

October 21, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015, in Conference Room B of the Administration Office of the South Huntington School District, 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 & 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. DeGaetano, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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.

Report on Audit Report, 2014-2015: Ms. Marianne Van Duyne of R.S. Abrams & Company was present at the meeting and thanked the Board for the opportunity to report on the audit findings. Ms. Van Duyne also thanked the members of the Business Office; she expressed how helpful and cooperative they were during the audit process. She also provided credit to Mr. Light, sharing that he was a welcome source of knowledge. Ms. Van Duyne noted that two audits were performed, Financial Statements and Extraclassroom Activity Funds. A management letter was issued that evaluates internal controls. She was pleased to report that recommendations from last year's audit were implemented. Ms. Van Duyne stated that with respect to the District's financial operations, the District's balance sheet was very strong, and as such, was in an excellent position with its bond rating.

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Ms. Van Duyne acknowledged the increase of monies in the General Fund, primarily due to revenues in excess of expenditures. In addition, the General Fund received monies from unused capital projects as an interfund transfer. Ms. Van Duyne acknowledged the District's intent to begin funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) once legislation is passed. Mr. Kaden questioned Ms. Van Duyne as to the progress toward the Post-Employment Benefits, to which she responded that she understood the matter was tabled. With no other questions from the Board, Ms. Van Duyne thanked the Board again for their time.

**Educational
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo introduced Dr. Bloom, Mr. Matthew Murphy, Mr. Smith and Mr. John Murphy as the presenters on an instructional strategy known as "flipped learning" being used in our District. Dr. Bennardo stated that its use in our District has been primarily in Math and Science classes at the middle and high schools.

Dr. Bloom reported that "flipped learning" is used to enhance learning; it is a learning strategy. Dr. Bloom, referencing a PowerPoint presentation, shared that the strategy was first developed in 1997 by a Harvard professor and was well known for its success. Dr. Bloom reviewed the definition of "flipped learning" and shared that the model used in South Huntington was a modified approach that provides direct instruction and review during traditional class time, as well as before and after school. It was just one of the many instructional strategies that teachers use to provide support and opportunities for students at all levels to succeed.

Mr. John Murphy reported that "flipped learning" was utilized in many districts on Long Island, and success was most noted in Math and Science. The strategy can be utilized from AIS classes to AP classes across all curriculum levels.

Mr. Matthew Murphy addressed the audience with the benefits of "flipped learning." Students can work on lecture material at their own pace, thus providing time for teachers to work on application problems leading toward mastery. The teacher was present while students apply new knowledge. The strategy frees the teacher to use more time with students in the classroom, and it also provides students the opportunity to gain insight before learning new material. Mr. Murphy shared that the lecture material was provided in video format. Mr. Ciappetta asked if it was always provided in video format; Mr. Murphy responded that it was. Mrs. DeGaetano asked who were the teachers creating videos? Mr. Murphy answered that teachers can secure videos on various websites, such as Kahn Academy or eMathinstruction. Mr. Smith added that at the middle school, a teacher has created his own videos for the past two years. Mr. Smith provided the scenario for "flipped learning:" the student watches the video at home, the following day the teacher checks notes, sample problems, and reviews highlights from the video, asking and answering questions and providing an overview. The teacher then assesses students' understanding; students work with the teacher's

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guidance on application questions and circulates providing an increased amount of contact with individual students. Mrs. Brieff asked if certain students work at a faster pace, would they be allowed to see videos ahead of the other students? Mr. Matthew Murphy responded affirmatively, however, rather than move ahead, the desire is to delve deeper into the subject matter. Dr. Bennardo shared that what he envisions was a library of videos. Dr. Bloom added that the K-8 students have Upraised Math that also contains videos for parents.

Mr. John Murphy shared what teachers say about “flipped learning.” They prefer that students share difficulty with the subject matter either in the beginning/middle of the class, rather than at the end of the classroom discussion, allowing the teacher to provide closer, more individualized support students need and to push others closer to mastery. Students prefer the concept of being aware of what material will be covered the following day, making homework easier to complete and less stressful. The videos also provide a resource to go back to and review for further understanding. Additionally, in Math classes, more examples can be completed in class, rather than being rushed in a traditional lesson. Students’ complaints involved the videos being too long (20 minutes) and that they don’t understand the material until it is reviewed the following day.

Dr. Bloom shared that students learn at different rates, and different instructional styles are utilized to maximize learning. The administrative team is constantly monitoring techniques by speaking with building administrators, teachers, students, and parents and will continue to do so. Dr. Bloom also shared that a possibility for the future was a District App whereby videos could be accessed.

Resident Mr. Bronson asked if this strategy is elective for teachers. Dr. Bloom responded that it is elective. He added the District can promote the use of and provide professional development accordingly, but it is still the teacher who elects to utilize or not. Mr. Bronson then asked if the teachers are specifically trained for this method of instruction. Dr. Bloom stated that teachers receive professional development, and attend conferences. Mr. Matthew Murphy added that administration is supervising and providing feedback. Dr. Bloom added that this does not replace the content area instruction with the teacher, but allows for digging deeper into the subject matter. Mrs. Ferrante, PTA Council President, asked who decides what video is acceptable for use? Dr. Bloom responded that it was the teacher. Some discussion ensued regarding the video content, teachers using different videos for the same course, and ability to secure the videos. Mr. Kaden stated that the library concept that Dr. Bennardo referenced earlier was the best idea; right now, it seems as though it was being done haphazardly. He asked how the success was measured. Dr. Bloom responded that comparing one class to another class was how they were currently measuring the success. Mrs. DeGaetano asked where this was being done? Dr. Bloom responded in

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Science and Algebra I. Mrs. Brieff asked about Social Studies courses; Mr. Smith responded that some Social Studies teachers are using the strategy at the middle school. Dr. Bloom added that the strategy provided more time in the classroom, and the same curriculum is being used. Mr. Nitkewicz shared that the Board approves the curriculum, not the manner or strategy that was utilized for instruction. Again discussion ensued regarding the content of the videos, and the accessibility of the videos from school to school. Dr. Bloom reiterated that all teachers were following the same curriculum; the material was the same for everyone. Mr. Nitkewicz again emphasized that the videos were different, but the curriculum was the same. Dr. Bennardo added that teachers collaborate; when one finds something that worked well, it was shared. Mrs. Brieff asked if any of our own teachers create their own videos? Mr. Smith replied that some do. Dr. Bennardo concluded the presentation by stating that the best instructional method was to employ various models so that all learning styles are accommodated.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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 Mr. Ciappetta, 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 September 16, 2015.

Audit Report, 2014-2015

The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, audit reports prepared for the District by the firm of R.S. Abrams & Company, L.L.P., for the fiscal year 2014-2015 and Extra-Classroom Activity Funds for the fiscal year 2014-2015.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):

Schedule of Bills (Warrants)

General Fund (A)	Warrant 37	\$2,999.00
“ “	38	986,640.22
“ “	39	975.00
“ “	V025	(150.00)
“ “	V034	(2,999.00)
School Lunch	10	19,881.79
Special Aid	15	57,323.17

Approved Board Packet October 9, 2015

General Fund (A)	Warrant 35	\$433,191.73
“ “	36	3,138.24
“ “	Dental 36	11,666.67
School Lunch	9	4,127.07
Special Aid (F)	14	92,696.75

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**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 Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby denies the request of the father for his son to remain in South Huntington Schools, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 566-567.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo stated that legal counsel's recommendation was to deny the request as the student was not residing within the District.

**Approval of
2016-2017 Budget
Development
Calendar:**

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 approves the 2016-2017 Budget Development Calendar.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo highlighted the following significant budget development dates: April 19, 2016, Budget Adoption; May 10, 2016, Public Hearing of the Budget, and May 17, 2016, Budget Vote/Elections.

**Approval of Foster
Grandparent
Program:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District and the Federation of Organizations have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2015-2016 school year and the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or his designee to sign said agreement.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo's request, Dr. Centamore shared that this agreement was for the Maplewood Intermediate School and commences immediately.

**Agreement with
NSLIJ-Huntington
Hospital Intern
Program:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with NSLIJ-Huntington Hospital for designated students in the Walt Whitman High School Intern Program to receive clinical education and training at the Hospital as part of the high school's Career Exploration Program, for the term of September 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016; and

Be It Further Resolved, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President, or his designee, to execute such Agreement with NSLIJ-Huntington Hospital, which Board of Education has reviewed.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo stated that the agreement solidifies the phenomenal program that provides opportunities for students to view hospital experiences, such as operations, etc.

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Certification of Receipt of Emergency Management Plan for 2015-2016 :

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 certifies receipt of the 2015-2016 Emergency Management Plan.
Motion carried unanimously.

All Board members acknowledged receipt of the foregoing.

SCOPE License Agreement for the 2015-2016 After-School Enrichment Program:

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 approves the license agreement between SCOPE and the District for the After-School Enrichment Program.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo provided praise to the SCOPE organization and also stated that the District needs to utilize additional services that SCOPE provides. Mr. Kaden asked how many students are involved currently in the program; Dr. Bloom responded approximately 50 to 60 students between Maplewood and Birchwood schools. Question was posed as to what SCOPE stands for; Mr. Light stated that it is the Suffolk County Organization of Public Education. Dr. Bennardo shared that SCOPE has a menu of services, however, they were also very open to providing services/support for concepts that the District suggests, which may be thought of as being “outside the box.”

Approval of Amendment to Board Policy §8460 Field Trips:

All appropriate groups have had the opportunity to provide input and, as such, the policy was being submitted to the Board of Education for final approval. The Board expressed concerns with regard to the strikeout of “and that they affirmatively decline to do so” appearing at the end of the policy. After the discussion, the Board of Education took the following action:

Mr. Nitkewicz moved, with a second from Mrs. LaCara, that Board Policy §8460, Field Trips, be amended to include the following statement at the conclusion of the last paragraph of the policy under “Extended and/or Travel Abroad Field Trips” section, as well as on the Field Trip permission form:

“I hereby state that either:

- [] I have my own insurance;
- [] I will obtain insurance;
- [] I decline to seek insurance.

Further that I have been advised to obtain insurance for my protection,”

now, therefore,

Be it Resolved that Policy §8460, Field Trips, as amended, be adopted.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Field Trip Request: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 8th grade National Junior Honor Society field trip to Washington, D.C. on April 20-22, 2016.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared that this is a very exciting field trip and Ms. Voorhees has a great agenda planned for the 8th grade National Junior Honor Society students. The paperwork cites 15 students attending, however, Dr. Bloom reported that it was 115 students participating.

Field Trip Request: Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade French students to Quebec City and Montreal on March 24-28, 2016.

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 September 3, 10, 16, 18, 22, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, October 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 2015, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated September 29, October 6, 13, 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. 568-581.
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. 582-588, 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 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)
Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Facilities Committee Agenda from L. Light
2. The Long-Islander (2)
3. Memorandum/Flyer from Ms. Harris re Adam's Hope House

Information Sent to Board Week Ending October 9, 2015

1. School Grade Enrollment Report 9/1/15 through 9/30/15 from Ms. Harris

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**Information and
Reports Continued:**

2. Legal Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re APPR Hardship Waiver
3. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Mrs. Diane O'Brien
4. Board & Administrator for School Board Members, Oct., 2015
5. Birchwood/Maplewood Annual Track & Field Day, 10/21/15 at WWHS
6. The Long-Islander
7. NYSIR Legal Digest, Autumn, 2015
8. Modified Facility Committee Minutes from 9/30/15
9. Western Suffolk BOCES 2014-15 Accomplishments (Board only)

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Nitkewicz complimented Mr. Ciappetta for his athletic prowess with scoring two touchdowns at the Maplewood School's Green & Gold Bowl the previous Friday evening. Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mr. Nitkewicz for the kind comment.

Mr. Ciappetta shared that the SHEF golf outing and honorary dinner for Assemblyman Lupinacci took place on October 12 and was a great success. At the event Assemblyman Lupinacci announced the \$100,000 grant that was awarded to the District for the Cyber-Space DNA Research Lab, which may very well be the first on Long Island, perhaps even the state and country. Mr. Ciappetta articulated his appreciation for Assemblyman Lupinacci's contributions to the District.

Mr. Kaden spoke of the NYSSBA Conference he had attended the previous weekend in New York City. What was of particular interest to him was the voting machines operated by a touch-screen, rather than the scanning machines from the Suffolk County Board of Elections. The cost was reasonable. Dr. Bennardo shared that we would make contact with the company. Mr. Kaden also spoke of LED lighting and its energy-savings potential. Mr. Light shared that he had a meeting scheduled with SunEdison and NYPA regarding the implementation of the Kay Solar program. Mr. Kaden also shared that he met with Commissioner of Education MaryEllen Elia and thought that she was a very down-to-earth person, and a supporter of Common Core. She shared that if the educational community wished to change Common Core, it needs to be done at the legislative level. She reported that all mandated state testing will be somewhat shorter this year than last year, by approximately 30 minutes.

Dr. Bennardo reported that there were two Eagle Scout projects that have been brought to his attention. The first project was a picnic area at the district office, and Ms. Buhse was overseeing this undertaking with the student. The second project was a koi pond-rose garden combination that will be created at Walt Whitman High School. Mr. John Murphy will oversee this project. The maintenance of the koi pond will be managed by Mr. Karavias and his Living Environment students. Some comments were made regarding the Town of Huntington's code for a fence surrounding the pond, which the District will abide to. The location for

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the pond was briefly discussed with it being placed outside the principal's office in the front of the building; fencing this area would not be problematic.

Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

Executive Session:

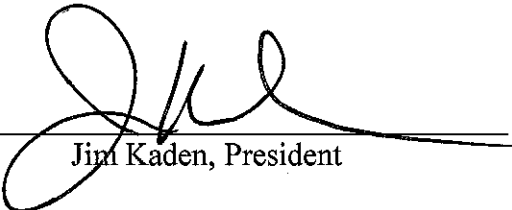
Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 566 through 588.