

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on October 18, 2017, in the Cafeteria, of the Oakwood Primary Center, 264 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Huntington, New York.

**Present:        Board Members:**

President

Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta

Mrs. Carey

Mr. Bronson

Mrs. DeGaetano

Mr. Joyner

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

Dr. Harris

Dr. Bloom

Mr. Fallon

Mrs. McLean

**Recognition of our  
Board of  
Education:**

Mr. Ciappetta opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked everyone for coming to this evening's Board meeting, and introduced Music teacher, Mrs. Luella Pinelli. Mrs. Pinelli expressed her appreciation in working with the second-grade Chorus students, and then led the students in the National Anthem. The students' robust display of enthusiasm provided a priceless rendition of patriotism. The next song, "Peace," was sung to perfection, again with the same zeal, and each student also provided sign language with every verse. At the conclusion of the performance, the children received a standing ovation. Mrs. Kerrigan approached the podium, and welcomed everyone to the Board of Education recognition. The following Oakwood students tenderly read their letters of appreciation to Board members as follows:

Lena Joyner and Sophia Giardina presented to Sidney Joyner;  
Gabriel Cioffi and Brian Rankel presented to Linda LaCara;  
Owen Gerena and Madison Schombs presented to Andrew Bronson;  
Isabela Castro and Emerson Carbajal presented to Nicholas Ciappetta.

Mrs. Kenney approached the podium to introduce the Countrywood students, who affectionately read their letters of appreciation to Board members as follows:

Eli Burke presented to Edward Nitkewicz;  
Charlotte Brosnan presented to Laura Carey;  
Isabella Mulcahy presented to Michele DeGaetano.

Each board member received a hand-made pencil holder filled to the brim.

On behalf of the South Huntington Parent Teacher Association, Ms. Dana Cioffi presented each Board member with a gift certificate to Pomodorino's Restaurant; and on behalf of the Wildcat Booster Club, Ms. Christine Dixon presented each Board member with a seat cushion in recognition of the Board's support of the district athletes and athletic program.

Board President Nicholas Ciappetta thanked everyone for such a wonderful display of affection for the Board. He shared that serving the South Huntington School District was a labor of love, not just for himself, but for each and every Board member. Mr. Ciappetta then announced a brief break so the children could enjoy the celebratory cupcakes that were brought in for this occasion, to which the students quickly rose from their seats to enjoy the special treat with each other.

**Project Excel  
Summer Youth  
Employment:**

Dr. Bennardo stated that one of the cornerstone programs of the district was the Project Excel Program. He provided credit to the dedicated mentors and students and briefly provided a description of the various activities the students were involved with in the program. Dr. Bennardo then introduced Dr. Harris and Mr. Perkins, the coordinator of the Project Excel Program. Dr. Harris thanked Dr. Bennardo and the Board of Education for their continuous support for the program. Mr. Perkins reported to the audience that the Summer Youth Employment program provided tremendous opportunities for our students. Unique this year, continued Mr. Perkins, was that five of our students were employed by the district over the summer, and Suffolk County paid the additional 20 students who worked for the district. Each student had the opportunity to earn \$1,400 during the summer of 2017. Mr. Perkins stressed that in order to participate in the program, the students were required to pass all of their courses. Dr. Harris, Mr. Perkins, Mentor Geraldine Maurice, Board President Nicholas Ciappetta and Vice President Laura Carey presented each Project Excel Summer Youth Employment student with a Certificate of Achievement to commemorate their accomplishment.

Mr. Perkins then brought attention to Staff Sergeant Murphy, a parent in the audience who provided enormous support to our Project Excel students and the program. Mr. Perkins shared that Staff Sergeant Murphy was being deployed, and he will be sorely missed by everyone involved with the program. Mr. Perkins asked Staff Sergeant Murphy to approach the podium, at which time, in recognition and appreciation for all Staff Sergeant Murphy provided to the Project Excel Program, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to him. Staff Sergeant Murphy thanked the Board, the Superintendent, Mr. Perkins and Dr. Harris for the recognition.

**English Academic  
Presentation:**

Dr. Bennardo explained to the audience that an initiative of the Board of Education for the current school year was for specific academic presentations at Board meetings. Dr. Bennardo added that this evening was the first of these, the English Academic Presentation, by Supervisor of Curricula Services April Poprilo, Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center Principal Stephen Toto, Stimson Middle School Principal Edwin Smith, Walt Whitman High School Principal John Murphy, English Department Chairperson for Grades 6-12 Joann Hili-

**English Academic  
Presentation  
Continued:**

Carbone, and Supervisor of School Guidance K-12 Jon Macaluso.

Ms. Poprilo reviewed the English Language Arts vision statements for Grades K-5 and Grades 6-12, whereby the latter states: “Students will focus on literacy skills across all content areas, providing them with access to an academically rich curriculum that supports growth at both the middle and high school levels.” Ms. Poprilo then reviewed the K-5 ELA initiatives to close the achievement gap for the 2016/17 school year, and then addressed the current school year’s initiatives.

Principal Smith introduced the presentation of program highlights for Grades 6-8, with emphasis on literacy support classes where enrichment classes provided support for struggling ELA students with dual-certified teachers (English and Reading); this support was in addition to the Regents-level course.

Principal Toto spoke of myOn, an online-leveled library that will be used starting this current school year to encourage student independent reading.

Mrs. Hili-Carbone reviewed the program highlights for Grades 9-12: The creation of the Writing Lab, the English 10 Lab, and the additional after-school hours of the school library. English elective opportunities were reviewed, yielding further evidence of the rich and robust curriculum choices for our students. Three-year trends of the NYS ELA Regents exam were reviewed reflecting a 4% increase in proficiency for all students, a 25% increase in mastery for college and career readiness, a 44% increase in proficiency for ENL students, a 10% increase in proficiency for economically-disadvantaged students, a 9% increase in proficiency for Hispanic students, and a 12% increase in proficiency for students with disabilities—all of the foregoing showing solid evidence of closing the achievement gap.

Principal Murphy spoke of the advanced placement courses in Language and Literature where the three-year trend resulted in a positive increase in the mean score of advanced placement language and advanced placement literature. Our high school students scored over the state and national means in both AP Language and AP Literature, and there was increased enrollment of ethnically-diverse students in both AP Language and AP Literature courses.

Ms. Poprilo addressed the areas of focus—closing the achievement gap—emphasizing that all teachers were teachers of reading and writing, continued professional development for our English teachers who will then turn-key to other departments.

Mrs. Hili-Carbone concluded with other areas of focus—the infusion of technology into the ELA curriculum, and the timeline for rolling out of Next Generation Standards.

Mr. Macaluso completed the presentation with a view from the Counseling Center—Mr. Macaluso communicated that all students are required to enroll in four years of English. He added that there was significant support for students

**English Academic Presentation Continued:**

with the college essay through the AIS writing labs; a 25% increase in the mastery rate indicated that more students were better prepared to pursue their post-secondary goals; and increased enrollment and improvement in our mean AP scores reflected students taking more challenging courses, providing a more competitive edge in the college application process. Lastly, the focus of our guidance counselors was on providing a challenging and rigorous curriculum during the scheduling process.

Mr. Ciappetta applauded the thorough report, and thanked all involved for their hard work and effort with this noteworthy presentation.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, 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. 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 September 13, 2017.

**Schedule of Bills (Warrants):**

| <u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>               |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| General (A)                                       | Warrant 33   | \$170,261.26 |
| Dental  | 34           | \$23,333.34  |
| School Lunch                                      | Warrant 15   | \$34,108.74  |
| Special Aid (F)                                   | 13           | \$189,253.30 |
| <u>Approved – Board Packet October 6, 2017</u>    |              |              |
| General (A)                                       | Warrant 29   | \$271,527.01 |
|   | 30           | \$6,389.55   |
|   | 31           | \$1,886.86   |
|   | 32           | \$2,999.00   |
|   | V000         | (\$703.80)   |
| School Lunch                                      | Warrant 14   | \$673.66     |
| Special Aid (F)                                   | Warrant 11   | \$106,038.70 |
|   | 12           | \$1,178.99   |
| Capital Checking                                  | Warrant 5    | \$180.18     |
| Scholarship (H)                                   | Warrant V000 | (\$4,000.00) |
| <u>Approved – Board Packet September 29, 2017</u> |              |              |
| General (A)                                       | Warrant 28   | \$230,955.92 |
| School Lunch (C)                                  | Warrant 10   | \$120,602.30 |

- 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.
- Approval of the 2018/2019 Budget Development Calendar:** Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2018/2019 Budget Development Calendar.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of the Corrective Action Plan for Year Ending 2017:** 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 Corrective Action Plan for the Year Ending June 30, 2017, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 622-623.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Amendment to Board Policy §5220, Accepting Gifts and Use of District Approved Donation Websites:** 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 Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the amendment to Policy §5220, Accepting Gifts and Use of District-Approved Donation Websites, be adopted as submitted.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- At Mr. Ciappetta's request, Mr. Bronson reported that the policy amendment was the first recommendation of the newly formed Policy Review Committee, and the change dealt with the use of the district-approved donation websites. Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mr. Bronson and the Committee for their work.
- Approval of Donation from Mathnasium:** Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of \$1,200 from Mathnasium of Huntington, specifically to be utilized for the purchase of 490 ChromeBook nametags for the sixth-grade student population.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- Approval of Donation from Toshiba America Foundation:** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the \$4,949 donation from the Toshiba America Foundation, specifically to be utilized for the purchase of supplies, equipment and computer drops to support the 90-gallon coral aquaculture research project at Walt Whitman High School.  
Motion carried unanimously.
- At Mr. Ciappetta's request, Dr. Bloom reported that Science teacher Fred Feraco secured a grant from the Toshiba America Foundation that will be used to support the high school's coral aquaculture research project. Dr. Bloom shared that recent work by the students involved the successful breeding of

clownfish. Mr. Ciappetta shared that he had the opportunity to see the project first-hand, and it was simply amazing.

**Request to Remain  
in South  
Huntington  
Schools:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the request of the parent to have her daughter, a senior at Walt Whitman High School, remain for the 2017/2018 school year, with transportation furnished by the parent.  
Motion carried unanimously.

At Mr. Ciappetta's request, Mrs. Harris shared that the family moved into the Elwood School District, and parent had registered siblings accordingly. This was the high school student's senior year, and the family wished for her to graduate with her classmates. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the practice was permissible for instances such as this one.

**Approval of Field  
Trip Request for  
WWHS Marching  
Band:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip for the 65-student WWHS Marching Band to attend the championships in Bethlehem, PA, from Nov. 3 through Nov. 5, 2017.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**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 August 3, 9, 10, 17, 18, 24, 30, 31, September 11, 14, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, October 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 2017, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated July 5, September 19, 26, 27, October 3, 4, 6, 10, 2017, 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. 624-644.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, 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.645-663, and authorizes implementation thereof:  
Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)  
Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)  
Schedule 10: Tenure Appointments  
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 19: Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)  
Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and Reports:**

1. WWHS Student of the Month Letters from Principal Murphy
2. Parent Letter re STEAM Curriculum Fair from Principal Smith
3. Personnel Postings
4. Educator Courtesy Flyer from Sponsor Hidden Smiles Orthodontics
5. NYSIR News – September 2017 (Provided on October 18, 2017)
6. NYSIR Legal Digest – Autumn 2017 (Provided on October 18, 2017)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending October 6, 2017

1. TANS Bid Results Memo from Dr. Centamore
2. Facilities Committee Agenda for October 11, 2017
3. Audit Committee Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2017
4. Marching Band Home Show Flyer for October 7, 2017
5. Enrollment Report – September 6 through September 29, 2017
6. Student Letters re Boys State and Girls State Success from Superintendent
7. Multiple Student Letters re Achievements from Superintendent
8. Thank You Letter to Mathnasium for Donation from Superintendent
9. Parent Letter from Principal Murphy re Parent Toolbox Workshop
10. Parent/Jr./Sr. Letter re Fall College Fair from J. Macaluso
11. Student Letter re AT-T Upstander Program
12. Overage Letters to Teachers from Principal Murphy
13. Parent Letter from Principal Toto re Month of the Young Adolescent
14. The Countrywood Chronicle – October 2017
15. Oakwood Principal Newsletter – October 2017
16. The Silas Scoop – October 2017
17. Personnel Postings
18. The Long-Islander – October 5 Edition

Information Sent to Board Week Ending September 29, 2017

1. Ingerman Smith on Freedom of Speech in Schools
2. Project Excel Celebration on October 2, 2017, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
3. Letter to World War II Vet George L. Kunz re Presentation of High School Diploma on November 8, 2017
4. Student Letter from Principal Murphy re 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program
5. Parent Letter re Kaplan Test Prep and SAT Review Sessions
6. Letter to Seniors from J. Macaluso re Accuracy of Final Official Transcript
7. Letter from Principal Murphy re Student Drivers
8. Various Start of the Year Letters to Parents from Principal Toto
9. Save the Date School Law Conference on December 8, 2017
10. Thank you Letter from Mr. Jim Kaden re Dedication of the James Kaden Administrative Offices
11. Personnel Postings
12. SHTA Minutes of Executive Board Meeting of September 25, 2017

**Committee Updates:**

Mr. Nitkewicz identified the members of the 2017/2018 Audit Committee that included he as Chairperson with members Dr. Bennardo, Dr. Centamore, Mr. Bronson, residents Mrs. Erin Meijer, Ms. Ruthanne Cooley, and Mr. Jim Kaden. Mr. Nitkewicz shared that Mrs. Meijer and Ms. Cooley were new

the Committee.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mr. Nitkewicz and the Committee and expressed assurance that each member’s involvement would be invaluable to the district.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Bronson took the opportunity to thank Ms. Kerrigan for hosting the Board of Education Recognition this evening; he added that it brought back fond memories of when his two sons attended the Oakwood Primary Center, and they are now 17 and 19 years of age.

Mr. Joyner shared that he thoroughly enjoyed the evening’s festivities, and it was a wonderful surprise—very emotional—and simply a great night.

Mr. Nitkewicz echoed Mr. Joyner’s comments, and added that he received special satisfaction from the students who read their letters. He thanked everyone involved and added that the support from the South Huntington learning community was very much appreciated.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked the administrators involved with the English Academic Presentation. Mr. Ciappetta added that school districts measure success with academic numbers, and this presentation provided assurance that we are doing quite well. Mr. Ciappetta further added that the Board appreciates the hard work of everyone—instructional and non-instructional staff—as everyone contributed to this success.

**Voice of the Residents:**

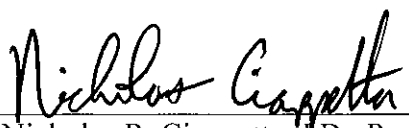
Visitors were invited to participate.

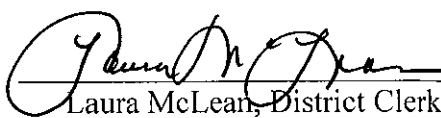
**Adjournment:**

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 9:25 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President

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

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 622 through 663.