

November 18, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, in the Cafeteria of the Maplewood Intermediate School, 19 School Lane, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**
Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Brieff
Mrs. Carey
Mrs. DeGaetano
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:

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

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

Absent: Mr. Kaden

President

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

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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. DeGaetano, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta opened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WWHS Wildcat
Marching Band
New York State
Championship
Tribute:**

Mr. Ciappetta welcomed the large audience of students and parents and expressed his gratitude for such an excellent showing of support for the Walt Whitman High School Wildcat Marching Band, the New York State Champions of the United States Band Association. Mr. Ciappetta provided heartfelt congratulations to the Marching Band members, and also acknowledged the victory of the Varsity Boys Soccer Team, who won the New York State Championship Title the previous Sunday. The audience applauded. Mr. Ciappetta then shared that there was a special guest tonight to assist in providing accolades to the Marching Band, and he introduced Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci.

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Assemblyman Lupinacci thanked the audience and shared that he served as a board trustee for nine years before leaving for his present position of New York State Assemblyman. He shared that he, too, graduated from Walt Whitman High School, still lived in the South Huntington community, and was very proud to stand in front of the Wildcat Marching Band and congratulate and support their success. The audience provided a round of applause. Assemblyman Lupinacci acknowledged the juggling of responsibilities of the marching band members, as well as the parents and coaches who provided encouragement and assistance throughout the marching band season. Assemblyman Lupinacci concluded with again congratulating the Marching Band on this great accomplishment, and shared his best wishes for continued success in their future endeavors.

Mr. Ciappetta introduced Mr. Allan Deitz, Director of the Marching Band. Mr. Deitz thanked the Board, Dr. Bennardo and Mr. John Murphy for their support. He expressed what a pleasure it was to watch the Marching Band members' hard work and effort from Day 1 to their current status of New York State Champions.

Mr. Deitz asked each band member to approach the Board to secure a Certification of Achievement and be congratulated by the Board of Education.

Mr. Ciappetta also presented a proclamation to the Marching Band and thanked them for representing the South Huntington educational community with such distinction. He reminded the Marching Band that their success was the community's success, and their fine representation brings pride to our community. Group photographs were taken to commemorate the event.

**Z-Space
Presentation:**

Mr. Ciappetta stated that the Z-Space 3-D stations were donated by the South Huntington Educational Foundation; he then introduced Dr. Bloom, who facilitated the presentation.

Dr. Bloom shared that for this evening's presentation, a video was produced of a lesson taught by Ms. Marijean Scardapane, STEAM coach, and Mrs. Trish Wilkinson, Common Core coach, supporting the fifth-grade students with the Z-Space technology. The video included students utilizing the Z-Space stations with an electronic dissection. The second part of the video then emphasized the students doing an actual dissection of an owl pellet to determine what type of rodent the owl digested. This was determined by the bones found in the pellet through the dissection process. After the video, Mrs. Brieff asked the students in the audience, who had participated in the video, what they learned from the dissection of the owl pellet. Both answered Mrs. Brieff and shared that they very much enjoyed the Science program. Dr. Bloom shared that after the meeting, anyone in the audience who wished to experiment with the Z-Space stations were welcome to do so. Mr. Ciappetta asked Ms.

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Scardapane if there were other lessons that could be employed using the Z-Space technology. Ms. Scardapane responded affirmatively, and shared there were lessons on cells, additional dissection lessons with cats and worms, as well as other vertebrae animals. Additionally, lessons on circuits, physics, electricity, geometry and engineering could be employed, even Social Studies lessons, such as geography units. Ms. Scardapane enthusiastically shared that the Z-Space technology could be utilized in many different areas. Mr. Ciappetta reiterated his appreciation to the South Huntington Educational Foundation for their donation of the Z-Space 3-D stations.

Adoption of Agenda:	Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. 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 October 21, 2015.
Schedule of Investment Accounts:	Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 633.
Treasurer's Report:	Treasurer's Report, September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 634.
Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 635-655.
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 656.
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 657.
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 658.
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 659.

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Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 660-667.		
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 668.		
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 669-670.		
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 671.		
Budgetary Transfer Report:	Budgetary Transfer Report, for September 2015, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 672.		
Tax Levy Schedule:	Tax Levy Schedule, September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 673.		
Library Tax Levy:	Library Tax Levy, September 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 673.		
Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:	Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, September, 2015, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 674-680.		
Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General (A)	Warrant 47	\$1,061,673.81
	“ “	V047	(\$829.50)
	School Lunch	14	\$29,310.85
	Special Aid (F)	19	\$8,321.22
	Capital Reserve (H)	7	\$88,226.50
	<u>Approved – Board Packet of November 6, 2015</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 46	\$188,000.13
	School Lunch	13	\$16,908.09
	Special Aid (F)	18	\$32,457.30

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

Mr. Ciappetta 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
2015-2016 Local
Assistance Plans
for Maplewood and
Stimson Middle
Schools:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Local Assistance Plans for the 2015-2016 school year for the Maplewood Intermediate School and Stimson Middle School.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo reported that the District was charged with the development of Local Assistance Plans for Maplewood and Stimson Schools that addressed expected student performance improvements with English Language Learners. Dr. Bennardo further stated that it was the District's plan to move all students forward academically. He shared that Mr. Matthew Murphy was conducting an item analysis in an effort to close the gap with English Language Learners.

**Donation of Art
Reproductions:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation from town resident Mr. Cresko of ten reproductions of paintings by various artists to be utilized in the District's Art program.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Dr. Centamore to provide additional information. Dr. Centamore reported that a resident in the town reached out to the District, hoping to assist the Art program with these paintings. Mrs. Brieff shared her enthusiasm for the donation and expressed the importance of appreciating various works of art. She was very pleased and thankful for the donation.

**Donation from
United Way to
Project Excel
Robotics Program:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the \$5,000 donation from the United Way to support the Robotics program at the Birchwood and Maplewood Intermediate Schools.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Mrs. Harris to provide additional information. Mrs. Harris reported that the United Way graciously donated \$5,000 for continuation of the robotics program for Project Excel students in Grade 5. Last year the United Way donated \$10,000 to initiate the program for the Project Excel students; this year's donation of \$5,000 will be used for staffing and supplies. Mrs. Harris shared her appreciation for United Way's generosity.

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**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 30, October 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, November 2, 3, 4, 5, 2015, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated October 27, 30, November 3, 4, 10, 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. 681-697.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, 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. 698-705, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 5: Part-time 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 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and
Reports:**

1. Wildcats Reach 2nd Straight County Final, The Long-Islander, 11/5/15
2. Facilities Committee Agenda from Mr. Lawrence Light
3. Upcoming Stimson Evens from Mr. Edwin Smith
4. Letter from Mr. Murphy re WWHS Progress Report Nights
5. Letter from Mr. Murphy re Student-Oriented Trips not Supported by District.
6. WWHS Andrew Peers 21st Annual Wrestling Tournament Flyer
7. SHTA Minutes of Executive Board Meeting on November 9, 2015
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Men's Soccer Team re SC and LI Titles
9. Spotlight, Fall 2015

In Envelopes:

1. Letter from SHEF (Board Members)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending November 6, 2015:

1. Newsday Article – Witman, Whitman: CHAMPS!
2. Invitation for Countrywood's 50th Golden Gala, Friday, November 20
3. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re FOIL "Concussion Information Request" from Newsday
4. Board & Administrator, November 2015
5. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Students of the Month
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Field Hockey Squad re Season's Success

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7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Marching Band Members re NYS Marching Band Championship
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Birchwood Student Council
9. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Birchwood Boosters for October
10. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Political Officials re Homecoming
11. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Principals/Assistant Principals/Admin. Deans
12. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to SC Police Inspector and Huntington Manor Fire Department Chief re Homecoming
13. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Cross Country Team re League Championship
14. Letter from Mr. Smith re Parent/Teacher Conferences
15. Oakwood Primary Center's November Activity Calendar
16. Countrywood Chronicle, November
17. Silas Wood Scoop, November
18. The Long-Islander (1)

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta shared that the Columbus Day SHEF golf outing resulted in a profit of \$8,675, less than previous years, but there were more expenses this year associated with the golf outing. Mr. Ciappetta also reported that moving forward, SHEF will be rebooting, requiring new members to assist in taking the foundation in a different direction. He urged members of the audience if they were interested, or know of someone who may be interested in joining SHEF, to please contact Dr. Bennardo or Mrs. McLean, the District Clerk.

Mr. Ciappetta then reported on the NYSSBA meeting he recently attended in Stony Brook. There was discussion on Common Core; the meeting was very poorly attended, and Mr. Ciappetta attributed that to it being held at 4 p.m. on a Friday afternoon. Mr. Ciappetta felt that other opinions were not welcomed. Senator Marcellino presided over the meeting. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the overall impression was that changes were to come.

Mr. Ciappetta also stated that a lobbying effort will be of significant importance this year with the 2% tax cap, as we were looking at a tax levy of 0%, which will put the district in a financial bind. He stressed that the district needs to receive more money than it has in the past. Dr. Bennardo agreed, and stated there needs to be a push to make the 2% cap real; he further added that with fuel costs declining, the cost of everything else was rising. Dr. Bennardo agreed with the lobbying effort and stated that it would behoove the district to move in this direction to lobby for more state aid. Dr. Bennardo suggested writing the letter in collaboration with our Teachers Association and PTA.

**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.


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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Nicholas Ciappetta, J.D., Vice President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 633 through 705.