

August 17, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, in the Board Room, #110, 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
Deputy Superintendent
Asst. Supt. for Business & District Operations
Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Curriculum
Interim Personnel Administrator
District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo
Ms. Harris
Dr. Centamore
Dr. Bloom
Dr. Koenig
Mrs. McLean

Absent: **Mr. Kaden**

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

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta opened the Business Meeting at 7:40 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Academic
Performance
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo began the presentation by stating that this was a preliminary look at the academic performance from the 2015/16 school year in anticipation of setting goals for the 2016/17 school year. Dr. Bennardo shared that the Regents results were of tremendous value—they are not normed, and nearly all students take the five main examinations.

Principal Murphy added that Regents results from the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years were compared; there were many gains and improvements noted. Addressing the decline with the Physics Regents, Principal Murphy stated that it was one of the more difficult examinations across the State in the last several years. The Chemistry results were also a concern, dropping from 75% passing to 70% passing in 2015/16. Dr. Bennardo added that having students achieve mastery with the higher level sciences was a

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concern; he stressed that capable students needed to be encouraged and pushed ahead.

Dr. Bloom reviewed the “Highlights from our Bilingual/ENL Regents Results” slide that demonstrated the positive results from the various levels of our ELL population. Dr. Bennardo emphasized that it was not a secret that the District had more ESL and ELL students; he further added that it was the goal to have this population achieve. Dr. Bennardo also reported that with the Regents examinations, comparisons can be made to ourselves and other districts, especially those neighboring “district-friends.” South Huntington was just about at the mean in these areas now; he added that we need to push a bit more.

Principal Murphy addressed the Integrated Algebra/Common Core Algebra slide, as well as the Geometry slides, and noted that where two percentages were displayed, the first was for the Integrated Algebra, and the second for the Common Core Algebra. Starting with the 2015/16 school year, only the Common Core Algebra was administered. Principal Murphy continued and commented on each of the various slides for English/Common Core English, US History, Global Studies, Earth Science and Living Environment.

Dr. Bennardo stated that Science was an area that required improvement. He further stated that our overall numbers were not progressing as much as they were in other subjects. He also noted that students need only one Science to graduate. Principal Murphy emphasized that the goal was to have our students college and career ready.

Dr. Bennardo reviewed the slide, “A Quick Snapshot of Sub-Group Progress – A Four-Year Retrospective of English & Global Studies Regents Passing.” Using the English and Global Studies Regents, Dr. Bennardo broke down the student population as follows: All, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, Black and Hispanic. Gains were made in each sub-group on each of the two Regents examinations. However, Dr. Bennardo added that the gains were not as significant in the Math and Sciences, and that needed to be fixed. He stated that when students demonstrated capability, these same students should be encouraged to pursue higher level subjects.

Principal Murphy reviewed the various strategies that will be employed at the high school; of special interest was the creation of the 1.5 period classes within the English and Social Studies curriculum designed to focus on Literacy skills in preparation for the 10th and 11th grade Regents exams. Additionally, the common prep and planning times within all core curriculum areas provided opportunities for additional collaboration. Principal Murphy also expressed that the learning labs will be available during lunch periods for students as well. Principal Murphy also provided the tactic he employed with “5/5 visits” whereby department chairs must see and speak with five of their teachers for at least five minutes daily. This brief “chat” provided the opportunity for teachers to receive beneficial feedback regarding instruction.

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Dr. Bennardo addressed the Grades 3-8 testing and the opt-out numbers in the District and across the State. With such high opt-out rates, the assessments provided little value.

The ELA opt-out numbers ranged as follows:

Grade 3 33%
 Grade 4 55%
 Grade 5 43%
 Grade 6/7 51%
 Grade 8 60%

The Math opt-out numbers ranged as follows:

Grade 3 35%
 Grade 4/5 46%
 Grade 6 51%
 Grade 7 53%
 Grade 8 75%

Dr. Bloom provided information as to who did/did not take the 2016 assessments. He spoke of the 851 students who had taken the ELA assessment; of that number, 441 were designated poverty, 145 were ESL/FLEP, and 81 were special education students, for a total of 667 students. There were 30 students who had opted out after taking a portion of the test, resulting in an automatic score of Level 1.

With the Math assessments, 925 students took the tests. Of that number, 484 were designated poverty, 191 were ESL/FLEP, and 100 were special education students, for a total of 775 students. The presentation concluded with a review of the ELA and Math percentage changes for each grade level, as well as the strategies to be employed during the forthcoming 2016/17 school year.

Mrs. Carey stated that she was “one of those” parents who “encouraged” her daughters to take the assessments. She appreciated and applauded the administration and teachers for working together for our students, and thanked Dr. Bennardo, Dr. Bloom, Principal Murphy and Mr. Murphy for putting together such a comprehensive presentation. She stated they did a great job.

**Adoption of
 Agenda:**

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

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

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:

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Minutes: Minutes of Board meeting held on June 15, 2016, and June 25, 2016.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	<u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>	
	General (A)	Schedule 11 \$578,316.78
	“ “	Schedule V011 (\$165.00)
	School Lunch	Schedule 3 \$541.32
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 3 \$13,563.24
	<u>Approved Board Packet of August 5, 2016</u>	
	General (A)	Schedule 7 \$2,000.00
	“ “	Schedule 8 \$198,416.88
	“ “	Schedule 9 \$100,751.33
	“ “	Schedule 10 \$11,666.67
	“ “	Schedule V009 (\$63.58)
	School Lunch	Schedule 2 \$1,280.13
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 2 \$45,789.08
	<u>Approved Board Packet of July 29, 2016</u>	
	General (A)	Schedule 5 \$11,666.67
	“ “	Schedule 6 \$187,655.02
	School Lunch	Schedule 1 \$243.69
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 1 \$7,284.55
	<u>Approved Board Packet of July 22, 2016</u>	
	General (A)	Schedule 138 \$518,545.67
	“ “	Schedule 4 \$2,122,919.41
	School Lunch	Schedule 52 \$684.60
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 60 \$132,687.68
	<u>Approved Board Packet of July 15, 2016</u>	
	General (A)	Schedule 137 \$96,763.38
	“ “	Schedule 2 \$400.00
	“ “	Schedule 3 \$143,606.31
	School Lunch	Schedule 51 \$265.75
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 59 \$62,027.62
	<u>Approved Board Packet of July 8, 2016</u>	
	General (A)	Schedule 134 \$888,401.11
	“ “	Schedule 135 \$3,667.13
	“ “	Schedule 136 \$822,719.34
	“ “	Schedule 1 \$2,366,893.13
	“ “	Schedule V056 (\$205.93)
	School Lunch	Schedule 50 \$52,034.36
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 57 \$3,700.00
	“ “	Schedule 58 \$7,701.46
	“ “	Schedule V055 (\$875.00)
	Scholarship (TE)	Schedule 11 \$500.00

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**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.

**Donation from
SHEF for 21st
Century
Classroom:**

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 \$30,000 donation from the South Huntington Educational Foundation to be utilized for moveable classroom furniture for the 21st Century Classroom (also known as the Google Room).

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta expressed his appreciation for the SHEF organization and their benevolence and goodwill in assisting the District with this endeavor.

**Adoption of the
Stimson Middle
School Local
Assistance 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 2016/17 Local Assistance Plan for Stimson Middle School, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 318-324.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo stated that the Local Assistance Plan is required due to the poor academic performance of the sub-group ENL in Mathematics. The plan is required by the NYSED and identifies instructional practices to be employed to improve the academic performance of this identified sub-group.

**Approval of
Amendment to
Board Policy
§7130, Entitlement
to Attend – Age
and Residency:**

All appropriate groups have had the opportunity to provide input and, as such, the policy is now being submitted to the Board of Education for final approval. After discussion, the Board of Education took the following action:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that Policy 7130, Entitlement to Attend-Age and Residency, be amended to reflect language regarding requests to remain in South Huntington Schools as submitted.

Motion carried with Mr. Nitkewicz opposed.

Dr. Bennardo explained that there were concerns regarding requests to remain in South Huntington Schools this past school year. A fiduciary, as well as a humanistic, approach was required. Discussion ensued regarding families moving, and parents not notifying the district accordingly in a proper timeline, yet having an expectation that their children will be approved to remain. Dr. Bennardo shared that the policy amendment provides guidelines for parents, especially relative to notification being made prior to leaving the district. Mr. Nitkewicz articulated his position in not having the amendment approved.

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Participation in the National School Lunch Program/Adoption of the Eligibility Guidelines for the 2016/17 School Year:

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 continued participation in the National School Lunch Program for the 2016/17 school year, as well as the Eligibility Guidelines and the Policy Statement for the Free & Reduced Meal Program for the 2016/17 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPR Resolution for the 2015/16 School Year:

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 following resolution:

WHEREAS, the District had an approved Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) Plan in place, effective for the 2015/2016 school year;

WHEREAS, the State Education Department requires that the District submit an Implementation Certification form by August 26, 2016, regarding the status of its APPR Plan for the 2015/2016 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to execute the necessary certification forms required by the State Education Department for the District's 2015/2016 APPR Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to submit this form to the State Education Department, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 325-326. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo stated that the resolution is required and attests to the fact that the District had an APPR plan in place for the 2015/2016 school year.

Approval of Music Consultant:

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 and appoints Mr. Allan Deitz to the position of Music Consultant for the period of July 7, 2016, through June 30, 2017, to be paid a total of \$24,999 during the term of this agreement, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 327-330.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Accrued Liability and Budget Transfer:

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 creation of an accrued liability account, as well as the budget transfer of \$316,000 to this account for anticipated retroactive health reimbursement payments, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 331.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo explained that the establishment of an accrued liability account was at the direction of Ms. Van Duyne of R. S. Abrams. Due to the recent NYSHIP Court decision regarding health reimbursement payments, there are a few bargaining units that require such payments. Dr. Bennardo further

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stated that the Teacher Association's contractual language covered health reimbursement, therefore, this particular bargaining unit, the largest in the District, would not be involved in the pay-out process.

**Approval of
Interim Personnel
Administrator:**

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 and appoints Mr. Frank J. Fallon to the position of Interim Personnel Administrator commencing on August 23, 2016, through a date to be determined, with terms and conditions as set forth in the agreement between the District and Mr. Frank J. Fallon, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 332-333.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo explained that Dr. Howard Koenig, who began with the District on July 1, 2016, as our Interim Personnel Administrator, was recently offered the Superintendent position in Central Islip, where he had served in that capacity for many years. Dr. Bennardo shared that this was an excellent opportunity for him and his family. He also stated that the District was fortunate to secure the services of Mr. Frank Fallon to the position of Interim Personnel Administrator. Mr. Fallon comes to South Huntington on August 23, 2016, with a wealth of experience that will surely benefit the District.

**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 March 16, April 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, May 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 31, June 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 27, 28, 30, July 7, 11, 12, 20, 25, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated May 13, 17, 19, June 6, 9, 13, 20, 28, July 6, 12, 20, August 2, 3, 2016, and 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. 334-393.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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. 394-417, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 4: Coordinator/Department Chairperson Assignments

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 6: Summer School Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 8: Re-Employment to Positions (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

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- Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)
 Schedule 12: Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave
 Schedule 13: Salary Change (Instructional)
 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.

Information and Reports:

Information and Reports

1. Welcome Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Staff Members with Invite for Superintendent's Conference Day BBQ at Walt Whitman H.S.
2. Weekly Newsletter, August 9, 2016
3. Opening Day Letter from Cabinet Members to all Parents/Guardians re Food Service Program, Transportation and Emergency School Closings
4. Letter from Principal Smith to Parents/Guardians re Student Schedule and Pertinent Information re Start of the 2016/2017 School Year

Information Sent to Board Week Ending August 5, 2016

1. Ingerman Smith APPR Update, August 2, 2016
2. Letter to Parents/Guardians from Principal Toto re beginning of school year information
3. Letter to Dr. Bennardo from The American Legion re American Legion Boys and Girls State Program
4. Board & Administrator, August 2016

Information Sent to Board Week Ending July 29, 2016

1. Facilities Committee Minutes of July 14, 2016
2. Letter from Joseph Centamore, Accrued Liability
3. Letter from Ingerman Smith, Further Update on NYSHIP Policy Memo 122r3
4. Newsletter, July 26, 2016

Information Sent to Board Week Ending July 22, 2016

1. Letter from Principal Murphy to Whitman Seniors re Schedule of Lifetouch Photographers
2. SCOPE Forum, Spring 2016
3. Spotlight, Summer 2016

Information Sent to Board Week Ending July 15, 2016

1. Congratulatory letter from Dr. Bennardo to all 2016 graduates of Walt Whitman High School
2. Thank you letter from Dr. Bennardo to Countrywood students who participated in the Pinocchio production
3. Welcome letter from Principal Murphy to Walt Whitman High School Freshman
4. Board & Administrator, July 2016

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Information Sent to Board Week Ending July 8, 2016

1. Facilities Committee Agenda for July 14th Meeting
2. School Grade Enrollment Report for the Second Attendance Period June 1-June 23, 2016
3. School Grade Enrollment Report for the Second Attendance Period May 2-May 31, 2016
4. Parent Guardian Letter from Principal Murphy re Outstanding Dollar Balances
5. Parent Guardian Information from Principal Smith re Health Appraisal and Interval Health History Forms
6. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Minds in Motion Recipients
7. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to MVP Girls Badminton Award Recipients
8. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Stimson Scholar Athlete Award Recipients
9. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to All-County, All-Division Designation Recipients
10. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Unified Basketball Team Members
11. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Challenger Basketball Team and the Special Olympic Team Members
12. Letter from Dr. Bennardo to Special Olympics Team Members

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mrs. Brieff reported on the SCOPE dinner she attended at the St. John's Oakdale campus on August 11th. The keynote speakers were New York State Commissioner of Education Mary Ellen Elia and New York State Board of Regents Dr. Roger Tilles. Mrs. Brieff shared that the Commissioner admitted that much damage was done with the Common Core roll-out and that changes were necessary. The Commissioner stated that Long Island was dubbed the "Epi-Center of Opt-Outs," and spoke of the stress factor with the assessments. The Commissioner admitted that the stress connected with the assessments needs to be removed. Additionally, the Commissioner advocated corresponding with representatives from the federal level of government to assist with more local control of this testing issue, as well as not holding districts accountable for opt-out rates. The Commissioner also spoke of the wave of unaccompanied minors traveling to New York.

Roger Tilles spoke of several districts losing their Music and Arts programs and the related ramifications.


Mr. Nitkewicz wished to thank those members of the Board who supported the Autism Speaks event that took place last month. He especially thanked Mr. Ciappetta for his aggressive stance with the auction. Mr. Nitkewicz proudly shared that this organization has raised \$80,000 for our local communities on Long Island, and has been instrumental in providing Horseability services and iPads to autistic children. Mr. Nitkewicz communicated that he was appointed vice president of Autism Speaks; he again articulated his most sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all those that support this important cause.

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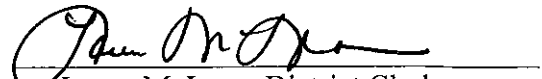
Voice of the Residents: Visitors were invited to participate.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., Vice President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 318 through 417.