking classes, etc., however, this program was contingent upon our having the space. The Town wanted it to be central to the area, and we were cooperating with them.

Mr. Kaden asked if there were any other comments by Board members.

Mr. Ciappetta congratulated all the retirees on their great careers and long dedication to South Huntington. He also stated that the 2015 Principal's List was very impressive and a tremendous job done by all. He thanked the guidance department at Walt Whitman High School for pushing the diversity of the prestigious colleges and universities that our class of 2015 will be attending.

**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that we suspend operations until the Budget voting time ended.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Certification of Results:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, whereas, the Annual District Elections of the South Huntington Union Free School District of the Town of Huntington, New York, was duly called to be held on May 19, 2015, and was held on said date within said School District for the purpose of voting on the Propositions and Elections set forth in the notice calling said Annual District Election; now therefore,  
Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby determines that said election was held in all respects in the manner prescribed by Education Law of the State of New York and accepts the results as declared by Chairperson Christine Lublin:

Proposition No. 1 – School Budget      1,339 Yes      384 No

The vote for the Trustees was as follows for three, three-year terms of office:

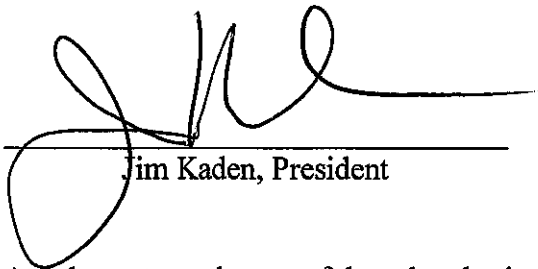
Ed Nitkewicz	received 1,074 votes
Linda LaCara	received 1,137 votes
Michele DeGaetano	received 1,193 votes
Andrew Bronson	received 1,064 votes

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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Jim Kaden, President



Elaine Ferranti, Deputy District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1308 through 1336.