

February 10, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, in the Performing Arts Center of 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  
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

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

**Executive Session:**    Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. Carey, 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.

**Musical  
Presentation by the  
Whitman Chorale:**    Dr. Bennardo introduced Mr. Altinel and the Whitman Chorale. The Chorale performed "O Mistress Mine" beautifully in recognition of the seven honorees of the Teacher of the Year Program.

**Teacher of the Year  
Recognition:**        Dr. Bennardo welcomed the audience and then introduced Dr. Centamore. Dr. Centamore shared that he felt like a proud parent this evening. He explained that all teachers have special roles; no matter what subject a teacher taught, no matter at what grade level, a teacher has the ability to impact students. Dr. Centamore then provided inspirational quotes from President John F. Kennedy, as well as automobile businessman Lee Iacocca. He further stated that the Teacher of the Year program was a source of pride within the district, and that this evening

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we had the distinct pleasure of honoring seven dedicated individuals. Dr. Centamore continued and stated that the teachers being honored tonight strived to develop character and educational excellence. Additionally, Dr. Centamore thanked Ms. Joanne Padilla for all the hard work and effort in orchestrating this event. Dr. Centamore asked Dr. Bennardo and Mr. Kaden to approach the podium, as well as Mr. Ciappetta, who, on behalf of Assemblyman Lupinacci, would distribute proclamations to each honoree.

Mr. Ciappetta addressed the audience and shared that Assemblyman Lupinacci was still in Albany and was, in fact, working with the Board of Regents. He further stated that the Teacher of the Year program was the Assemblyman's favorite event when he served as a Board trustee before becoming a New York State Assemblyman. Mr. Ciappetta stated that Assemblyman Lupinacci always appreciated the work of our outstanding teachers. He congratulated and thanked the honorees.

Dr. Centamore introduced each principal and their building's respective Teacher of the Year in the following order. Each principal spoke to the character, talent, and skill that each teacher possessed.

Ms. Elisabete Sousa, Oakwood Primary Center's Teacher of the Year

Ms. Sandra Layer, Countrywood Primary Center's Teacher of the Year

Dr. Kristine Duffy, Maplewood Intermediate School's Teacher of the Year

Dr. Gay Bullock, Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center's Teacher of the Year

Ms. Kelly Poller, Stimson Middle School's Teacher of the Year

Mr. Allan Deitz, Walt Whitman High School's Teacher of the Year

Ms. Kim Schiermbock, South Huntington Teacher of the Year, and Birchwood Intermediate School's Teacher of the Year

After Mr. Ciccarelli's speech, Ms. Schiermbock, the South Huntington School District's Teacher of the Year, was provided the opportunity to address the audience. Ms. Schiermbock thanked her parents and her brother for being the best teachers that she has had. She also provided credit to the Board of Education, who has empowered teachers to work to the best of their ability, the administration, and to Principal Ciccarelli and Assistant Principal Michaelian, all of whom have provided opportunities to learn and grow as professionals. Ms. Schiermbock's words spoke to the heart of the relationship that exists within the Birchwood Intermediate School—one of deep caring and support for the students in their charge, as well as for each other as individuals. Their shared vision of educational excellence was compared to a short story that Ms.

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Schiermbock spoke of in which the famous Italian artist, Michelangelo, was questioned while beginning to sculpt a large, rather unsightly-looking piece of marble. While others saw only the unpleasant appearance of the marble, Michelangelo saw the beauty that he would expose through his skill and hard work. Ms. Schiermbock summarized that this expression was how she viewed teaching, bringing forth the qualities each child possesses and expose their beauty. In closing, Ms. Schiermbock addressed the six building honorees and shared that the honor of the District Teacher of the Year was really an honor bestowed to all of them.

Mr. Dennis Callahan, President of the South Huntington Teachers Association, addressed the audience and thanked them for coming to this evening's recognition. He congratulated the Teacher of the Year honorees, and took the opportunity to express his thoughts regarding each teacher.

Closing remarks were furnished by Dr. Bennardo. He stated that the evening was meaningful not only to each honoree, but also to all in this profession. Dr. Bennardo spoke to the collegial atmosphere that exists within the South Huntington School District. He also addressed the Board's support and summarized by stating that the district resembles a family, one that encourages and assists, and how grateful he is to have been "adopted" into this South Huntington family just four short years ago. Dr. Bennardo shared that the seven teachers being honored this evening speaks volumes regarding the profession. He added that some people go to "work," however, teachers go to "school" every day. In closing, Dr. Bennardo shared that public education was the last great chance for our democracy to move forward.

Dr. Centamore addressed the audience, and he thanked everyone for helping to create such a memorable evening. He also announced that there would be a short recess for photo opportunities.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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. LaCara, 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 January 13, 2016.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General	Warrant 77	\$1,434,159.83
	“ “	78	\$11,528.57
	School Lunch	26	\$8,886.05
	Special Aid	30	\$2,281.29

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Approved Board Packet of January 29, 2016

General	Warrant 75	\$1,753,399.76
“ “	76	\$130.93
“ “	V075A	(\$132.25)
School Lunch	25	\$23,668.52
“ “	V025C	(\$1,312.00)
Special Aid (A)	29	\$48,554.81
Scholarship (TE)	2	\$500.00

**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.

**Communications:**

Letter to Board Members from Principal D’Elia re PARP Program, Guest Reader’s Day on Friday, February 12, 2016.

**Request for New Course Approval:**

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 Walt Whitman High School Virtual Enterprise course, the change from Business Law to a one-half credit, and Accounting I and II to one-half credit courses for each commencing with the 2016/2017 school year.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Benarndo asked Dr. Bloom to comment; Dr. Bloom shared that the Virtual Enterprise course provides students with the opportunity to create a fictional corporation where business was conducted with other virtual companies throughout the world. The cost of the course was covered under a Western Suffolk BOCES grant. He concluded by stating that students learn about business dealings in an extremely creative way.

**Approval of Agreement, Confidential Personnel Matter:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District herewith authorizes and approves a certain Letter Agreement and General Release between a particular probationary employee identified in the February 3, 2016, Letter Agreement and the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District; and  
Be it Further Resolved that the Board of Education herewith extends the probationary period for the above-referenced probationary employee from July 31, 2016, to June 30, 2017, in accordance with the above-referenced Letter Agreement and General Release.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Superintendent’s Travel/Conference Request:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the attendance for the Superintendent to attend the Cheerleading Championships in Disney World, Orlando, Florida on February 6, 2016.

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**Approval of  
Principal's  
Community Service  
Scholarship:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the annual Principal's Community Service Scholarship for \$250 to be awarded to a student who is a member of the GSO, an active member of the senior class, participates in the Leadership class, or an active member of a school organization that promotes school and community service. Be it further Resolved that the student must have an overall weighted grade-point average of 85, attend a post-secondary institution after graduation, and be selected by the principal, guidance and GSO advisor. Funding to be furnished by Mr. Murphy. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
SCOPE ACT Prep  
Course Agreement:**

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 agreement between the District and SCOPE Educational Services for a comprehensive ACT Preparatory Program to eligible high school students, commencing May 5, 2016, in anticipation of the June, 2016, administration of the ACT. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Ms. Poprilo to provide information regarding the SCOPE course. Ms. Poprilo indicated that the original request for this type of course came from Principal Murphy and Ms. Lugovina. While the District has provided SAT support, ACT prep courses were never offered before. Mrs. DeGaetano asked how many times the ACT was taken by students. Mrs. Poprilo indicated that the test was being administered in June; next year the District could have this service for the October, 2016, administration, as well as the June, 2017, administration.

Dr. Bennardo expressed his enthusiasm for the SCOPE services. They are creative, responsive to a district's needs, inexpensive, and worthwhile to our students.

**Field Trip Request:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request for the DECA State Conference for Grade 9 through 12 DECA students, March 8 through 11, 2016, in the Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, New York. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
District Disaster  
Recovery Plan:**

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 South Huntington U.F.S.D. Disaster Recovery Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Dr. Bloom to comment; Dr. Bloom shared that the Disaster Recovery Plan already had been approved. This amended plan reflects changes to the infrastructure and updates to procedures and protocols that provide current, best practice. Mr. Kaden asked if we

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could operate our system should the system go down. Dr. Bloom responded affirmatively, the system was properly backed up on a regular basis and would be operational under such a situation.

**Donation of Dash and Dot Robots for Students K-5 from SHEF:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of 13 Wonder Packs, containing 13 Dash and Dot robots, 13 accessory packs, and 13 Xylophone packs, for a total value of \$3,639.87, from the South Huntington Educational Foundation.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden asked Mr. Ciappetta to comment as a member of the South Huntington Educational Foundation. Mr. Ciappetta shared that Mrs. D'Elia was awarded a teacher grant for the purchase of the Dash and Dot robots, which will assist with the instruction of coding.

**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 January 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, February 1, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 26, 27, 28, 29, February 1, 2, 3, 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. 1004-1030.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, 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. 1031-1038, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11: Terminations (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:**

1. Weekly Newsletter – February 2, 2016
2. Notice of Public Hearing (Board Meeting of February 24, 2016)
3. School Grade Enrollment Report for January 4, 2016 – January 29, 2016
4. The Countrywood Chronicle, February 2016

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5. The Silas Scoop, February 2016
6. Memorandum from Principal Smith to Board Members re HIV/AIDS Education letter for Parents/Guardians
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Stimson Curriculum Fair Participants
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Students re February 1<sup>st</sup> PTA Council Performance
9. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Dance Team re WWHS Regional Dance Championship
10. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to SMS Cheerleaders re Competition Success
11. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Students of the Month/January
12. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Students of the Month/December
13. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to PTA Reflections Participants
14. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Winner of the Stimson Middle School/Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center Annual Spelling Bee
15. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Birchwood Boosters/December
16. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Maplewood Concert Participants
17. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Birchwood Concert Participants
18. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Participants in the LI Strings Festival
19. Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association - 2016 Legislative Priorities for Public Education
20. The National Dance Alliance Whitman Winter East Coast Regional Dance Team Championships Program (January 31, 2016-Board Only)

In envelopes:

1. Invitation to Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony for Mikal Eric Oltedal on Saturday, March 12, 2016, 1:30 p.m., at WWHS PAC

Information Sent to Board Week Ending January 29, 2016

1. The Long-Islander (State Champion Wildcats Honored in Albany)
2. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re Change to Open Meetings Law (January 25, 2016)
3. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re New APPR Guidance on the Transition Score Regulations (January 26, 2016)
4. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re FOIL Request from Newsday Concussion Information Requested (January 26, 2016)
5. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Mr. Timothy Flood, The TransGroup, LLC, re appreciation for Coordinating bus transporting Varsity Soccer team to Albany at no charge to district
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to recipients of post-season sport awards
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Chorus members
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Band members

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9. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Chorus members
10. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Strings concert members
11. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Wind Ensemble
12. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Band members
13. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Orchestra members
14. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to WWHS Choir
15. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Band members
16. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Silas Wood Chorus members
17. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Fire Chief Frank McQuade re Scoreboard at Stimson
18. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to students identified re winter concert
19. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to post-season sports award recipients
20. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Orchestra members  
SHTA Minutes of Executive Board Meeting – January 25, 2016
21. Letter from Dr. Bennardo/Mr. Kaden to Legislators regarding concerns with the Governor's Executive Budget proposal
22. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Silas Wood Orchestra concert
23. Letter from Principal Murphy to Parents/Guardians of Juniors re Junior Prom
24. Letter from Principal Murphy to 2020 Students and Parents re Club and Activity Fair
25. Letter from Principal Murphy to Senior Parents/Guardians re senior year expectations
26. *Spotlight – January 2016*

**Committee  
Updates:**

1. Audit Committee Agenda

**Comments from  
Board Members  
and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta reported that SHEF was going through a rebranding process that will include a new mission statement, as well as a new logo. It will be a fresh start for SHEF. Mrs. Vicki Dollin prepared 11 sketches of new logos, three of which were selected by committee members, and these three will be developed further for a final selection.

Mr. Kaden shared that he attended two legislative events, last week's NSSBA and the previous Saturday's Eastern Suffolk BOCES event at Longwood High School. Senator John Flanagan communicated to the participants that he felt confident that GAP will be eliminated. Mr. Kaden also shared, very sadly, that for the first time ever Long Island fell behind the State with 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Common Core Geometry testing. He further stated that there has been a myth that has perpetuated throughout the upstate regions for decades that Long Island was wealthy; our funding was not a point of need or interest in "Albany's mind." He expressed deep concern for this thinking and stressed the need for advocacy for additional funding for Long Island. Long Island's wealth ratio has severely diminished. Discussion ensued regarding the change on Long Island, such as enrollment shifts and the property tax cap, and the need to communicate this change fervently to our legislators. Mr.



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Kaden further stated that Senator Flanagan believed that additional State funding, up to six-hundred million dollars, will be provided for districts statewide. Mr. Kaden's comments were noted by the members of the Board, and their support for his call for strong, sound, and formidable advocacy was apparent.

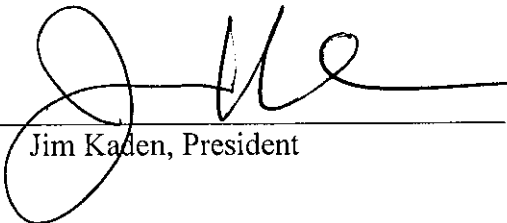
**Voice of the Residents:**

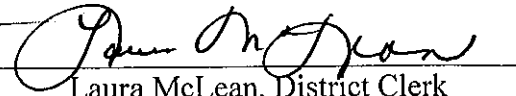
Visitors were invited to participate.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

  
Jim Kaden, President

  
Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1004 through 1038.