

September 16, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, in the Gymnasium at Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center, 23 Harding Place, Huntington Station, NY.

**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 & District Services

Business Administrator

Supervisor of Assessment and Technology

District Clerk

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

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

**Executive Session:** Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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 Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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.

**STEM Data Coach  
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo addressed the Board and community members and stated that the District was able to provide substantial support in the form of a STEM Data Coach to assist our instructional staff members with STEM, as well as STEAM (including the Arts), activities and initiatives. Dr. Bennardo introduced Mrs. Marijean Scardapane, and explained that she was a teacher-on-assignment, and further added that it was a well-known fact that teachers learn best from other teachers.

Ms. Scardapane thanked Dr. Bennardo and shared that there were amazing opportunities for students that involve STEM projects, competitions, classroom enrichment and industry partnerships. Thus far, 1,800 students have been involved with summer science enrichment research in Grades 7-9; STEP science bowl teams in Grades 10-11; the

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Hospital for a Day project at Silas Wood and Walt Whitman; engineering competitions in Grades 6-8; and the student Spaceflight project in Grades 5-6. Additionally, students have been enriched through zSpace virtual labs in Grades 3-5; microscope performance tasks in Grade 3; an owl pellet dissection performance task in Grade 4, and freshwater eco-system field student and performance tasks in Grade 5. Partnerships include Farmingdale University, the Department of Energy, North Shore Long Island Jewish Hospital, Long Island STEM Hub, Long Island Engineering Regional Industry Council, Cameron Engineering and Space X with NASA.

Mrs. Scardapane shared that in moving forward, there are plans to develop monitoring tools to track the effectiveness of initiatives, expand programs within and across grade levels, expand the virtual reality labs, as well as develop a Science writing program.

Mrs. Scardapane's Powerpoint presentation reflected pictures of our students as follows:

- as National Science Bowl 2015 Regional Champions
- working at last summer's Science Research program
- involvement with the Student Spaceflight program
- operating the zSpace virtual labs
- eager students listening attentively to physicians during a visit to Silas Wood classrooms
- Grade 3 students utilizing real microscopes after completing a dissection using the zSpace lab, then drawing and subsequently writing exactly what they experienced.

Mrs. Brieff thanked Mrs. Scardapane for the informational presentation and voiced appreciation for her efforts with this exciting program. Mr. Kaden asked if funding was provided by the Technology grant; Dr. Bloom responded that it was.

Mr. Ciappetta shared that the zSpace virtual labs were furnished by the South Huntington Educational Foundation, to which he also added that the annual golf fundraiser was scheduled for Columbus Day, October 12<sup>th</sup>, whereby Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci was being honored. He added that one can also participate by attending the dinner event without golfing.

Dr. Bennardo thanked Mrs. Scardapane and added that she has exciting, new types of co-curricular activities planned that spark students' intellect and competitiveness.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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<b>Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Briefff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:
<b>Minutes:</b>	Minutes of Board meeting held on August 12, 2015.
<b>Schedule of Investment Accounts:</b>	Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 375.
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	Treasurer's Report, July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 376.
<b>Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 377-396.
<b>Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 397.
<b>Revenue Status Report, General Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 398.
<b>Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 399.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 400.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 401-408.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 409.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 410-411.

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**Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 412.

**Tax Levy Schedule:** Tax Levy Schedule, July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 413.

**Library Tax Levy:** Library Tax Levy, July, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 413.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General Fund	Warrant 20	\$1,009.38
	“ “	21	1,800.00
	“ “	22	670,554.25
	Special Aid	9	233,218.74
	General Fund	Warrant 23	\$208,450.00
	“ “	24	1,245,000.00
	“ “	25	205,066.47
	“ “	26	11,666.67
	“ “	27	22,691.48
	“ “	V025	(14,284.34)
“ “	V000	(1,040.00)	
School Lunch	6	2,746.88	
Special Aid	10	63,696.48	

**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 of Lead Evaluators of Teachers:** Whereas, §30-2.9 of the Rules of the Board of Regents requires certification of lead evaluators for purposes of conducting evaluations of teachers in accordance with the requirements under §3012-c of the Education Law, respecting Annual Professional Performance Reviews;

Whereas, the individuals named below have successfully completed a course of training that meets the requirements prescribed in §30-2.9(b) of the Rules of the Board of Regents;

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby certifies the following as lead evaluators: Matthew Murphy, Supervisor K-12 Mathematics, Technology and Business and John Murphy, Principal of Walt Whitman High School.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared with the Board that the appropriate training for both individuals was completed. Mr. Kaden questioned what type of training was provided; Dr. Centamore responded the training included an intense

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review of the Rubric, as well as the District's own observation process, which is aligned with the New York State Education Department's regulations. Both administrators participated in the District's Administrative Summer Institute and both were introduced to TeachScape, a rigorous observation training and assessment system.

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

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated May 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28, June 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19, July 16, 22, 23, 28, 30, August 3, 6, 19, 20, 24, 28, 31, September 1, 3, 2015, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated August 6, 11, 13, 19, 20, 24, 28, 31 and September 1, 3, 8, 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. 414-441.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Request to Remain  
in South  
Huntington School  
District:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby denied the request of the student's parent to have the student remain in the District, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 442-443.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared that this request is unique in that there was no real reason to recommend the student remain in the District, as the student has two more years of high school before graduating, and the family resides in the Huntington School District. Dr. Bennardo continued, and stated that it is not educationally or fiscally sound to recommend the student remain in South Huntington. Some discussion ensued; Mr. Kaden stated that the Board has a straight forward policy regarding this type of situation.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. 444-452, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)

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

Schedule 13: Salary Change (Instructional)

Schedule 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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**Information and Reports:**

1. Letters from Dr. Bennardo to R. Spatafora, A. Murisco, and W. Walsh re Superintendent's Conference Day Barbeque
2. *Board & Administrator*, September 2015 issue

In envelopes: Invitation from NAACP Huntington Branch President Betty Miller to the Freedom Fund Awards Dinner on October 21, 2015.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Dr. Bennardo addressed the Board and community members sharing that things were changing rapidly with respect to the Common Core Algebra II Regents (new) and the Algebra II/Trigonometry Regents (old) that created a void of logical thinking. Due to political pressure, the recommendation by the Board of Regents was made to allow the administration of the old Regents for students, as well as the new Regents. Dr. Bennardo continued and stated that Dr. Bloom and Mr. Murphy were working diligently in carefully analyzing the situation. Dr. Bennardo assured the Board and community members that the District will absolutely provide extra help and support to our students with whichever exam is administered. Dr. Bennardo added that Mr. Matthew Murphy was working diligently with our teachers to ascertain what they believe can be delivered to our students instructionally in preparing for the exams.

Dr. Bloom concurred with Dr. Bennardo's comments. He reiterated Dr. Bennardo's comments that if students were to take the old or new Regents, support would be provided to those students. Discussion ensued regarding the balancing of the grades between the Regents exams; there would need to be some type of equity. Mr. Bronson, a resident of the District, asked which curriculum better prepares students; Dr. Bennardo replied that one could argue Common Core would. Dr. Bloom interjected and shared that the SAT exams are moving toward a Common Core direction. Mrs. DeGaetano stated that the ACT exams do not currently follow the Common Core instructional approach. Dr. Bennardo responded that they are moving slowly in that direction. Mrs. Ferrante, the President of the PTA Council, asked what would go on a student's transcript? Dr. Bloom responded that both Regents would be listed. He also shared that explanations would be provided to colleges and universities when student profiles were submitted.

Mr. Kaden added that in the past, curriculums changed from year to year without the fanfare that exists today. He stated that instruction in Math was the subject that has changed the least; he stated, "Math is Math." Mr. Kaden added that if a student knows a way to accomplish the problem, the student will be able to obtain the answer.

Dr. Bennardo shared that the District's team—the Board, administrators, teachers, support staff—all do a great job in ignoring the political rancor. Discussion ensued regarding the Governor's position on several topics, such as Common Core and the APPR. Mr. Nitkewicz remarked on the

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opt-out movement, and asked where does that movement stop, with the SATs? He commented on the change in the political landscape, and stated that one “cannot put the cork back in the bottle.” Mrs. DeGaetano then made the statement that what is happening with Trigonometry, apparently one can have it both ways.

In changing the subject, Mr. Nitkewicz remarked that the Autism Speaks Walk at Jones Beach will take place on Sunday, October 4, 2015. He shared that Mr. John Murphy was organizing several leadership groups to participate in the day, such as the GSO. Mr. Nitkewicz also extended an open invitation to Board members, Cabinet and community members to participate in this phenomenal fundraising event, and concluded by stating that all are welcome to join.

**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate. Resident, Mr. Lance Lohman, introduced himself and stated that he was a high school Math teacher in a different district. Discussion ensued regarding the type of method Mr. Lohman has employed in the past and what he is committed to now. Mrs. DeGaetano asked Mr. Lohman if his students had the option of taking the old Regents or the Common Core Regents, and which was better for students? Mr. Lohman replied that it was a grey area. He shared that the Algebra/Trig Regents administered this past June was the most difficult exam the state has ever administered; statewide, all test scores were down. Discussion ensued that time was needed, at least another year with the Common Core instructional method. Additionally, there was consensus that test prep can be helpful to students with algebra and geometry, however, with trigonometry, it was different. Students must have a solid grasp of understanding the concepts; it must be applied. Mr. Kaden shared that the Common Core does raise the bar, to which Mrs. DeGaetano remarked that the students have been taught in one method, and are now instructed in Common Core. Mr. Kaden acknowledged Mrs. DeGaetano’s frustration, and admitted that it was, indeed, a problem. He also stated that there was always a first group of students to take an exam when curriculum changes were made.

Dr. Bennardo asked Mr. Matthew Murphy to comment; Mr. Murphy stated that many good points have been made, and it is impossible to teach both curriculums. Mr. Murphy noted that districts using Common Core instruction do supplement with additional support. Mr. Ciappetta pointed out that the Common Core was more rigorous. Mr. Kaden replied that when the question had been asked previously, we were told that it was not true. Discussion ensued regarding the graduation-level exams having a 65% passing grade, such as Algebra I, which equates to having only 35 to 40% of the responses correct. However, other assessments, such as Chemistry and Algebra II had a higher percentage for passing the exam.

Dr. Bennardo concluded by stating that whatever direction the District took, our students will receive appropriate support.

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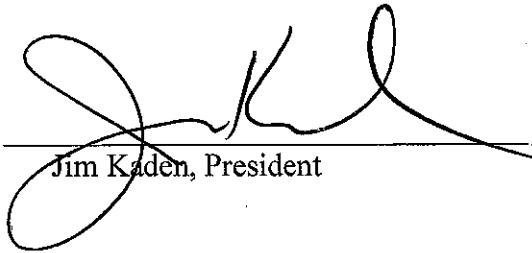
Mrs. Jayne O'Toole, representing the Booster Club, shared that the Toyota Raffle was ongoing with the cost of \$10/ticket; the winner would receive a two-year lease or a \$3,000 payout. There was also a Dunkin' Donut fundraiser taking place this evening, located by the Best Market.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carely, 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 375 through 452.