

January 11, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, in the Forum at the Stimson Middle School, 401 Oakwood 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
Asst. Supt. for Business & District Operations
Deputy Superintendent
Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Curriculum
Interim Personnel Administrator
District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo
Dr. Centamore
Ms. Harris
Dr. Bloom
Mr. Fallon
Mrs. McLean

*Arrived at 7:55 p.m.

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

Executive Session: Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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 Mr. Nitkewicz, 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.

Stimson Middle School Dance Team Presentation: Coached by Mrs. Nicole Willis, the Stimson Middle School Dance Team performed splendidly to a hip-hop melody of songs. The eleven girls received a standing ovation at the conclusion of their performance, and Dr. Bennardo thanked the team for sharing their talent with the Board and audience members.

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

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Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, 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 November 30, 2016.
Schedule of Investment Accounts:	Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 964-965.
Treasurer's Report:	Treasurer's Report, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 966-967.
Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 968-1007.
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1008-1009.
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1010-1011.
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1012-1013.
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1014-1015.
Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1016-1017.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1018-1033.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1034-1035.

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Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1036-1039.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1040-1041.

Budgetary Transfer Report:

Budgetary Transfer Report, for October/November, 2017, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1042-1043.

Tax Levy Schedule:

Tax Levy Schedule, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1044-1045.

Library Tax Levy:

Library Tax Levy, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1044-1045.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, October/November, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1046-1061.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):Schedule of Bills (Warrants):Approved – Board Packet of December 30, 2016

General (A)	Warrant 56	\$337,164.04
	57	\$470,755.70
	V056	(\$173.60)
	V056	(\$1,357.00)
School Lunch (C)	Warrant 25	\$228.00
	26	\$34,649.51
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 23	\$36,946.84

Approved – Board Packet of December 23, 2016

General (A)	Warrant 43	\$2,154.39
	55	\$2,125,983.05
	V45	(\$225.00)
School Lunch (C)	Warrant 24	\$7,433.73
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 22	\$148,311.41
Capital Reserve (H)	Warrant 2	\$98,000.00

Approved – Board Packet of December 16, 2016

General (A)	Warrant 51	\$139,107.94
	52	\$11,666.67
	53	\$550,000.00
	54	\$421,218.78
School Lunch (C)	23	\$27,901.78
Special Aid (F)	21	\$25,355.25

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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.

Communications:

Memorandum from Michael Flynn, WS BOCES, re April 25, 2017, Administrative Budget Vote/Elections

**Discussion of
Muslim Holidays
on School
Calendar:**

Dr. Bennardo shared that concerned members of the community approached the Board of Education requesting consideration of placement of the Muslim high holy days—namely, Eid-al-Fitr and Eid-al-Adha—to the school district calendar. These community members spoke at the November 30th Board of Education meeting during the Voice of the Resident and provided the Board with a great deal of information supporting their request. It was shared that the Syosset School District had approved the request made by their Muslim community members to add these two holy days to their school calendar. Dr. Bennardo further stated that after the November 30th meeting, the Board asked that he secure information as to (1) how the New York State Education Department was handling the June 15th testing date, which occurs on one of the high holy days, (2) the direction that Western Suffolk BOCES was taking with respect to their school calendar development, and (3) the impact on past attendance on the Muslim holy days. Dr. Bennardo reported that the Syosset School District had only 181 days, whereas the South Huntington School District had 185 days. The additional four days was a reality that certainly needed to be addressed when considering this request. Additionally, Dr. Bennardo stated that Western Suffolk BOCES recently approved their 2017/18 calendar without the Muslim holidays. With regard to the NYSED's testing schedule, Dr. Bennardo stated that its release was typically around this time of year, however, sadly it has become apparent that the State does not wish to comment on this matter and would prefer that local school districts address it accordingly. Dr. Bennardo shared the attendance history of past Muslim high holy days, and the impact was not significant; in some years the holiday fell during the summer, or in the very beginning of the school year. Dr. Bennardo also reported that he had conducted a review of student attendance in recent years with respect to the Muslim holidays, and the District had a 94.75%, 94.66% and 94.4% attendance rate in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 respectively. School attendance was actually above these figures in the years that the Muslim holidays fell when classes were in session. Continuing, Dr. Bennardo stated that the BOCES calendar was paramount in driving our school calendar. The Muslim holidays are not sustainable in that the dates move from year to year. Dr. Bennardo also reported that to be fair, requests have been received to incorporate other holidays, such as Diwali, the Lunar New Year, and an additional Jewish holiday. If the Board were to approve the two Muslim holy days, consideration would be required for these other requests as well.

Mr. Kaden asked the Board for their comments. Mr. Nitkewicz recalled that with the original November 30th presentation, he did not believe it was a religious issue, but rather a demographic one. He further stated that in terms of scheduling, our District has a large number of days compared to other

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districts. Additionally, the District's current demographics dictates the scheduling of current holidays, and this was based upon the number of students who would be absent on those holidays. Mr. Nitkewicz articulated his empathy for those supporting this request, however, he simply could not support it based upon the demographics at this time.

Mrs. Brieff also shared her empathy for this situation. While understanding their request, she also understood the position of other religious community members wanting their holy days reflected on the calendar as well. She simply stated that it was not something that the Board could do right now. Mrs. Brieff added that it was important that teachers and staff members not schedule homework or tests on these holy days, so that students could have the opportunity to worship without the pressure of completing school work

Mr. Ciappetta added that he had the same thoughts as he did with the last discussion, which he felt was a very worthwhile and heartfelt presentation. He did not see a way in which these holidays could be added without considering the addition of other holidays previously mentioned, and, therefore, he could not support this request at this time.

Mr. Kaden expressed that he felt the same as he did at the November 30th Board meeting. He added that the recently approved BOCES calendar, without these days incorporated, made it extremely difficult for our District to accommodate this request.

Dr. Bennardo concluded the discussion and stated that staff would be advised to adjust testing and homework on the Muslim holy days.

**Donation for
Project Excel:**

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 \$1,000 donation from Astoria Bank to be used exclusively for Project Excel.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo expressed how blessed the District was to be the recipient of such benevolence. Additionally, Mrs. Harris shared that the District was grateful to Astoria Bank; furthermore, Mr. Perkins has been desperately trying to provide maroon blazers for the Project Excel students, and this donation will be used for that purpose.

**Resolution re
Hourly Rate of Pay
for Individuals
Who Assist with
Collating/Labeling
for District
Mailings:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, Whereas, the New York State minimum wage was \$9/hour through December 30, 2016; and

Whereas, the New York State minimum wage is \$10/hour effective December 31, 2016; \$11/hour effective December 31, 2017; \$12/hour effective December 31, 2018; \$13/hour effective December 31, 2019; \$14/hour effective December 31, 2020; and \$15/hour effective December 31, 2021; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves for those individuals called in to assist with collating and labeling of various district mailings, an hourly rate of pay of \$10/hour immediately; \$11/hour effective December 31, 2017; \$12/hour effective December 31, 2018; \$13/hour effective December 31, 2019; \$14/hour effective December 31, 2020; and \$15/hour effective December 31, 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Recommendations
for Placement by
CSE/CPSE:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by 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 November 14, 17, 21, 23, 29, 30, December 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29, 2016, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated October 26, November 28, December 5, 8, 12, 13, 15, 20, 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. 1062-1086.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Re-Certification of
Site-Based
Management
Biennial Review:**

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 the re-certification of the Site-Based Management Biennial Review dated June 16, 2016.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Field
Trip Request for
Varsity
Cheerleading
Team:**

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 the field trip for the Varsity Cheerleading team to travel to Orlando, Florida, for the National High School Cheerleading Championships, February 9-13, 2017.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of
Memorandum of
Agreement between
District and
Paraprofessional
Association:**

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 Memorandum of Agreement made between the District and the South Huntington Paraprofessional Association on January 11, 2017;

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. 1087-1090.

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo provided his appreciation for the Paraprofessional Unit. Mr. Nitkewicz also commented that his son was the beneficiary of the care of our wonderful paraprofessionals. To this day his son can recall who his paras were in each of the school buildings. He thanked the paraprofessionals for their great work.

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Approval of Budget Adoption/Regular Business Meeting Rescheduled to April 19, 2017:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the rescheduling of the Regular Business Meeting/Budget Adoption from April 25, 2017, to April 19, 2017, and a Special Board Meeting on April 25, 2017, for the sole purpose of the BOCES Budget Vote/Elections; both meetings taking place at 7:30 p.m. at the Administration Building, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1091-1094. Motion carried unanimously.

Donation from Mathnasium for East Coast Regional Dance Team Championship:

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 Mathnasium to be utilized for the East Coast Regional Dance Team Championship scheduled for January 21, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bennardo shared his appreciation for Mathnasium; it was apparent that Mathnasium cares deeply for our District, and this donation will be of great benefit to the dance teams.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. 1095-1103, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 8: Re-Employment to Positions (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

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

Schedule 16: Terminations (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. Invitation to the Project Excel Breakfast at Oheka Castle, Feb. 15, 2017
2. Letter to Students/Parents from Ms. Lugovina re Advanced Placement Information Night, January 19, 2017, 7 p.m., PAC
3. WWHS December Students of the Month Letters from Dr. Bennardo
4. Countrywood Chronicle – January 2017
5. NYSIR Legal Digest – Winter 2017
6. Personnel Posting
7. Board & Administrator – January 2017
8. The Long-Islander (2)

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Information Sent Week Ending December 23, 2016

1. Letters to Legislators from Mr. Flynn of Western Suffolk BOCES re Legislative Roundtable
2. Letter to R. Tedesco re Sportsmanship Award for Boys Soccer (Same letter also sent to A. Colapinto for JV Field Hockey and C. Russell for JV Football)
3. Letter to V. Kazandjiam for Girls Cross Country Scholar Athlete (Same Letter also sent to S. Novick for Girls Tennis; C. Scharpf for Field Hockey; R. Shepherd for Girls Swimming; J. Labate for Golf; M. Mocia for Girls Soccer; M. Patto for Boys Volleyball; R. Conroy for Boys Cross Country; S. Greco for Girls Volleyball; and A. Gonsel for Gymnastics)
4. Letter to Students from Dr. Bennardo re Special Athletic Awards Received
5. Letter to Students from Dr. Bennardo re Post-Season Athletic Awards
6. The Silas Scoop, January 2017
7. Personnel Postings

Information Sent Week Ending December 16, 2016

1. Letter to Parents from Ms. Lugovina re ASVAB
2. Letter to Parents from Ms. Lugovina re Junior Year Conferences
3. Letter to Parents from Ms. Lugovina re Developing 17/18 Academic Program
4. Letter to Parents from Ms. Lugovina re Notification of Services
5. Letter to Showstoppers from Dr. Bennardo re Performance at Carillon Nursing Home
6. Letter to Countrywood Singers from Dr. Bennardo re December 14th Musical Presentation
7. Personnel Posting
8. SHTA Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, December 12, 2016
9. The Long-Islander (3)

Committee Updates:

Mr. Nitkewicz addressed the recent Audit Committee meeting of January 5, 2017, whereby the August and September, 2016, claims reports were reviewed, as well as the internal audit reports.

Mr. Ciappetta addressed the recent Facilities Committee meeting of January 9, 2017, whereby the Stimson Outdoor Basketball Court and the WWHS Baseball Field were addressed at length. With regard to the Baseball Field, Mr. Ciappetta shared that the Committee wished to explore the least expensive option first, and expressed hope for the clay option.

Regarding the Stimson Outdoor Basketball Court, this was a potential litigation with the vendor used to complete this project. It was expressed that further discussion will take place with the vendor and hopefully a solution will be offered. If not, legal opinion will be pursued.

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**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta addressed Mr. Lee Nober in the audience and thanked him for his phenomenal work in securing donations and sponsorships for the District.

Additionally, Mr. Ciappetta wished to recognize Senior Epi Ramirez, a nominee for the United States Presidential Scholars Program, the Country's highest honor for high school students. Mr. Ciappetta shared that Epi is one of five nominees from Long Island, and one of twenty-five statewide. The Board and the audience members provided applause to this noteworthy news.

Dr. Bennardo shared that on Friday, January 13, 2017, Mr. Eddie Smith, Principal of Stimson Middle School, will receive recognition from the NAACP at the Suffolk County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Luncheon. Dr. Bennardo added that this was a well-deserved honor and thanked Mr. Smith for representing the South Huntington School District with such distinction.

Additionally, Dr. Bennardo announced that our own Mr. Nicholas Ciappetta will be honored by the TRI-CYA on March 30, 2017. Dr. Bennardo shared a comment he heard from a TRI-CYA staff member stating that although Mr. Ciappetta was a young man who doesn't have any children of his own, he has taken care of thousands of their children.

Dr. Bennardo stated that "advocacy season" had begun; Governor Cuomo finished up his "area" addresses. Dr. Bennardo further explained that on Saturday, January 21, 2017, members from the District were joining other districts at the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Sherwood Instructional Support Center to address the current strain on Long Island school districts. Dr. Bennardo stated that he will be sharing the "South Huntington School Story" on how our District was performing. Dr. Bennardo also mentioned that on February 15th, he was hoping to invite local legislators for a dinner, which would provide an opportunity to share our District's unique needs. Mr. Kaden articulated his concern for this year's budget process as it is an "off" year. He expressed the need to triple our advocacy efforts.

**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 964 through 1103.