

April 19, 2016

A Budget Adoption meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in the Board Room at the Administration Building, 60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**

President
Vice President

Mr. Kaden
Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Brieff
Mrs. DeGaetano

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: Mrs. Carey
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Nitkewicz

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

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, 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 Mrs. DeGaetano, 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.

Eagle Scout Presentation: Dr. Bennardo shared how fortunate the District was to have yet another Eagle Scout willing to share his talent and labor in bettering our grounds. He asked Zachary Bruno to come forward and address the Board with his project.

Zachary introduced himself and stated he was a proud member of Troop 406. He referenced the packet each Board member received outlining his project, which he sought permission for to build on the grounds of the District Office. Zachary explained to the Board that the District Office was used in many different ways—for business, a school for pre-kindergarten children, and as a neighborhood playground with a special appeal for sleigh-riding in the winter months. His project was a “District Office Community Garden,” an area where two picnic tables would be

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constructed, surrounded by a garden of flowers and greenery. He added that District Office employees could take their lunch and eat outside, and pre-school children could use the tables for art projects. Mrs. Brieff asked what type of wood the tables would be made from; Zachary responded cedar. Dr. Bennardo commented that the drawings Zachary prepared in displaying what he envisions were beautiful. Dr. Bennardo also reported that we were looking forward to having this space, and he thanked Zachary for his idea, and stated that everyone will greatly appreciate it. Zachary received a round of applause from the Board, Cabinet members, and the audience.

Adoption of the Budget:

Dr. Bennardo began the presentation by stating the .10% tax cap left the District with only \$110,640 in new tax revenue. He reported that New York State has a “Tax-Cap Governor,” and this is the number that we will be dealing with for quite some time. Dr. Bennardo provided a four-year comparison of the cap, revenue and state aid, with our state aid for next year being \$1,914,029. He also shared that the state-aid predictions were accurate from the beginning. Dr. Bennardo spoke of the reality of our “generous” aid—Long Island received approximately 12.5% of state aid while educating 17% of the students in the state. He demonstrated how the \$1,403,200 of Gap Elimination money was derived, and further explained that the money was really a repayment of dollars that the District was entitled to receive. Dr. Bennardo also explained that we were considered a “High Tax District” where 70 to 80% of our funding comes from taxes, as we do not have a large business base. He provided the example of the Huntington School District where their state aid represented 13% of their budget vs. 21% of ours.

Dr. Bennardo reported that the primary objective for the budget process with a near zero tax-levy cap and average state-aid increase would be to craft a “current services” scenario. Dr. Bennardo shared the “Current Services Paradigm” as follows:

- Maintain class size
- Continue all existing programs
- Offer full Advanced Placement with elective scheduling at current levels
- Continue co-curricular activities at existing 2015-2016 thresholds
- Roll forward all grounds, maintenance, custodial, clerical, teaching and personnel
- Maintain Regents, Honors, AIS, Special Education, ELL and support programs
- Continue to address facilities needs
- Fulfill all State mandates and financial obligations

Dr. Bennardo stressed that the goal was to move forward in a prudent manner, to maintain areas of need responsibly, and ensure that we sustain programs for a five-to-ten year period. Dr. Bennardo took this

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opportunity to provide credit to the Board in making difficult decisions from 2010 to 2014 that included cooperation and budget management by bargaining units, belt-tightening with programs, and revenue enhancement through grant writing and tenant acquisition. By 2014/2015, the District was in a much improved position, and the cycle of cutting was halted. Dr. Bennardo provided examples of enhancements made during 2014/2015, and what was accomplished in 2015/2016, such as the addition of 20+ additional instructional positions, expanding theater opportunities for Grades 3-12, full intramural programs for Grades 3-12, and the joining of both the Challenge Basketball and NYSPHSAA unified sports programs.

Dr. Centamore was asked to speak on current class size from K-12. With K-5, class size was maintained in the mid-twenties. Dr. Centamore spoke of a possible reduction in kindergarten at Oakwood; however, the recommendation was not to reduce the section at Oakwood. Rather the preference would be not to increase the fifth-grade at Maplewood, as was originally suggested. With the kindergarten recommendation, the reasoning was that the enrollment appears to be increasing. However, it could be due to improvements in the kindergarten registration process, providing such opportunities in the evening. Dr. Centamore proposed a contingency in Grade K-3. Mr. Ciappetta asked how many contingencies were recommended; Dr. Bennardo responded three to five teachers.

Dr. Centamore reported on the Grade 6 class sizes and shared that this was a major improvement from the past several years. The class sizes were far more conducive educationally. Both the middle school and the high school class sizes were reviewed; steady levels were reflected.

Dr. Bloom spoke of the District moving forward with a current services scenario. Dr. Bloom shared that grants would continue to be sought in a creative manner. Additionally, for the first time the District was offering a Summer Coding Camp, and the Summer Research Camp was in its second year. Through aggressive measures, over one million dollars in grants have been secured in the last few years. Dr. Bloom and Dr. Bennardo shared their vision of continuing the quest for these competitive grants.

The District's commitment to our facilities and grounds was discussed. Dr. Bennardo explained that according to the latest architect report, which was quite extensive, 50 million dollars was required to maintain our nine buildings and grounds over the next five to ten years. Dr. Bennardo stressed that the District needs to fund these expenses rather than take on additional debt. He spoke of the importance of a long-range plan, which was to move one million dollars from a reserve to the Facilities budget code. This was done in the past and assisted with new lockers, fixing age-old boilers, a new awning for the high school's entrance, etc. Dr. Bennardo shared that our students deserve the best, and the District's commitment to our buildings and grounds was unyielding.

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Dr. Bennardo addressed our enhanced partnerships/sponsorships and the balance between spending and saving.

Mr. Light reported on the funds at our disposal in calculating the budget for the 2016/2017 school year as follows:

\$110,621,172	Taxation
\$ 33,740,332	State Aid, included GEA money
\$ 1,000,000	Reserves (ERS)
\$ 4,900,000	Appropriated Fund Balance, included \$600,000 OPEB
\$ 8,742,569	Other
\$159,004,073	Total Revenues
\$158,878,646	Expenditures
\$ 125,427	To be Determined

\$159,004,073 New Budget for 2016/2017

Mr. Light shared that the Appropriated Fund Balance included \$600,000 from the other post-employment benefit reserve. Mr. Light explained that years ago the District was instructed to establish the reserve to fund post-employment benefits, however, several years later, districts were then instructed to dismantle the accounts. There was three million dollars in the reserve, and the State Comptroller recently advised the District that it was over the 4% limit. Mr. Light shared that there was no mechanism in place to remove the monies until recently. He further explained that \$600,000 will be removed from the OPEB account and placed into the Appropriated Fund Balance. Mr. Light reported that the plan was to utilize \$600,000 in this manner for the next five years. If the District under-spends the budget, then we would regain some of that funding.

The \$8,742,569 in Other was from income the District received, such as money from St. Anthony's that we bill for services provided to their students. Additionally, Medicaid has provided \$300,000 to the District through billing for services provided to students receiving Medicaid. While a labor intensive endeavor, it paid off handsomely. The revenue from rentals at the old library was another source of income.

Mr. Light reported that the new budget is \$159,004,073, which was a 1.88% increase from last year's budget. He then reviewed the tax rate calculation for the past four years and reported that the assessed value for 2016/2017 was \$2,562.52 per \$1,000, as opposed to last year's \$2,537.64 per \$1,000 of assessed value, equating to a tax increase of \$82.10 for the year, or an increase of \$6.84 per month. The tax rate was under one percent. Mr. Light stated that this was a fair tax rate to support our programs.

Dr. Bennardo asked if there were questions; none were posed. Mrs. Brieff commented that it was great the District was in this good position.

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- Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, 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. 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 March 16, 2016.
- Bids:** The following bids, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1289-1304.
- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Microsoft License | Schedule #17-37 (RFP) |
| Walt Whitman High School Canopy | Schedule #16-03C |
| Plate Glass Replacement | Schedule #17-48 |
| Glass Replacement Automotive | Schedule #17-49 |
| Miscellaneous Asphalt/Concrete Repairs | Schedule #17-52 |
| Pneumatic Temperature Controls | Schedule #17-55 |
| Vehicle Body Work/Painting | Schedule #17-66 |

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General (A)	Warrant103	\$2,403.50
	“ “	104	\$1,574,571.30
	“ “	105	\$17,891.54
	“ “	V104	(\$13,563.64)
	School Lunch	35	\$5,925.72
	Special Aid (F)	41	\$8,099.12
	Capital Reserve (H)	13	\$34,234.90

Approved Board Packet of April 8, 2016

General (A)	Warrant 97	\$3,800.00
“ “	98	\$350,782.84
“ “	99	\$22,985.85
“ “	100	\$977.45
“ “	101	\$48,794.88
“ “	102	\$92,192.28
“ “	V000	(\$595.00)
“ “	V089	(\$2,493.18)
“ “	V091	(\$150.00)
“ “	V098	(\$345.00)
School Lunch	34	\$30,716.35
Special Aid (F)	39	\$37,621.73
“ “	40	\$76.10
Capital Reserve (H)	12	\$7.69

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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.

**Approval of SHTA
Memorandum of
Agreement:**

Mr. Kaden requested to move the Approval of the SHTA Memorandum of Agreement as the first new business item.
Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the South Huntington School District and the South Huntington Teachers' Association on April 4, 2016, and
Be it Further Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Side Letter of Agreement made between the South Huntington Union Free School District and the South Huntington Teachers' Association on April 19, 2016, and
Be it Further Resolved, that the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the above referenced agreements, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1305-1326.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo spoke of the fair and civil manner in which the negotiations transpired. Dr. Bennardo thanked the SHTA negotiating team and the administrative negotiating team for their work and the professionalism displayed throughout the process, the likes of which Dr. Bennardo has never seen before. Dr. Bennardo expressed his appreciation for all of the District's bargaining units—from the administrators to teachers to paraprofessionals to nurses to clericals—with the family-like atmosphere that is felt within this District.

Mr. Ciappetta added his appreciation of the flexibility of the bargaining units that have allowed the District to have such a fair budget. He thanked the bargaining units and his fellow Board members for making those difficult decisions years ago.

**Western Suffolk
BOCES 2016/2017
Administrative
Budget:**

Information regarding the proposed 2016/2017 Administrative Budget for Western Suffolk BOCES has been prefiled with Board members.

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2016/2017 Administrative Budget for the Western Suffolk BOCES, Second Supervisory District of Suffolk County, New York.
Motion carried unanimously.

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**Western Suffolk
BOCES
Candidates:**

Information regarding candidates for the vacancies on the Western Suffolk BOCES has been prefiled with District Board members. Each component school district of Western Suffolk BOCES may cast one vote for each of the three vacancies for three-year terms on the BOCES Board.

Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby casts its votes in the annual election of members of the Western Suffolk Board of Cooperative Services, for three-year terms expiring June 30, 2019, as follows: Mrs. Mildred Browne, Mrs. Ilene Herz, Esq., and Mrs. Maryann Zumpano.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Use of Other Post-
Employment
Benefit Funds:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, to amend the resolution language as follows:

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the revised transfer of \$600,000 from the original \$900,000 previously approved from Assigned, Appropriated for Other Post-Employment Benefit, to Assigned, Appropriated for Subsequent Years' Expenditures, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p.1327.

Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

**North Shore Dance
Studio Lease
Approval:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby authorizes the District to enter into a lease agreement with North Shore Dance Studio for rental space at Two Melville Road.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of
Election Officials:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the appointment of the budget officials for the budget vote on May 17, 2016, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1328.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the
2016/2017 Property
Tax Report Card:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2016/2017 Property Tax Report Card, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1329.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Authorization of
Western Suffolk
BOCES Multi-Year
Service Agreement:**

Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Western Suffolk BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement for the 2016/2017 school year through the 2020/2021 school year for hardware/software development implementation.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Mr. Kaden shared that he attended a virtual presentation regarding hardware/software development at the National School Board Association's Conference last week and met administrators from the Plainedge School District who were very satisfied with the system demonstrated in the presentation. He asked Dr. Bloom to make contact with the Plainedge administrators to further investigate. Dr. Dr. Bloom agreed to do so.

Contract Extensions:

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the following Contract Extensions:

Fire Alarm Inspection/Maintenance	Schedule #17-24
Printing Brochures	Schedule #17-44
PA Clock Service/Repair	Schedule #17-45
Cesspool Pumping Service	Schedule #17-46
Miscellaneous Roofing Repairs	Schedule #17-51
100% Cotton-Treated Mops	Schedule #17-57
Sheet Music – All Forms	Schedule #17-59
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	Schedule #17-61
Security Alarm Repairs/Maintenance	Schedule #17-63
Clay Mix/Top Soil	Schedule #17-64

Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:

Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated March 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 28, 30, 31, April 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 1, 3, 7, 10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 28, 29, 31, April 4, 5, 7, 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. 1330-1382.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, 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. 1383-1387, and authorizes implementation thereof:

- Schedule 6: Summer School Appointments (Instructional)
- Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
- Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)
- Schedule 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)
- Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)

Motion carried unanimously.

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Information and Reports:

Information and Reports

1. Enrollment Report for the Second Attendance Period March 1 through March 31, 2016
2. SHTA Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting of April 11, 2016
3. Invitation to SHTA Retirement Party, June 7, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Crest Hollow
4. Newsday Article, "Suffolk First in Heroin Deaths" from Lee Nober
5. The Long-Islander (1)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 8, 2016

1. Letter from Principal Murphy re Regents and Common Core testing
2. Letter from Principal Murphy re Senior Prom, Wednesday, June 22, 2016
3. SHTA Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting from April 4, 2016
4. The Silas Scoop, April, 2016
5. The Countrywood Chronicle, April, 2016
6. South Huntington Schools Weekly Newsletter, April 6, 2016
7. Board & Administrator, April, 2016
8. Letter from Principal Murphy re Change in Scheduling Timeline

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 1, 2016

1. Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes from March 29, 2016
2. Parent University Flyer, Thursday, April 21, 2016, from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
3. Ingerman Smith: Follow-Up to March 24, 2016 Opinion re Section 3012-D APPR Obligations
4. Ingerman Smith: Section 3012-D APPR and State-Aid Implications
5. Letter to Parents from Principal Murphy re Student Dress Code
6. Letter to Parents from Principal Murphy re Regents Prep Academies/June Regents
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Festival of the Arts students
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Birchwood Boosters for Month of March
9. The Long-Islander (2)

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mr. Ciappetta reported that at the last Facilities Committee meeting, a review of the five-year building/grounds maintenance report was conducted. For repairs and maintenance over the next five years, the cost was anticipated to be 50 million dollars. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the primary task of the committee was to move forward and fund what was needed without pursuing a bond to finance the expenses. Prioritizing will be the first order of business.

Mrs. Brieff shared her positive experience at last week's National School

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Boards Association's Annual Conference in Boston. The keynote speakers included Dan Rather, Robin Roberts and Tony Wagner. Mrs. Brieff reviewed key points from each speaker, including Mr. Rather's message on more emphasis placed on civics and history, as he feels these have been sacrificed with the STEM focus, as well as eliminating school funding through property taxes. He believes the most disadvantaged districts should receive the most aid.

Ms. Robin Roberts from Good Morning America shared many of her beliefs. She shared that with each college graduation in a family, it has a significant, positive trickle-down effect on the family as a whole. She equated it to a barrel that keeps going in a good direction.

Mr. Tony Wagner, a Harvard professor, advocated in taking a hard look at the manner in which Google operates. Google was hiring problem-solvers, people who think outside-the-box, and, interestingly enough, not all were college graduates.

Lastly, Mrs. Brieff shared that she and Mr. Ciappetta, who also attended the conference, visited a digital planetarium, which proved to be a fascinating experience. Mr. Ciappetta agreed, and commented that he would love to see the District purchase the digital planetarium through a grant, as it could be utilized from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Mrs. Brieff stated that the conference was extremely worthwhile.

Mrs. DeGaetano communicated that she attended the middle school theater production of "Hairspray" and that it was simply outstanding. Dr. Bennardo concurred, and stated that it was best student production he has seen in the past 28 years.

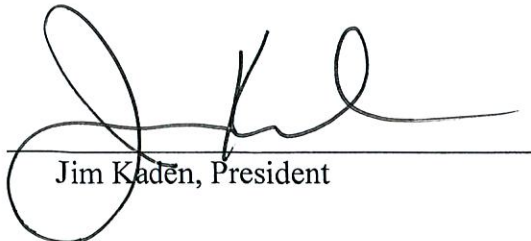
Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:40 p.m.


Jim Kaden, President


Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1289 through 1387.