

May 10, 2016

A Public Hearing of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, in the Performing Arts Center in 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 6:45 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 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DECA
Demonstration and
Achievement
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo congratulated the students, and asked Principal Murphy to introduce the DECA students. Principal Murphy shared that he had the opportunity to attend the National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, last month and was impressed with the level of competition amongst the 18,000 students in attendance. The student president of DECA was introduced, Natalie Migliore, who spoke highly of the DECA advisors and the experiences she has had with DECA.

Sophomores Joseph Van Gostein and Rachel Vaughan were introduced. The sophomores secured a second-place trophy in the Buying and Merchandising Operations Research Event in the National competition last month. Their project centered on researching the Peter Andrews store in Huntington Station, where both students conducted numerous employee and customer

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**DECA
Demonstration and
Achievement
Recognition,
Continued:**

surveys to ascertain how employees/customers felt about the business and what improvements were needed. The final project was a thirty-page manual that provided recommendations and proposals. The students spoke enthusiastically and proudly of their encounters at both the Rochester, New York, state-wide competition and the National competition in Tennessee.

Juniors Epi Ramirez and Illana Desmond were introduced; the students were enthused and animated in sharing their DECA experiences. Their competition dealt with the Marketing Communications Team Decision Making Event. Both students gave credit to their advisors and DECA for the development of skills that will assist them throughout their future careers.

All four students stated they looked forward to future competitions next year.

**South Huntington
U.F.S.D. Video
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo provided a brief introduction to the video and stated it provided information on the great things that were happening within the South Huntington School District. The video addressed the various curricular programs, as well as the numerous co-curricular programs, that enhance our students' education and high school experiences tremendously. The video highlighted the District recently being named as one of the top 100 schools in New York State. The video's use in promoting the District will be an extremely beneficial tool.

**Public Hearing of
2016/2017 Budget:**

Dr. Bennardo reported that the public hearing of the budget provided an opportunity to review the journey that brought us to this night. In reviewing the PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Bennardo brought attention to the Budget by Object Category slide that reflected salaries as being almost 52% of the budget, and 24% as benefits. As Dr. Bennardo has mentioned many times, education was a "people business." In a review of available revenues, Dr. Bennardo stated that the tax levy is 69.48% of our budget; state aid was 21%; and other miscellaneous income amounted to 5.5% of our budget. He also recounted that this has been a very unique and predictable year. The tax cap of .10% left only \$110,640 in new tax revenue. Dr. Bennardo disclosed that our legislative contacts had made it clear since January that the remaining GAP would be fully restored as our state-aid package. Therefore, our state-aid number was known months before it typically would be during the budget process. Dr. Bennardo highlighted the following slide comparing the past four years as follows:

2013/2014 – 3.02% CAP (+\$3,144,277) and State Aid of \$641,987
2014/2015 – 1.41% CAP (+\$1,514,040) and State Aid of \$2,900,824
2015/2016 – 1.71% CAP (+\$1,856,781) and State Aid of \$1,700,000
2016/2017 - .10% CAP (+\$110,640) and State Aid of \$1,914,029

The fund balance carryover of \$581,697 was addressed; Dr. Bennardo commented that the District was very grateful to have the fund balance to assist with the budget. He stated that a three-month comparison of mandated increases, compared to available revenues, left the District with the break-even current services scenario. Under this current services paradigm, the

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**Public Hearing of
2016/2017 Budget:**

following would be maintained:

- Class size
- Existing programs
- Full Advanced Placement with elective scheduling at current levels
- Co-curricular activities at existing 2015/2016 thresholds
- All grounds, maintenance, custodial, clerical, teaching and personnel
- Regents, Honors, AIS, Special Education, ELL and support programs
- Strong commitment to facilities needs
- Fulfillment of State mandates and financial obligations

Dr. Bennardo asked Dr. Centamore to address the class sizes from K-12. Dr. Centamore recalled that several years ago the class sizes ranged from the high 20s to the low 30s. The numbers have gone down, and he provided credit to the Board for this successful endeavor. The elementary numbers from Grades K through 5 were currently at favorable ranges, as were the Grades 6-8 class-size ranges. Even at the high school, the class-size ranges were at a point that reflected a respectable consistency.

Dr. Bennardo asked Dr. Bloom to comment on moving forward under a current services scenario. Dr. Bloom reported that working within our current services would not equate to standing still; in fact, more creative types of thinking would be necessary, and a concentrated effort in reaching out for additional grants and assistance from foundations to support and promote the District's mission. Dr. Bloom shared that our District was probably the only that had a K-12 theater program, and provided credit to the SHEF Miles for Michael Run/Walk. Dr. Bloom reported that an additional 13 new college courses would be available next year, thanks to Ms. Leah Lugovina and Principal Murphy. Dr. Bennardo spoke and shared that despite a near zero tax cap, as a team we are moving forward. He stated that our students are here now, and we want them to have the best possible educational experience.

The earmarking of \$1,000,000 in funds for planned maintenance of our buildings and grounds was communicated. Dr. Bennardo added that our Walt Whitman High School was a focal point of the community—a showcase—where the District hosts various tournaments and events. Rather than borrow funds to maintain our facilities, it was the intent to provide funding and allocate those funds to improvements and necessary repairs. Dr. Bennardo stated that the District's plan was to address current needs, while simultaneously keeping a watchful eye on the future. There was a great deal of uncertainty, and we wish to avoid the "Boom and Bust" cycle that so often impacts education and divides communities. Dr. Bennardo also reported that the OPEB funds were being utilized and provided a brief background of their inception. Years ago the State had required districts to maintain an Other Post-Employment Benefits account, and then reversed that decision. The money can now be used, however, it should be utilized for one-time expenses, not for a program that the District could not sustain. As such, \$125,000 would be placed into a contingency code to support additional staff

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**Public Hearing of
2016/2017 Budget:**

student increase/spike during the 2016/2017 school year occur.
Dr. Bennardo asked Mr. Light to report on the final budget figures.
Mr. Light provided the following information for the 2016/2017 budget:

Taxation: \$110,621,172 Increase of \$110,640, a .10% increase
State Aid: \$ 33,740,332 Increase of \$1,914,029, a 6.01% increase
Reserves: \$ 1,000,000 Increase of \$0, 00% increase
APPR Fund
Balance: \$ 4,900,000 Increase of \$581,697, a 13.47% increase
Other: \$ 8,742,569 Increase of \$362,657, a 4.33% increase
Revenues: \$159,004,073 Increase of \$2,969,023, a 1.90% increase
Expenditures/
Final Budget: \$159,004,073 Increase of \$2,934,166, a 1.88% increase

Mr. Light concluded his portion of the presentation by stating this budget was responsible and meets the District's needs. While reserves are being used, it had been saved "for that rainy day."

Dr. Bennardo finished the Public Hearing presentation and stated that in order to remain in a prepared position, a five-year look ahead will be necessary on a consistent basis.

Mr. Kaden asked if the audience or Board members had any questions, none were posed. Mr. Kaden thanked Dr. Bennardo for the presentation.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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 30, 2016.

**Schedule of Bills
(Warrants):**

Schedule of Bills (Warrants)

General (A)	Warrant 112	\$230,225.73
" "	113	\$12,450.56
" "	114	\$11,343.47
" "	V068	(\$205.93)
" "	V104	(\$200.00)
School Lunch	Warrant 39	\$192.90
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 45	\$21,054.81

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Approved – Board Packet of April 29, 2016

General (A)	Warrant 110	\$206,508.29
“ “	111	\$214,613.98
School Lunch	Warrant 37	\$31,341.63
“ “	38	\$600.00
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 43	\$12,633.66
“ “	44	\$2,000.00
Capital Reserve (H)	Warrant 15	\$48,460.08
“ “	V014	(\$48,460.08)

Approved – Board Packet of April 22, 2016

General (A)	Warrant 106	\$1,458,456.50
“ “	107	\$3,182.91
“ “	108	\$11,666.67
“ “	109	\$1,943,813.49
School Lunch	Warrant 36	\$39,385.16
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 42	\$188,584.78

**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:

Eagle Scout Court of Honor Invitation for David Grey, Friday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m., South Cafeteria, WWHS

**TANS for
2016/2017:**

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:

Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called “Notes”) of South Huntington Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (herein called “District”), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$32,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called “Law”).

Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.

(b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.

(c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.

(d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be

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**TANS for
2016/2017,
Continued:**

general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute arbitrage certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo reported that Suffolk County is unique in that it collects taxes after bills are due for payment; it was necessary for districts to borrow money to make these payments. Mr. Light shared that this resolution authorized no more than \$32,000,000 in notes. Mr. Ciappetta asked when the tax monies were received; Mr. Light responded in April, May and June. Mr. Kaden added that it was a cash flow issue.

**New Media
Amended Lease:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the amended New Media Lease, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1398-1404.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo happily reported that the amended lease provides a Saturday special needs art program that will serve approximately 80 students, as well as a repayment schedule that will bring New Media up-to-date.

Field Trip Request:

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 field trip to Iceland in April of 2017 for Walt Whitman High School students through the WorldStrides Program.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo asked Dr. Bloom to comment; Dr. Bloom stated that the field trip was an unbelievable opportunity for our students to experience this once-

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in-a-lifetime chance to complete field research outside of the classroom. Mrs. Brieff asked how many students would go; Dr. Bloom responded approximately 20 or more. He would secure a more accurate count and provide that information to the Board.

SHTA Sick Bank Request:

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 SHTA Sick Bank Request, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1405.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared with the audience the sad passing of Mr. Ben Blair, retired special education teacher who also worked in our Alternative High School. He asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Blair. Mr. Blair's daughter, a teacher in the District, had hoped to spend time with her father in his final days, and had made the request. The SHTA had an overwhelming preliminary response from the association members, and a lottery will be created to assist with half-day increments.

Sabbatical Leave Request:

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 denies the sabbatical leave request as follows:

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2016, the District received a request for sabbatical leave pursuant to Article 17 of the 2012-2015 collective bargaining agreement between the District and the South Huntington Teachers' Association ("CBA");

WHEREAS, the sabbatical leave request was reviewed independently by both the Graduate and In-Service Review Board and the Professional Practice Committee and thereafter by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, in accordance with the procedural requirements of Article 17 of the CBA;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools recommends that the request be denied, and advised the applicant of such recommendation by letter dated March 31, 2016, in accordance with Article 17 of the CBA;

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2016 the Memorandum of Agreement for a successor labor contract was ratified by the South Huntington Teachers' Association, and subsequently, on April 19, 2016, ratified by the Board of Education;

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Agreement amends the existing collective bargaining agreement between the District and the South Huntington Teachers' Association, and specifically eliminates Article 17 in its entirety effective July 1, 2015;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of

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Education herewith denies the instant request for a sabbatical leave since there is no longer a contractual basis for the Board of Education to grant such a request, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Education has nonetheless undertaken a review of the sabbatical request on its merits, and has determined that the proposed work will not provide a significant benefit to the students served by the applicant within the District,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby affirms the recommendation of the Superintendent, and denies the above-referenced sabbatical leave request.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Confidential
Personnel
Resolution:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves a Settlement Agreement and Release with an employee dated April 26, 2016, under State Education Department Case ID #28397, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1406-1410.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Confidential
Personnel
Resolution:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

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 an agreement with an employee made known to the Board dated May 5, 2016, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1411.
Motion carried, with Mr. Ciappetta opposed.

**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 March 3, 10, 11, 15, 17, 22, 23, 29, 30, 31, April 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, May 3, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 10, 17, 18, 21, April 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, May 2, 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. 1412-1503.
Motion carried unanimously.

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Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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. 1504-1514, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 8: Re-Employment to Positions (Instructional)

Schedule 10: Tenure Appointments

Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 12: Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave

Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 18: Re-Employment to Positions (Non-Instructional)

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

Information and Reports

1. Special Education Information & Transition Fair, May 11, WWHS
2. Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association 57th Annual Dinner Flyer, May 26, with Regent Roger Tilles as Guest Speaker
3. Letter from Mr. Kaden to Pastor Gia Lynn Hall re Donation of Books
4. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to National Junior Honor Society Inductees
5. The Countrywood Chronicle, May, 2016

In Envelopes: Invitation to 50th Anniversary Celebration, for Stimson Middle School, June 3, 2016, at 4 p.m.

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 29, 2016:

1. Invitation from Principal Murphy to Board members for National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Monday, May 2, at 7 p.m., in the PAC
2. Thank You from Mr. Flynn, WS BOCES, for Budget and Trustee Support
3. Memo from Mr. Light re Nawrocki Smith Report on HR Internal Controls
4. Principal Murphy letter to Parents re Regents Prep Academies/June Regents
5. School Grade Enrollment for the Second Attendance Period, April 1-April 22
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to students in "Hairspray" production
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Maplewood students who performed at Citi Field
8. Signed *Meredith O'Connor* postcard (anti-bullying presenter)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 22, 2016:

1. NSSBA 57th Annual Dinner Meeting, May 26
2. Letter from Superintendent to STEM Fair Participants at Farmingdale University
3. Letter from Superintendent to WWHS Students of the Month-March

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4. Letter from Superintendent re Body Electric participants
5. Letter from Superintendent re Heritage Festival participants
6. Letter from Superintendent re Principal's List Honorees
7. The Silas Scoop, May 2016
8. The Long-Islander (2)

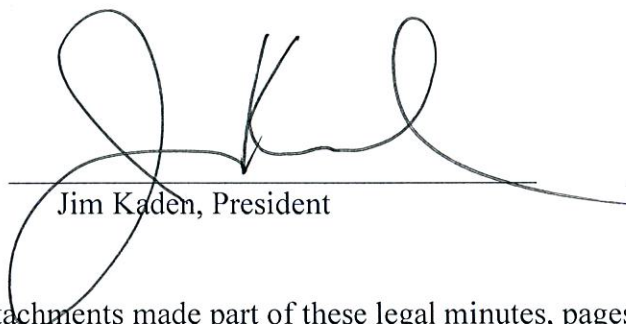
Committee Updates: Facilities Committee Agenda, May 12, 2016, with Minutes of March 29 Meeting

Comments from Board Members and Staff: None provided.

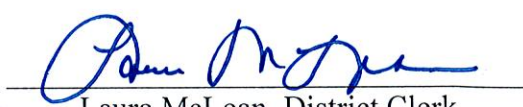
Voice of the Residents: Visitors were invited to participate.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1398 through 1514.