

March 30, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, in Conference Room B of the Administration Building, 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

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 6:45 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.

**Sponsor
Appreciation
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo welcomed and thanked audience members for joining the Board of Education this evening for this unique opportunity to recognize and thank eight very special sponsors. These sponsors, Dr. Bennardo explained, have provided generous donations that were used to fund calendars, specific student enrichment events, and programs—the money has gone directly back to our students. Dr. Bennardo then introduced Mr. Lee Nober, the District's Special Project Coordinator, who developed the relationships that led to these sponsorships.

Mr. Nober thanked Dr. Bennardo, the Board of Education and the Cabinet members for this opportunity and what he hoped would be the beginning of many more sponsor appreciation recognitions. Mr. Nober shared a favorite quote from the Olympic ice-skater and gold-medalist, Scott Hamilton, "There are two types of people in the world--the takers

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**Sponsor
Appreciation
Recognition
Continued:**

and the givers. The takers eat well; and the givers sleep well.” Mr. Nober stated that our sponsors sleep very, very well. Mr. Nober added that when the position of special project coordinator was created, the first thing he did was call his friend, Rich Pietranski, at Raymour & Flanigan. Raymour & Flanigan came through, and the district currently has two of the finest quality faculty rooms in Suffolk County and Long Island thanks to the generosity of Raymour & Flanigan. Additionally, Raymour & Flanigan sponsored four special events in their showroom with our students performing at each, while making a large financial donation to the district with each event.

Mr. Nober recognized the following sponsors, and with each presentation he shared a poignant accounting of the individual sponsorship. Each promoter was provided with a beautifully framed piece of artwork that spoke to the specific sponsorship. The framework was completed by Mr. Mohammed Esmielsadah of EmbroidMe.

RAYMOUR & FLANIGAN: Mr. Richard Pietranski and Mr. Jeff Sklar; sponsors of showroom events and furniture for two WWHS faculty rooms.

HUNTINGTON TOYOTA: Mr. Ryan McHale and Mr. Fran Lomenzo; sponsors of the District paper and electronic calendars.

HUNTINGTON HONDA: Mr. Jeff Hindla; co-sponsor of the Whitman Winter Regional Dance Competition.

MATHNASIUM: Mr. Tony and Mrs. Rupi Parmer; co-sponsor of the Whitman Winter Regional Dance Competition.

NEFCU: Ms. Heidi Felix and Mr. John Schneidawin, sponsors of the Festival of the Arts.

TEN TIGERS KUNG FU ACADEMY: Mr. Rik and Mrs. Shue Kellerman; sponsor of Meredith O’Connor’s Anti-Bullying Presentation scheduled for April 22, 2016.

KNOTT CHIROPRACTIC: Dr. Jodi Knott; sponsor of the middle school dance team.

HUNTINGTON MAZDA: Mr. Jack DePalo and Mrs. Jordan Daiagi; sponsor of Chris Herren’s Anti-Drug Presentation.

In closing, Mr. Nober expressed the District’s appreciation; he stated that each sponsor was featured in the Weekly Newsletter, which had a circulation of over 12,000 community members. The sponsors were provided a huge round of applause, and Dr. Bennardo asked Mr. Bartholomew for a group photograph to commemorate the recognition.

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**Budget Work
Session:**

Dr. Bennardo provided a brief overview of the March 16th budget work session in which the term, “current services budget” was introduced. He stated that it simply meant that current services would be maintained in the 2016/2017 school year. Dr. Bennardo cited that the following budget codes would be reviewed this evening:

- 1000: General Support – 9.06% of the budget
- 2000: Instruction – 56% of the budget
- 5000: Transportation – 5.43% of the budget
- 7000: Community Service - .01% of the budget
- 9000: Undistributed – 29.5% of the budget (Benefits & Debt Service)

Functions within the 1000 code included Board of Education, central office administration, superintendent, business office (treasurer, purchasing, payroll, accounts payable/receivable, benefits administration), and personnel expenses. Also included are facilities, grounds and maintenance, public information, data processing, legal, insurance, association dues, and BOCES. Dr. Bennardo reviewed various PowerPoint slides in which the current budget was compared to the proposed budget, reflecting little, if any, change. Dr. Bennardo pointed out the purchasing budget does show a 56% increase, however, that was due to the postage expenses being placed in purchasing for the first time, rather than individual codes for each department. This change will allow the purchasing agent to monitor postage costs more effectively. The conclusion of the 1000 code review reflected:

- Current budget of \$15,744,034
- Proposed budget of \$14,393,880
- Percentage change of -8.58%

Dr. Bennardo continued with the 2000 code, which included building administration, curriculum/instruction, general classroom instruction, special education, student services, guidance, computer assisted instruction, and extracurricular/athletics—representing 56% of the total budget. Various charts were reviewed and discussed; the grand total of the 2000 code reflected:

- Current budget of \$86,103,549
- Proposed budget of \$88,966,961
- Percentage change of 3.33%

A review of the 5000 code included transportation services, the bus garage building and contract transportation. Dr. Bennardo cited the totals of the 500 code:

- Current budget of \$8,655,882
- Proposed budget of \$8,621,054
- Percentage change of -.40%

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**Budget Work
Session, Continued:**

Mr. Ciappetta asked if new buses were to be purchased; Mr. Light responded that one large and one small bus would be purchased. There were two buses coming off the re-payment cycle, thus the timing was appropriate for these purchases. Dr. Centamore stated that the large bus would use propane; the small bus would be diesel-fueled. Dr. Centamore shared that neighboring districts have bought propane buses, such as Northport and Kings Park, and reports were favorable. Mr. Kaden asked why consider propane with gas prices so low? Dr. Centamore acknowledged the low fuel cost, however, concern if it should rise was a factor considered. Additionally, propane is a “greener” fuel—the buses had a quieter ride than gas-fueled buses, and maintenance on a propane-fueled bus was less than gas-fueled buses. Mr. Trelfa added that propane buses use one-third the amount of oil, as well. Mr. Kaden asked if compressed natural gas had been considered; Mr. Trelfa responded affirmatively that it had, however, use of compressed natural gas buses require a separate bay for mechanical work. The expense of that specialized bay, in keeping with State specifications, would cost \$200,000; and the cost of the compressed natural gas buses range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 more than propane buses. Discussion ensued regarding the tanks to hold the propane. Dr. Centamore responded that H2M would be involved with installation of propane tank if the District were to go in that direction. Initially, the propane company comes to the bus garage to fill the buses. A resident in the audience asked about the safety of the fuel tank in the propane bus. Mr. Trelfa shared that he had asked the same question; the fuel tank was actually much stronger than a diesel fuel tank and had additional protection built around it for safety purposes. Dr. Centamore further added the purchase was under a pilot program, and provided an option for substituting a gas-fueled bus should the District be disappointed with the propane-fueled bus.

Dr. Bennardo addressed the 7000 code, which included all costs for the operation of the Teen Center, where the Alternative High School was maintained.

- Current budget and proposed budget were the same, \$26,700.

The 9000 code was then focused on; this code included all costs pertaining to health and dental insurance, the Teacher and Employee Retirement Systems, Worker’s Compensation, Life Insurance, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Medicare reimbursement. In comparing the \$37,659,744 current budget for these expenses, against the proposed budget of \$38,192,565, there was a slight increase of 1.41%. Dr. Bennardo further explained that the 9000 code also included borrowing costs for capital projects, for new copiers throughout the District, for the new large and small buses, and borrowing for TANs, the Tax Anticipation Notes.

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**Budget Work
Session, Continued:**

A review of the grand total for the 9000 code reflected:

- Current budget of \$45,539,744
- Proposed of \$46,870,051
- Percentage increase of 2.92%

Dr. Bennardo shared that there was a transfer of \$1,000,000 to Capital, and this came from unspent money from other codes. It was the same \$1,000,000 from last year that was brought into the proposed budget. Mr. Ciappetta asked what the projection was for ERS and TRS costs, recognizing that the costs were down at this time. Mr. Light shared that the costs would continue to decrease from the current 13% to 11.75% for the following year, at which point it was expected costs would be flat.

Dr. Bennardo continued to the final budget slide and reported that \$110,640 was the increase required in taxes between the current and proposed budget, which was a .10% increase. Dr. Bennardo added that Senators Flanagan and Marcellino both strongly felt that the GEA money would be restored, and if so, would add at least \$500,000 in additional “aid” to the budget. Dr. Bennardo also reported that \$1,000,000 was being moved from reserves to pay the Employee Retirement System expenses. Dr. Bennardo also addressed the unique situation with the OPEB account (other post-employment benefits). The money in the account was no longer required for its original purpose; the auditors were strongly advising the District to spend-down the money. There was currently \$3,000,000 in the account. Dr. Bennardo stated that a transfer of \$900,000 from the OPEB account to the Appropriated Fund Balance was included, thus reflecting a 20.42% increase to the Appropriated Fund Balance. Additionally, \$500,000 was added to our state-aid with the GEA information Senators Flanagan and Marcellino provided. Dr. Bennardo added that if the District receives more than \$500,000 from GEA, then there would be a reduction in the \$900,000 being removed from OPEB to a lesser amount.

Dr. Bennardo provided the budget for the 2016/2017 school year as follows:

- Proposed budget of \$158,878,646
- Percentage increase of 1.80% from last year’s budget

Dr. Bennardo asked if there were questions. The question was asked by a resident regarding Medicaid, and why would the District be receiving payments from Medicaid. Mrs. Harris responded and shared that students who were on Medicaid and received District special education services, the District was then entitled to payments for a portion of those services provided to the student. The filing paperwork that was necessary was horrific in nature, a massive paperwork project. Mrs. Harris provided credit to Ms. Nancy Jones-Muller, who was doing an

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Budget Work Session Continued:	<p>outstanding job with processing and filing the Medicaid paperwork. A subsequent question was asked by an audience member that pertained to contracts expiring in June; was the amount calculated into the budget? Mr. Light provided assurance that there was “space” in the budget to accommodate the settlement of contracts.</p> <p>With no further questions, the budget work session concluded. Mr. Kaden thanked Dr. Bennardo for the detailed presentation.</p>
Adoption of Agenda:	<p>Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	<p>Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:</p>
Minutes:	<p>Minutes of Board meeting held on February 24, 2016.</p>
Schedule of Investment Accounts:	<p>Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1125-1126.</p>
Treasurer's Report:	<p>Treasurer's Report, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1127-1128.</p>
Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	<p>Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1129-1168.</p>
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	<p>Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1169-1170.</p>
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	<p>Revenue Status Report, General Fund, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1171-1172.</p>
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	<p>Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1173-1174.</p>
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	<p>Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1175-1176.</p>
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:	<p>Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1177-1192.</p>

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Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1193-1194.		
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1195-1198.		
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1199-1200.		
Budgetary Transfer Report:	Budgetary Transfer Report, for January/February, 2016, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1201-1202.		
Tax Levy Schedule:	Tax Levy Schedule, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1203-1204.		
Library Tax Levy:	Library Tax Levy, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1203-1204.		
Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:	Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, January/February, 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1205-1223.		
Bids:	The following bids, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1224-1238.		
	Smallwares	Schedule No. 17-33	
	Miscellaneous Large Equipment	Schedule No. 17-34	
	Miscellaneous Instrument Repairs	Schedule No. 17-25	
	Sand with 20% Rock Salt	Schedule No. 17-26	
	Driver Education	Schedule No. 17-29	
	Student Agenda Planners	Schedule No. 17-30	
Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General (A)	Warrant 95	\$1,737,501.08
	“ “	96	\$4,242.82
	School Lunch	33	\$18,615.94
	Special Aid (F)	38	\$33,807.81
	<u>Approved Board Packet of March 18, 2016</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 91	\$189,338.01
	“ “	92	\$2,184.45
	“ “	93	\$99,556.25
	“ “	94	\$250,000.00
	“ “	V091	(\$6.10)
	School Lunch	32	\$39,117.85
	Special Aid (F)	37	\$29,700.32

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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.
- Communications:**
1. Letter from WS BOCES to Board Members re BOCES Tentative Budget for 2016/2017 and Budget News, Winter, 2016
 2. Letter from Legal Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State to Members of the Board re Oakwood Primary Center's Spring Sing-Along Concert May 21, 2015, and the forthcoming Spring Concert
 3. Invitation from Mr. Wright to attend the May 11 Mini-thon
- Resolution for Use of OPEB Funds:** 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 transfer of \$900,000 from Assigned, Appropriated for OPEB, to Assigned, Appropriated for Subsequent Years' Expenditures, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1239-1244. Motion carried unanimously.
- Single Audit Report for 2014/2015:** 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 accepts, as submitted, the 2014-2015 Single Audit Report prepared for the District by the firm of R.S. Abrams & Co., LLP.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Donation from the South Huntington Manor Fire Department:** 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 \$5,000 donation to be utilized in a joint effort with the Booster Club for the purchase of a scoreboard and sign for the athletic field at Stimson Middle School.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Dr. Bennardo shared his gratitude for the relationship that the District had with the Huntington Manor Fire Department.
- New Media Lease:** Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the conditions modifying the lease agreement between the District and New Media/Spirit of Huntington.
- Mr. Nitkewicz moved, with a second from Mr. Ciappetta, to table this matter until the April 19, 2016, Board of Education meeting. Motion, to table, carried unanimously.
- Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools:** Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the request of parents that their children be maintained in the District for the duration of the 2015/2016 school year.
Motion carried unanimously.

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**Donation from
Knott
Chiropractic:**

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 \$1,500 donation from Knott Chiropractic to be utilized in sponsoring the middle school dance team's upcoming season.

Motion carried unanimously.

Field Trip Request:

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 field trip for the four students attending the DECA National Championship in Nashville, Tennessee, from April 23-27, 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent
Travel/Conference
Request:**

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 approves the attendance of the Superintendent to the Heritage Festival in Washington, D.C., March 31-April 3, 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

**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 February 10, 22, 23, March 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 22, March 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 14, 18, 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. 1245-1267.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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. 1268-1278, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 6: Summer School 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 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 19: Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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Information and Reports:

1. NYSIR Legal Digest, Spring 2016 (Board Only)
2. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Minds in Motion Award Recipients/Winter
3. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to “First-Ever” Challenger Basketball Team Members
4. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to DECA Award Recipients
5. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Staff Assisted with Festival of the Arts
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Staff Assisted with Walt Whitman Birthplace Art Display
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Stimson Jazz Cats re Performance at March PTA Council Meeting
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Carnegie Hall Performers
9. Letter from Dr. Bennardo Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair Recipient
10. SCOPE Forum, Winter/Spring 2016

Information Sent to Board Week Ending March 18, 2016

1. Audit Committee Agenda – Meeting March 23, 2016, D.O. Board Room
2. Save the Date: Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association 57th Annual Dinner Meeting, Thursday, May 26, 2016, Woodbury Country Club, Dinner at 7:30 p.m.
3. Flyer: Special Olympics, Sunday, May 1, 2016, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., WWHS
4. Memo from Principal Smith re Assessment Dates
5. Letter from Dr. Bennardo re Heckscher Park Performance/Dance Team
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to “Beauty and the Beast” performers
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to participants in the High Arts Showcase
8. Minutes of the SHTA Executive Board Meeting, March 14, 2016
9. Weekly Newsletter, March 15, 2016

Committee Updates:

Mr. Ciappetta to report on the March 29, 2016, Facilities Committee meeting at the April 19, 2016 meeting.

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mr. Nitkewicz addressed the Board and audience members to express his gratitude for the efforts with Autism Day, April 2, 2016. He spoke of his deep appreciation for the initiatives that have been put in place. He gently shared that it was not just he, but rather many other parents with Autistic children who were so deeply appreciative for the work that was done for these students. Mrs. Patricia Dell, who was in the audience, responded and shared how much she cared for these students.

Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1125 through 1278.