

November 30, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, in the Cafeteria of the Maplewood Intermediate School, 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

Asst. Supt. for Business & District Operations

Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Curriculum

Interim Personnel Administrator

District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo

Dr. Centamore

Dr. Bloom

Dr. Koenig

Mrs. McLean

**Absent:**      Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Harris

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

**Executive Session:**      Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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 Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Huntington Manor  
Fire Department  
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo shared with the audience that the District enjoys a healthy relationship with the Huntington Manor Fire Department. In addition to protecting the community from fire hazards, the Fire Department spends considerable time participating in community activities that enhance our South Huntington learning family. Dr. Bennardo proudly introduced Chief McQuade, who stepped to the podium. Dr. Bennardo presented Chief McQuade with a two-foot by two-foot beautifully framed photograph of a firefighting squad in full gear poised in front of the Walt Whitman High School's Homecoming Bonfire. The photograph captured the brilliant colors of the booming bonfire, as well as the warm, smiling expressions on each firefighter's face. Chief McQuade provided his gratitude for such a unique expression of appreciation and thanked the Board of Education for such a heartfelt gesture.

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**All-State Swimmer  
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo introduced Dr. Jim Wright, who announced Emily Fung's achievement of All-State Swimmer in the backstroke. Dr. Wright continued and stated that the program had an outstanding fall season, and he thanked Coach Shepard for his efforts in coaching Emily and the team. Dr. Wright shared the intense dedication Emily has to the sport and the fact that she was only a junior receiving such high distinction. Dr. Wright presented Emily with a Certificate of Achievement.

**Wildcat Marching  
Band New York  
State  
Championship Title  
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo proudly announced that the Wildcat Marching Band had the exceptional distinction of back-to-back New York State Championship Titles—last year and this current year. Dr. Bennardo introduced Principal Murphy and Coach Caitlin Coumatos to present each marching band member with a Certificate of Achievement, as well as a Proclamation from the Board of Education commemorating this honor.

**Virtual Enterprise  
Presentation:**

Dr. Matthew Murphy thanked the Board of Education and Cabinet for the opportunity to present the Virtual Enterprise course currently taught at the high school. Dr. Murphy shared that the students created a virtual company—OnTheGo Technologies---and run it from the ground up. The company had a CEO, and Human Resources, Marketing, Accounting, IT and Administration officers. Chris Adams, a student and Administration Officer of OnTheGo Technologies, had presented at a recent virtual enterprise conference and competed against 80 other finalists, coming in third place.

Mr. Murphy introduced Ms. Sandra Stueber, the business teacher for the Virtual Enterprise course, who thanked the Board and shared her enthusiasm for the course and the students she worked with. Ms. Stueber communicated that the Human Resources Manual was written by the students (a copy was provided to each Board and Cabinet member). She commented that these students now possess an understanding of corporate human resources, and thus have an edge over other students, as well as the opportunity to learn through creating a business. Ms. Stueber stated that what made the course so successful was the support that the students provided to each other. Additionally, Ms. Stueber spoke of Angel Investors, whereby Board members can provide their intent to virtually invest in OnTheGo Technologies, and additional information pertaining to this concept will be shared with the Board at a later time. Ms. Stueber also presented Chris Adams with a plaque for his success with the competition in which he secured third place in front of an audience of five-thousand. Chris shared with the Board the content of his sales pitch on cell-phone battery life that he had provided at the virtual conference.

**Voice of the  
Resident:**

Mr. Kaden suggested that the Voice of the Resident be addressed at this point of the meeting so that the children in the audience could leave after they have had the opportunity to speak and not have to stay until the end of the meeting. There was complete consensus with Mr. Kaden's offer.

Students from each school came forward to address the Board of Education with regard to the request to have the two major Muslim holidays—Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha—placed on the school calendar as official holidays with

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schools closed. The students spoke of the difficulties of being in school on their high holidays. Despite religious observances being an approved reason for absence from school, the students articulated distress of having to miss important instruction, an exam, or a field trip, and, therefore, many times went to school during their high holidays. Each student asked the Board to consider their request. Residents also spoke in support of the Eid holiday proposal. Mrs. Zakia Laraki orchestrated the effort to support school closure for the Muslim holidays, and addressed the Board after the students spoke. Mrs. Laraki thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak, and outlined what was provided in the packet that each Board and Cabinet member received. The contents were:

- The initial petition presented on Facebook and other electronic media in an effort to gain and gauge support of the community;
- The report and study that were conducted and presented by Hesham El-Meligy and Engr. Khalid Shaukat from the Coalition of Muslim School Holidays to the New York City Public School System.

Mrs. Laraki spoke to the significance of each holiday and how Muslim families worshiped on these days. She, too, shared her feeling that it was a discredit to call in absences for her children on these holy days, and how unfavorable it was for Muslim students to miss lessons, classroom work, specials and sporting events. Mrs. Laraki communicated that the Eid holidays were recently added to the New York City school calendar, as well as the Syosset School District, and humbly asked for our Board's consideration of same.

Mr. Kaden thanked Mrs. Laraki and the students for their extremely thorough and well-articulated presentation. He respectfully shared that adding two additional holidays to the school calendar required the make-up of the days elsewhere. Mr. Kaden spoke of the 1999 February recess break removal from the calendar, and the negative uproar from the community insisting for its return the following year. Additionally, Mr. Kaden shared with the Muslim community members that the District follows the BOCES calendar for specific reasons, as the District has students who attend BOCES schools, thus the need for consistency between the two calendars. Mr. Kaden addressed the fact that the Muslim holidays are positioned differently on the calendar each year, and the scheduling difficulties with that fact must be heavily considered. In the 2017/18 school year, the holiday falls on June 15<sup>th</sup>, when Regents examinations will be administered. The movement of the holidays certainly makes it problematic to consider. Mr. Kaden concluded his comments and thanked Mrs. Laraki and speakers for the presentation.

Mr. Nitkewicz provided his thoughts regarding the information that was provided. He communicated that our South Huntington community was diverse, and that diversity was richly celebrated. Mr. Nitkewicz shared that he has bragged many times that "South Huntington does diversity really well." He also commented that he had researched this topic prior to the meeting, and the Board would need to discuss the subject further amongst themselves. He

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would like to know how many Muslim students were impacted before providing a definitive response. In closing, Mr. Nitkewicz articulated his appreciation for such a well-presented proposal.

Mr. Ciappetta remarked that the students who spoke were tremendous and he was very impressed with their speeches. He, too, valued the diversity within the District. Mr. Ciappetta communicated that he works in New York City, and recalled when the New York City Board of Education closed for the Muslim holidays, it did have a negative impact with childcare with his co-workers. In addition, if consideration were to be provided for Muslim holidays, would consideration also be provided to other religions for their holiday celebrations? Mr. Ciappetta shared the proposal will be carefully reviewed, and again thanked Mrs. Laraki for presenting the proposal.

Mr. Kaden added that religious observance was an excusable absence; the State permits it.

Mrs. Brieff echoed what had been articulated by her fellow trustees. She provided her respect and appreciation for the well-presented proposal and the eloquent manner in which information was shared.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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 October 19, 2016

**Schedule of  
Investment  
Accounts:**

Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 810.

**Treasurer's  
Report:**

Treasurer's Report, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 811.

**Monthly Trial  
Balance and Bank  
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 812-831.

**Monthly Collateral  
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 832.

**Revenue Status  
Report, General  
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 833.

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<b>Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 834.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 835.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 836.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 837-844.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 845.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 846-847.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 848.
<b>Budgetary Transfer Report:</b>	Budgetary Transfer Report, for September 2016, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 849.
<b>Tax Levy Schedule:</b>	Tax Levy Schedule, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 850.
<b>Library Tax Levy:</b>	Library Tax Levy, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 850.
<b>Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:</b>	Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, September 2016, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 851-857.

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<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	<u>Approved Board Packet November 18, 2016</u>		
	General (A)	Schedule 44	\$569,117.56
		45	\$194,992.32
		V039	(\$226.89)
		V041	(\$456.22)
		V045	(14.66)
	School Lunch (C)	Schedule 19	\$31,322.97
Special Aid (F)	Schedule 17	\$97,250.28	

Approved Board Packet November 10, 2016

General (A)	Schedule 41	\$199,717.12
Dental (A)	Schedule 42	\$11,666.67
Special Aid (F)	Schedule 18	\$20,029.96
School Lunch (C)	Schedule 16	\$33,922.88

**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 Hawkins, Delafield & Wood re \$17,000,000 Tax Anticipation Note for 2016/2017 Delivered on October 27, 2016
2. Memorandum from Ingerman Smith re Child Protective Services Access Under New NYS Regulations

**Donation from Huntington Honda:** 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 \$2,000 donation from Huntington Honda to be used for the Walt Whitman East Coast Dance Competition scheduled for January 21, 2017.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo credited Mr. Lee Nober for his successful partnering efforts with Huntington Honda for the forthcoming dance competition.

**Donation from Mathnasium:** 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 \$2,000 donation from Mathnasium to be used for Chromebook name tags for all Stimson Middle School students.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo again credited Mr. Lee Nober for this business partnership, which was one of our most active contributors. Mr. Nober thanked Dr. Bennardo, and stated that it was Dr. Bloom who thought of the name tag concept. He shared that Mathnasium had also provided funding for the Silas Wood Chromebook name tags. Mr. Nober expressed his enthusiasm for this technology-based initiative. Mrs. Brieff provided heartfelt thanks to Mr. Nober for all he did for the District.

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**Spirit of  
Huntington  
Amendment  
Agreement:**

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 amendment to the agreement between the District and the Spirit of Huntington.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo commented that the amendment solidified various provisions with the creative arts program that Spirit of Huntington operates. Mr. Nitkewicz spoke to the fine work that was done with this specific program, and how successful it was for students on the spectrum; it was a great place for students to go on Saturday mornings. As a parent and Board trustee, Mr. Nitkewicz stated he was very proud of their contributions to the community.

**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 September 29, October 6, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26, 28, November 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 18, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated September 14, October 13, 24, 26, 31, November 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 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. 858-882.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the  
Carol C.  
Kolakowski  
Scholarship:**

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 \$4,000 scholarship to be split evenly for two years of study for a student with the criteria so noted, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 883.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared that Ms. Kolakowski was a resident who wished to provide this scholarship as a one-time award. Mr. Kaden asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Ms. Kolakowski for her generosity and benevolence.

**Approval to  
Declare Equipment  
Obsolete:**

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 recommendation to declare various lacrosse and fencing equipment as obsolete; the lacrosse equipment to be donated to a charity in New Zealand, and the fencing equipment to be deleted from the District's inventory, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 884-887.

Motion carried unanimously.

**NYSSMA Winter  
Conference  
Estimated  
Reimbursement:**

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 expenditure of \$1,586 for Mr. Steven Altinel, Choral Director, who will be serving as a chaperone for the 2016 NYSSMA Annual Winter Conference scheduled for December 1 through December 4, 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

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**Approval of  
Impartial Hearing  
Officer:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the appointment of Mr. Steven Haken as Hearing Officer to preside over Case No. 501745, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 888.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Sick  
Bank for UPSEU  
Employee:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the creation of a sick bank for a food service employee in the UPSEU Food Service Workers bargaining unit.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation of Monies  
from Miles for  
Michael:**

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 of monies/products in the amount of \$16,500 from the South Huntington Educational Foundation/Miles for Michael to be used exclusively for the creation of a Sound Recording and Engineering Studio for Walt Whitman High School.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared his enthusiasm for this fantastic donation from the SHEF/Miles for Michael initiative that Mrs. Sheila Buhse had orchestrated in memory of her nephew, Michael Gallagher, who passed away in 2014. Mrs. Buhse commented that Mr. Vito Monti, English teacher at Walt Whitman, had provided a riveting presentation at the November SHEF meeting, and she immediately knew that the recording studio was the perfect avenue to channel the funds from her Miles for Michael run/walk event. She expressed her excitement regarding the recording studio and the impact it will have with so many students.

**Approval of Field  
Trip to Kutztown  
University:**

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 Varsity Cheerleading field trip to Kutztown University in Pennsylvania to compete in the Pocono Regional on Sunday, December 4, 2016.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
Attendance to the  
School Law  
Conference:**

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 attendance of Board trustees to the annual School Law Conference held on Friday, December 9, 2016, at Touro College, Central Islip.  
Motion carried unanimously.



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**Discussion on  
Honors and  
Advanced  
Placement  
Weighting:**

Dr. Bennardo shared what appears to be a counterintuitive weighting of Honors and Advanced Placement courses recently came to his attention. Dr. Bennardo explained the current formula to the Board as follows:

Honors Classes:

100% less the unweighted class grade x .4 + class grade = Final Grade

AP Classes:

100% less the unweighted class grade x .7 + class grade = Final Grade

The industry standard for honors and AP classes is between 1.07 and 1.5 for the final grade. For instance, an 86% in Honors English would be  $86 \times 1.08$  for a final grade of 92.88%. The issue is that it is counterintuitive in that the formula tends to reward lower grades with more points. For example, an 86% in Honors English would convert to 91.6%, an increase of 5.6 points. However, a 96% in Honors English converts to 97.6%, an increase of only 1.6 points. Dr. Bennardo reported that our students graduate with lower weighted averages than neighboring school districts. The solution to this issue was offered as follows:

Honors Classes:

An unweighted average x 1.085 = Final Grade

AP Classes:

An unweighted average x 1.11 – Final Grade

Examples:

An 80% in AP English converts to a 88.8%

A 90% in AP English converts to a 99.9%

Dr. Bennardo reported that the current formula had been used for quite some time, in fact, it was once thought to be Board Policy, which it was not. Dr. Bennardo stated that it was a complicated discussion, and even with a solution, the new system would need to be phased in. Mr. Kaden asked if it were possible for Infinite Campus to be converted to a spreadsheet? Dr. Bloom responded it could be completed in the Infinite Campus “sandbox.” Dr. Bennardo concluded the discussion and stated that a recommendation will be brought forth to the Board for approval shortly.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, 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. 889-894, and authorizes implementation thereof:

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)

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Schedule 19: Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)  
 Schedule 20: Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)  
 Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)  
 Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and Reports:**

Information and Reports

1. Letter to Varsity Girls Volleyball Team Members re Most Impressive Season from Dr. Bennardo
2. Flyer on Meredith O'Connor, Teen Pop Star and Anti-Bulling Speaker for Friday, December 9, 2016, at Walt Whitman High School's PAC, sponsored by Ten Tigers Kung-Fu Academy Personnel Postings

Information Sent to Board Week Ending November 18, 2016

1. Annual School Law Conference Flyer
2. Thank You Letter to Performers at the Huntington Township Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration from Dr. Bennardo
3. Letter to Jr. Parents re College Night from Ms. Lugovina
4. Memorandum from Principal Smith re Upcoming Stimson Events
5. Personnel Postings
6. Letter to Vanderbilt Museum Participants re Experiment from Dr. Bennardo
7. Letter of Congratulations to Cross Country Team Members from Dr. Bennardo
8. Letter of Congratulations to Men's Soccer Team Members from Dr. Bennardo
9. The Long-Islander (1)
10. SHTA Executive Board Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2016

Information Sent to Board Week Ending November 10, 2016

1. Facilities Committee Agenda for November 17, 2016
2. Enrollment Report, October 2016
3. Letter to WWHS October Students of the Month from Dr. Bennardo
4. Letter to Parents from Principal Smith re Parent Teacher Conferences
5. Letter to Parents from Principal Toto re Hour of Code
6. Letter to Parents from Principal Toto re Parent Teacher Conferences
7. Board & Administrator, November 2016
8. The Long-Islander (1)
9. Letter to Mr. Louis Kleet of Kleet Lumber from L. Nober re Outdoor Basketball Court at WWHS
10. Personnel Postings

**Committee Updates:**

Mr. Ciappetta reported on the Facilities Committee meeting from November 17<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there was an issue that was complicated, and one that does not have a direct recommendation from the Facilities Committee. Continuing, Mr. Ciappetta stated that the baseball field had been an ongoing issue, specifically with the infield, where they had major difficulties with dirt and grass. Mr. Ciappetta shared with the Board that there were four possible avenues that could be pursued, all of them expensive, and he provided the following explanation:

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1. Do nothing at this time; the year-to-year patch job, a band-aid more or less, basically maintaining what has been done in the past, would cost \$20,000/year;
2. Work with dirt, although we do not have a sprinkler that could assist with this. Cost: \$110,000 to \$120,000;
3. Work with clay. Cost: \$165,000 to \$175,000.
4. Turf the infield with a cost of \$265,000 to \$325,000.

Mr. Ciappetta shared that the turf field is quite a bit of money for only one high school team to utilize. The girls' softball team could use it, however, that would require the purchase of a moveable mound with a cost of \$50,000, increasing the turf cost to \$340,000 to \$360,000. Mr. Ciappetta solicited comments from Board members.

Mrs. Brieff stated that she had opposed the current turf football field for environmental reasons. Mr. Kaden asked if cork was explored rather than rubber. Mrs. Brieff agreed that she would feel more comfortable using a different material than rubber. She also commented that it was quite a bit of money and should be researched thoroughly.

Mr. Ciappetta reminded the Board that one million dollars had been put into the budget for facilities projects. Mr. Kaden communicated that the \$20,000/year approach seemed reasonable; ten years of our current maintenance would equate to \$200,000. Discussion ensued regarding the turf field; the turf football field has been successful and the concept of a turf baseball field used by outside teams could be explored. Questions arose as to what St. Anthony's did with their baseball field. Dr. Wright responded that they have a turf field with a permanent dirt mound. Farmingdale College has a clay mound. Mr. Ciappetta asked if the Board was interested in pursuing improvements with the baseball field. Mr. Kaden stated that the pros and cons must be examined closely. Mrs. DeGaetano commented that meeting with Mr. Saverio Belfiore of H2M was needed. Mr. Kaden would like to see a cost analysis spread over the next 15 years completed. Mrs. Brieff asked if alternative fills could be considered, such as cork or coconut husks. Discussion ensued regarding dirt vs. clay, and the maintenance thereof. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the next Facilities Committee meeting was in January, and the architect could be invited to a Board meeting. Again Mr. Kaden communicated that he wanted to see the cost of ownership for each proposal, not just the initial cost.

**Comments from  
Board Members  
and Staff:**

None provided.

**Voice of the  
Residents:**

Mrs. Laraki addressed the Board and thanked them for hearing the proposal earlier in the evening, and for allowing the students to speak at the beginning of the meeting so they could go home and be put to bed at a reasonable hour.

Mrs. Laraki communicated to the Board that she was aware that religious observances were allowable as excused absences, however, her proposal was

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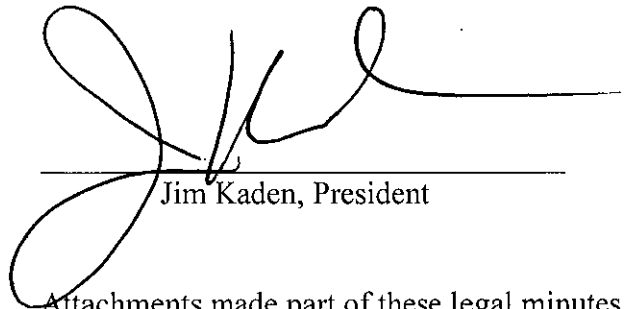
not about being excused. Additionally, in response to the earlier statement regarding Regents testing scheduled on a Muslim holiday, she claimed that the New York State Education Department cites that a bonafide provision could be made for not having exams administered when schools are closed. Mr. Kaden responded to Mrs. Laraki, in a respectful yet informative manner, that the State Education Department also makes a bonafide effort to pay for education.

Mrs. Laraki then shared her experience while growing up in Morocco where there was a diverse religious community with a mosque, synagogue and church all on the same street and her close relationships with neighbors of other faiths. She reiterated that the proposal was about the children. Mr. Kaden explained that if BOCES were to approve the proposal, she would have a much easier task. School cannot begin before Labor Day, as was suggested by Mrs. Laraki, as school aid was not provided before Labor Day. Mrs. Laraki challenged the concept of our District having 182 instructional days vs. the State's allowable 180 days. It was shared with Mrs. Laraki that this was a contractual matter.

**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 9:55 p.m.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Kaden, President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 809 through 897.