

June 1, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, in Conference Room B of the Administration Building, 60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**
Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Brieff
Mrs. Carey
Mrs. DeGaetano
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Bennardo
Deputy Superintendent	Mrs. Harris
Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & District Services	Dr. Centamore
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Curriculum	Dr. Bloom
Business Administrator	Mr. Light
District Clerk	Mrs. McLean

Absent: Mr. Kaden

President

Call to Order: Mr. Ciappetta opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Walt Whitman
High School
Ambassador
Program
Recognition:**

Mr. Ciappetta shared his pleasure with starting the meeting with the recognition of the Ambassador Program. He sincerely thanked Mr. Nitkewicz for his efforts in having this exceptional program come to fruition and stated for the record, Mr. Nitkewicz's determination and dedication were instrumental in making this program occur. He thanked Mr. Nitkewicz and applauded him as Mr. Nitkewicz went to the podium to address the audience.

"Autism," Mr. Nitkewicz began, "is like having your house broken into and having your child's mind stolen, leaving the body behind." Mr. Nitkewicz paused, and then continued stating that recently he and his wife went with his son, Edward, to a dance for 16-year olds. He, his wife and son were dancing to the music; he and Edward doing their customary "pelican" dance. Mr. Nitkewicz spotted several young ladies on the other side of the room, engaged in conversation, having a good time. He went over to them, explained that his son was autistic, and asked if they would go over and dance with him. The young ladies obliged him without hesitation, and eagerly went to Edward to dance with him. Mr. Nitkewicz recalled how he and his wife just stood back and watched, in blessed awe, and for those few treasured minutes felt the emotions all parents feel when witnessing such a precious moment. Afterwards, Mr. Nitkewicz admitted to posting the event on Facebook, and blasting this message of a beautiful—and beyond measure—act of kindness. He stated that small gestures, such as this one, leave a mark on a life. Mr.

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Nitkewicz gently spoke of the hardships that many parents of special needs children had with simple activities, such as attending a SEPTA meeting, etc. He continued with the story of “Hank’s Yanks,” a baseball program for young adults with special needs, owned by the New York Yankees. Mr. Nitkewicz recalled a mother of a young man on the team who had confided in him that she feared her son, who did not have special needs, would be a bully. Through this program, however, which allowed special needs and typical functioning youngsters to mix and play baseball, this young man did not become what his mother had dreaded. Rather, through this experience, this same young man started a disability awareness program in his high school. Mr. Nitkewicz’s emotions caught up with him, as did the emotions of those in the audience, when he stated the significance of placing your fingerprint on the world. With words that came directly from his heart, Mr. Nitkewicz thanked the parents in the audience with special needs children, and then thanked those special needs students, too, with a passion that could be felt by all who listened.

Mr. Daniel Lombardo, Special Education Chairperson of Walt Whitman High School was introduced. He, too, shared his enthusiasm for the Ambassador Program and also credited the high school’s staff’s collaborative efforts with making the program successful. He also thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Bennardo and Mrs. Harris for their support. Mr. Lombardo stated that Ms. Corrine McLaughlin, special education teacher, Ms. Katherine Carmichael, behavioral specialist, and Ms. Angela Cucciniello, special education teacher, currently on a leave of absence, were the advisors of the Ambassador Program, at which point Ms. McLaughlin received a resounding applause from the audience. Mr. Lombardo shared that the students do not have to look far for a role model, as Ms. McLaughlin was that and more. At this point, Mr. Lombardo and Principal Murphy announced the Ambassadors Program Executive Board members, the current ambassadors, as well as the current LSVP students. Each student received a Certification of Appreciation, which they delighted in receiving. Dr. Bennardo asked for group photographs, and then invited students and family members to partake of the celebratory cake before moving onto the business portion of the meeting.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

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

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

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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 May 20, 2016.

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Schedule of Bills	General Fund	Warrant 119	\$11,667.67
(Warrants):	“ “	120	\$1,839,626.52
	“ “	121	\$68,972.85
	School Lunch	42	\$10,145.92
	Special Aid (F)	49	\$31,397.21
	“ “	50	\$548.35
	Scholarship (TE)	3	\$1,244.00

Vote on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants): Mr. Ciappetta asked for any additional comments or questions on the above items, and then called for a vote on the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Rescinding of Bid Award: Gra-Der Contracting: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, Whereas, the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District solicited bids for the Miscellaneous Asphalt and Concrete Repairs Contract (hereinafter referred to as the “Bid”);
Whereas the Board of Education awarded the Bid to Gra-Der Contracting at its Board meeting held on April 19, 2016, and;
Whereas the Board of Education has determined that the best interests of the School District are not promoted by award of the Bid at this time;
Now Therefore, Be it Resolved, the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby rescinds its award of the contract to Gra-Der Contracting.
Motion carried unanimously.

Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the parent request for her two children to remain in the District to the conclusion of the 2015/2016 school year, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1622.
Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education Meeting Date Revisions: Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the change in the November Board dates from November 2, 2016, to November 9, 2016; and November 16, 2016, to November 30, 2016, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1623-1626.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo explained that when the 2016/2017 Board of Education meeting dates were approved by the Board, the SCMEA Administrators Dinner was not on the calendar. The dinner is scheduled for November 2, 2016, thus necessitating the change in the November meeting dates.

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Contract Extensions: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the following Contract Extension:
Schedule No. 17-68 Athletic/Field Trips
Motion carried unanimously.

Donation of Two Sound-Proof Wanger Music Practice Booths: 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 donation from St. Francis Prep High School of two Sound-Proof Wanger Music Practice Booths, valued at \$3,000 to \$5,000 each, to be utilized by the District's Music program.
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo thanked the principal of St. Francis Prep High School, Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, with this donation. The booths will be extremely helpful in our program. Mrs. Brieff shared her enthusiasm for the donation and commented that it was amazing.

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 March 22, 29, April 7, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20, May 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 17, April 7, 15, 21, May 2, 3, 9, 17, 19, 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. 1627-1652.
Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. 1653-1660, and authorizes implementation thereof:
Schedule 6: Summer School Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)
Schedule 16: Terminations (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. Submission of Hall of Fame Inductees for Homecoming, September 24, 2016, from Mrs. Harris
2. SCOPE Save-the-Date; Annual Dinner Meeting, August 11, 2016

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3. Flyer re SHTA Retirement Party, June 7th, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Crest Hollow Country Club
4. NSSBA Newly Elected School Board Members Dinner, June 2, 6:30 p.m., The Woodlands, Woodbury
5. SHTA Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, May 23, 2016
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Suffolk County Sportsmanship Award Recipients
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Poetry for Hart Participants
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Brookhaven STEM Prep Summer Institute Participants
9. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Ellysandra Monegro re success in the National Italian Exam
10. The Long-Islander (2)
11. The Weekly Newsletter, May 25, 2016

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mrs. Brieff shared that she and other Board members recently attended the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association's annual dinner where Regents Roger Tilles was the keynote speaker. Mr. Tilles addressed Common Core, and spoke of assessments, flexible graduation requirements, Regents exams, ELL and Special Education. Mr. Nitkewicz shared that he asked Mr. Tilles about Special Education diplomas, and was disappointed with the explanation Mr. Tilles provided. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that many special education students struggle with the Regents examinations. Mrs. Brieff added that it was unclear as to what they were going to do. Mr. Ciappetta added that Mr. Tilles will also be the keynote speaker, as well as NYS Commissioner Mary Ellen Elia, at the SCOPE Annual Dinner meeting on August 11, 2016. A brief discussion ensued regarding this opportunity to hear Mr. Tilles and Commissioner Elia; most Board members expressed interest in attending the event.

Mr. Ciappetta also reported that Mr. Charlie McTiernan, Director of the District's School Lunch Program, will retire as of August 31st. He hoped that Mr. McTiernan will enjoy his retirement.

Dr. Bennardo shared that on Tuesday, June 7, the District will host a Realtor's Brunch whereby anywhere from 75 to 100 licensed real estate agents were invited. Information pertaining to the District will be highlighted; it is an excellent opportunity for the realtors to secure a first-hand glimpse of all the great things happening in the District.

Additionally, on the same day at 8:30 a.m., there will be a Military Recognition Breakfast for our seniors going into the armed forces after graduation from Walt Whitman High School. This breakfast will provide an opportunity to show our appreciation for their upcoming service to our Nation.

Lastly, Mr. Ciappetta thanked the community for supporting the budget.

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Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:32 p.m.



Nicholas Ciappetta, J.D., Vice President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1622 through 1660.