

January 13, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, in the Forum at Stimson Middle School, 401 Oakwood Road, 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. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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. DeGaetano, 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.

**Stimson Jazz Band Performance:**        Mr. Ciappetta introduced the Stimson Jazz Band led by music teacher Gregory Modelewski. The jazz band played astonishingly well and their music was thoroughly enjoyed by all audience members. At the conclusion of the performance, the band received a robust applause. Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mr. Modelewski and the jazz band for such an outstanding performance.

**Presentation of Direct Recording Electronic Voting Device by VotRite:**        Mr. Jim Kapsis and Mr. Arthur Adelman of VotRite presented the Caesar III electronic touchscreen voting device and displayed the various screens voters would view during an electronic voting session. The screen depicting candidate contests allowed voters to select candidates with a simple touch of the screen; over-voting was precluded by the software.

January 13, 2016

Voters may review their choices before casting their final vote. There was a “confirming” screen where the image of the ballot was displayed for viewing. If the voter was satisfied with his/her choices, he/she would touch the *Cast my Vote* button on the screen, and the vote would be cast. At the end of the election, a report is generated reflecting the results of each contest showing the number of votes each candidate or proposition received. Mr. Kapsis emphasized that all votes were recorded in the computer and other redundant memory sections in picture file format (png.) and can be printed for verification. Mr. Adelman stressed that all files were encrypted, and there was battery back-up should electric power fail. Mr. Adelman stated that VotRite was waiting for final approval from the New York State Board of Elections to operate under a pilot program for school district elections. It was anticipated that a formal decision will be announced sometime in February. Mrs. Brieff posed the question regarding the computers crashing, to which both gentlemen insisted that they would not. Mr. Nitkewicz referenced a study he recently reviewed regarding electronic voting devices, and stated he had concern with “flipping.” Mr. Nitkewicz also shared that there have not been any reports of the scanners miscalculating votes, and his feeling was “why fix it if it’s not broken?” Mr. Kapsis stated that a video will be available very shortly. Mr. Ciappetta concluded the presentation by stating that the video would be helpful for the Board to view, and he thanked both gentlemen for their presentation.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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 November 18, 2015.

**Schedule of Bills  
(Warrants):**

General (A)	Warrant 64	\$455,475.80
“ “	65	\$2,779.05
“ “	66	\$280,648.35
School Lunch	21	\$5,091.33
Special Aid (F)	26	\$46,577.87

Approved – Board Packet of December 23, 2015

General (A)	Warrant 61	\$366,795.14
“ “	62	\$610,447.22
“ “	63	\$1,753,831.92
“ “	V055	(\$3,380.00)
Special Aid	25	\$61,497.48

January 13, 2016

Approved – Board Packet of December 18, 2015

General (A)	Warrant 59	\$766,018.10
“ “	60	\$4,378.23
School Lunch	20	\$44,149.94
Special Aid (F)	24	\$19,568.44
Capital Reserve (H)	9	\$830.66

Approved – Board Packet of December 11, 2015

General (A)	Warrant 54	\$2,563.97
“ “	55	\$1,204,602.48
“ “	56	\$139,140.02
“ “	57	\$10,027.12
“ “	58	\$20,150.00
School Lunch	18	\$24,938.21
“ “	19	\$5,724.10
Special Aid	22	\$53,426.72
“ “	23	\$55,839.10

**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.

**Communications:**

1. Letter from A. J. Carter, Public Information Officer, Town of Huntington, to Dr. Bennardo thanking district staff for efforts associated with the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Inaugural Ceremony (with copy to Board).
2. Letter to Board of Education from Coach Fitzpatrick, Eatmon and Russell re Gugliotta Tournament support.
3. Letter to Board President from WS BOCES Chief Operating Officer Michael Flynn re BOCES Annual Meeting and Budget Vote/Election.

**Guests &  
Delegations:**

Mr. Evan Kolkos of New York Power Authority (NYPA) and Messrs. Steve Raeder and Jeff Gorman from Sun Edison thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the K-Solar program. Mr. Kolkos explained that K-Solar has a solar energy platform for all public schools in New York State. The topic of solar power was at the forefront at this time, as Governor Cuomo addressed this topic in his State of the State Report earlier in the day. Almost two years ago, NYPA sought out pre-qualified solar companies, and Sun Edison, the largest renewable company in the world—with their customization, simplicity approach and reliability featured as second to none—accepted all conditions NYPA had pre-negotiated. Mr. Kolkos stated that there were currently 35 contracts statewide. Additionally, the 30 percent Federal Investment Tax credit may be reduced/eliminated at the end of 2016, causing a significant rise in power purchase agreement costs, thus moving forward before December 31, 2016, was highly recommended. Sun Edison would maintain the solar panels initially, however, maintenance agreements were treated as a commodity, and sold to a third party. Mr. Nitkewicz asked what happened when that third party went out of business? The response was that while it was highly unlikely that the company would

January 13, 2016

go out of business, Sun Edison has tremendous financial back-up and would provide a new third-party company. It was explained that there were many federal tax benefits associated with solar power, and large companies do much investing in this market. Some discussion ensued regarding the third-party ownership; NYPA endorsed this concept. Mrs. Brieff questioned whether the SUNY system was involved; the response was that SUNY was moving forward with an aggressive approach. Mr. Ciappetta questioned the Sun Edison representative if NYPA had reviewed their financials. The financials were reviewed; there was full disclosure. The explanation was provided that solar market investments hold tremendous weight at this time, and it was further communicated that Sun Edison had taken major steps to strengthen their balance sheet. Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance aspect of the solar panels and third-party ownership. Assurance was provided that all third-party companies were obligated to provide the standard level of maintenance in the industry, and it was in their best interest to do so. The third-party company's profit would be negatively affected if panels were not maintained properly. As more electricity is produced, profits increase by the third-party, and the district saves money. Again discussion ensued regarding this issue of the third party; Mr. Kolkos emphasized that there were 50 school districts on Long Island working with Sun Edison. Mrs. Brieff asked if there were technical difficulties, what would the response time be in that Sun Edison was a California-based company? The Sun Edison representative replied that while they were based in California, they have a local sub-contractor on Long Island who directs the power purchase agreement, and they work and respond very quickly and were available 24/7. Mr. Ciappetta asked if holes in the roof were required for the panel installation; the response was negative, it was not the preferred method for installation. Mr. Ciappetta further asked if the roof was damaged in the process, what would happen? The response was that the roof would be repaired at Sun Edison's expense. Lastly, discussion ensued regarding the weight of the panels compromising the district's building roofs. Some districts, such as the Huntington School District, cannot utilize the panels due to the age of their buildings. Mr. Light assured the Board that our architects have already provided the assurance that our roofs are strong enough to support the panels.

Mr. Ciappetta concluded the presentation, and thanked the gentlemen for coming to the Board meeting.

**Approval of The  
Teresa Kochan  
Memorial  
Scholarship:**

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 establishment of the one-time memorial scholarship entitled The Teresa Kochan Memorial Scholarship, funded by contributions made by family, friends and community members.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared that this was a very generous offer in memory of Mrs. Terri Kochan, who was very involved with the district's PTA and

January 13, 2016

held in very high esteem. Resident and former Board trustee, Mrs. Dillon, addressed the Board and thanked them for approving the scholarship.

**Field Trip Request:** 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 approves the field trip request for the Varsity Boys Soccer Team to travel to Albany on Wednesday, January, 20, 2016.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo reported that at the request of Assemblyman Lupinacci, the Varsity Boys Soccer Team was invited to witness the passing of a resolution acknowledging the team's All-State Championship in the Assembly and Senate chambers. A tour of the capitol building, as well as lunch with the Assemblyman, had been planned. Dr. Bennardo also shared that Educational Bus Company offered to transport the boys to Albany at absolutely no cost to the district in recognition of their once-in-a-lifetime achievement.

**Superintendent Travel/Conference Request:** Mr. Nitkewicz moved, with a second from Mrs. Brieff, that the travel request of the Superintendent of Schools be amended to include the Board Vice President's request to travel to Albany accompanying the Varsity Boys Soccer Team on January 20, 2016.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip Request:** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request for the Varsity Cheerleading Team to travel to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, on February 4-8, 2016, to attend the National High School Cheerleading Championships.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo happily shared that Cheerleading Coach Tracy Koch has done a fabulous job with the cheerleading squad, and the team has now qualified for the National championship taking place in February.

**Field Trip Request:** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request for two ESL students to attend the RBERN Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute in Albany, New York, on March 19-21, 2016.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo credited Mrs. Cecilia Blanco for working with two of our ESL seniors who were invited to this Leadership Institute, which reflects upon our District very favorably.

January 13, 2016

**Affordable Care Act Establishing Eligibility Period Resolutions:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the resolutions ensuring the District is in compliance with the ACA without dates and years noted, thus negating the need for annual action, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 820-821.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Mr. Light to comment; Mr. Light reported that the lengthy resolutions were simply to reduce the annual resolution renewal requirement. Eliminating the dates and years within the resolutions negates the need for annual Board action.

**Donation by NEFCU:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the \$1,500 donation from Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union (NEFCU), which has been provided to the District for the Festival of the Arts scheduled for March 9, 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo thanked Mr. Lee Nober for securing this donation, which will be utilized exclusively for the forthcoming Festival of the Arts.

**Request to Remain in South Huntington 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 parent's request to have her daughter, a senior at Walt Whitman High School, remain at the high school for the duration of the current school year, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 822.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Mrs. Harris to comment on the request. Mrs. Harris shared that the family disclosed to the District that they had moved out of the district boundaries over the holiday recess period, and kindly asked that their daughter remain, as she was currently a senior.

**Smart Schools Investment Plan Approval:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, that the motion be tabled.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo reported that additional information will be available at the January 27, 2016, Board of Education meeting.

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

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated October 22, November 9, 10, 19, 23, 24, 25, 30, December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 30, 2015, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated November 2, 24, December 1, 8, 14,

January 13, 2016

15, 22, 29, 2015, and January 5, 2016, 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. 823-848.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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. 849-861, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement 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 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and Reports:**

Information and Reports

1. Ingerman Smith, LLP, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Update dated January 4, 2016
2. Letter from Principal Toto re SHPL visit to Science Classes
3. The Silas Scoop, January 2016
4. The Countrywood Chronicle, January 2016
5. NYSIR Legal Digest, Winter 2015 (Board Only)
6. The Long-Islander (4)
7. Letter from Principal Murphy to Parents/Guardians re Regents Prep Saturday Academies/Regents Prep Classes

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 23, 2015

1. SCOPE Forum, Winter 2015
2. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Cheerleading squad re competition
3. The Long-Islander (1)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 18, 2015

1. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re New APPR Regulations
2. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re Dept. of Civil Service Policy, December 14
3. Letter from Principal Murphy to Parents/Guardians re SAT Prep

January 13, 2016

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 11, 2015

1. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Frank Gugliotta Memorial Boys Basketball Tournament Flyer
2. Board & Administrator, December 2015
3. Letter from Principal Murphy to 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Parents re 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Parent Orientation
4. Letter from Principal Murphy to Parents/Guardians re Mid-Year Examinations
5. Silas Wood Share the "Glove" flyer
6. Silas Wood After-School Library Program
7. Newsday (2), December 6, 2015
8. The Long-Islander, (1), December 3, 2015
9. The Long-Islander, (3), December 10, 2015 (Includes obituary for Terri Kochan)

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta shared that Dr. Bennardo will be honored on Friday, January 15, 2016, by the Suffolk County Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission and will be a recipient for the Public Service Award for 2016. This honor was provided for Dr. Bennardo's commitment to diversity and inclusion for all South Huntington School District's students. Mr. Ciappetta also stated that he is looking forward to this important event.

**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

**Executive Session:**

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

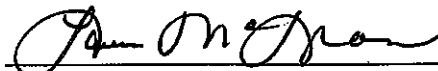
**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:40 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, Vice President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 820 through 861.