

November 8, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on November 8, 2017, in the Cafeteria of the Birchwood Intermediate School, 121 Wolf Hill Road in Melville, 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

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

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

Mr. Ciappetta opened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Presentation of  
High School  
Diploma to World  
War II Veteran:**

Music teacher Matthew Hoffman and Walt Whitman High School students Dan Curtin, Max Eidinoff, Matt Haddock, Miles Lewis and Leila Perry performed “America the Beautiful” in celebration of the District’s honored guest, Mr. George L. Kunz.

Mr. Ciappetta then introduced Walt Whitman High School student Pamela Carey, who sang the National Anthem.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked his colleagues on the Board, guests, employees, residents and elected officials for attending this meeting to honor a true patriot, Mr. George L. Kunz. Mr. Ciappetta shared that over 75 years ago, in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attacks, young men and women—only 17 and 18 years old—left their homes and journeyed to countries half-way around the world.

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Their futures were put on hold, not knowing when or if they would ever return home. Each of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II sacrificed something, and 416,800 Americans sacrificed everything. Mr. Ciappetta stated that they demonstrated that freedom was worth fighting for. Their patriotism and courageousness on the battlefield was proven over and over. Mr. Ciappetta added that our World War II veterans deserve to have their stories told, cherished and memorialized more than just one day a year. Tonight, he added, the story will be told of a hometown hero, World War II Veteran George L. Kunz. At the age of 17, Mr. Kunz left high school, before graduation, and joined the Navy. He turned 18 while on the train that was transporting him to boot camp. Mr. Ciappetta provided the history of Mr. Kunz's naval career and his participation in the heroic invasion of Southern France. While on the beach, his landing craft came under fire, and his craft hit a mine, killing at least one crewman, and Mr. Kunz was left stranded on the beach overnight—in a foxhole. He was rescued the following day by the Navy. Mr. Kunz was honorably discharged in 1946 and received the American Theater Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the European Theater Medal and the Victory Medal. Mr. Ciappetta shared that Mr. Kunz would have been in the Graduation Class of 1944. He stressed that Mr. Kunz gave up his education, put his life on hold, and risked his personal safety because he believed in a cause greater than himself. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the word "hero" defines Mr. Kunz, and that the evening's presentation was a moment 73 years in the making. Mr. Ciappetta closed his comments by stating he will have the pleasure of presenting nearly 500 high school diplomas to our current graduating seniors, however, it will be impossible to ever replicate the specialness of this moment. It was then when Mr. Ciappetta asked Mr. Kunz to approach the podium where he presented him with his well-deserved high school diploma. Mr. Kunz was provided with a standing ovation and deafening applause that continued for several minutes.

At the podium, Mr. Kunz was flanked by veterans from the American Legion Riders Greenlawn Post 1244, five on either side of him. Mr. Kunz addressed the audience and humbly thanked the Board for presenting him with the diploma. He then received proclamations from Senator Carl Marcellino, Mr. Ed Aulman from Congressman Thomas Suozzi's office, New York State Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci, Suffolk County Legislator Dr. William Spencer, and Town of Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone could not attend, however, a proclamation was to be sent to Mr. Kunz.

For the record, News12, FIOS, Newsday and the Long-Islander were present to interview Mr. Kunz. A segment of the diploma presentation was on News12 and FIOS, as well as photographs and newspaper articles highlighting the event (a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 676-679).

An intermission was provided to ensure that Mr. Kunz and his family were acknowledged by the Board and audience members.

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**Social Studies  
Academic  
Presentation:**

The Social Studies Academic presentation was provided by Ms. Bruno, Assistant Principal of Maplewood Intermediate School; Mr. Stephen Toto, Principal of Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center; Mr. Edwin Smith, Principal of Stimson Middle School; Mr. John Murphy, Principal of Walt Whitman High School; Mr. Jay Corcoran, Social Studies Chairperson; and Mr. Jon Macaluso, K-12 Guidance Supervisor. The vision statement was shared: “Students will utilize the Social Studies curriculum to strengthen literacy skills and enhance critical thinking; developing a greater understanding of our American heritage, as well as the interconnected global world. Students will analyze current trends and topics and how it affects the world around them.” Mrs. Bruno then provided the K-5 Social Studies Program highlights, and Principal Smith shared the Grades 6-8 program highlights. Mr. Corcoran spoke to the Grades 9-12 highlights and the changes to the Social Studies testing. Additionally, advanced placement options to fill the New York State Regents requirements were shared. A listing of the Social Studies elective opportunities were presented, as well as new course additions to the curriculum.

Three-year trends for the NYS Social Studies Regents Exam in U.S. History, Global Studies, and Advanced Placement courses were reviewed in depth, as were the areas of continued focus—closing the achievement gap, continued professional development for teachers to identify trends in student assessments and reinforcement thereof, use of technology, and a sharp focus on developing students’ skills, as well as teacher instructional practices, to the new changes in the Global NYS Assessment.

Mr. Macaluso spoke from the Counseling mindset, bringing all aspects together—the provision of learning labs, AIS and Saturday Academies to ensure student success; the increase in Global Studies Regents results that contributed to our improved Regents and Advanced Diploma rates; AP Capstone assisting students to be more competitive in the college application process and better prepared for the rigors of college coursework, and the assurance of our guidance counselors making students aware of all AP and elective options during the scheduling process to be sure students were challenging themselves appropriately.

At the conclusion of the presentation, several Board members articulated their appreciation for the well-delivered presentation.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

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

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

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, 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 27, 2017.

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<b>Schedule of Investment Accounts:</b>	Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 680.
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	Treasurer's Report, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 681.
<b>Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 682-700.
<b>Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 701.
<b>Revenue Status Report, General Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 702.
<b>Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 703.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 704.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 705.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 706-713.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 714.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 715-716.

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**Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 717.

**Budgetary Transfer Report:** Budgetary Transfer Report, for September, 2017, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 718.

**Tax Levy Schedule:** Tax Levy Schedule, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 719.

**Library Tax Levy:** Library Tax Levy, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 719.

**Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:** Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, September, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 720-732.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	<u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 40	\$1,815,439.65
		41	\$198.00
		V000	(\$104.90)
	School Lunch (C)	Warrant 17	\$96,479.90
		V000	(\$348.76)
	Special Aid (F)	Warrant 17	\$54,208.41
	Capital Checking (H)	Warrant 6	\$22,868.13
		7	\$3,468.13
		V006	(\$3,468.13)
	<u>Approved – Board Packet of October 27, 2017</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 39	\$325,151.72
	Special Aid (F)	Warrant 16	\$41,327.31
	<u>Approved – Board Packet of October 20, 2017</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 35	\$775.21
		36	\$1,650,539.99
		V036	(\$1,223.80)
		37	\$552,808.70
		38	\$1,480,985.25
	School Lunch (C)	Warrant 16	\$1,922.70
	Special Aid (F)	Warrant 14	\$1,826.06

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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.

**Approval of Donation from SHEF:**

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 donation from the South Huntington Educational Foundation of \$2,500 to be utilized for the Cradle of Aviation initiative for the seventh-grade students at Stimson Middle School.  
Motion carried unanimously.

At Mr. Ciappetta's request, Dr. Bloom reported that the seventh-graders were transported each month to the Cradle of Aviation where enriched STEAM instruction was provided resulting in a most unique experience for the students—an example Dr. Bloom cited was that the classes were held in close proximity to a NASA Lunar Module—certainly not a commonplace occurrence.

**Approval of Donation from Park Shore Day Camp:**

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 \$2,500 from Mr. Bob Budha of Park Shore Day Camp to be utilized for the Cradle of Aviation initiative for the seventh-grade students at Stimson Middle School.

**Approval of Donation from WWHS PTA:**

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 donation of \$2,000 from the Walt Whitman High School PTA to be utilized for the funding of the November 16<sup>th</sup> "Saving Lives with Chris Herren" presentation.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Donation from Huntington Mazda:**

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 donation of \$2,500 from Huntington Mazda to be utilized for the funding of the November 16<sup>th</sup> "Saving Lives with Chris Herren" presentation.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Field Trip:**

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 field trip to the Worldstrides Heritage Musical Festival in Boston, Massachusetts, from March 22, 2018, through March 25, 2018, for the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Wind, Jazz, Voices and Orchestra students.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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**Approval to Sell  
Obsolete Items  
Using Auctions  
International:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Purchasing Agent's request to utilize the online auction service, Auctions International, when selling items declared by the Board of Education as obsolete; additionally, the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to sign the two-year contract accordingly.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Confidential  
Personnel  
Resolution:**

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 agreement allowing the use of sick days to supplement the military pay afforded to the teacher on military leave to restore the gap between the teacher's rate of pay and the military pay, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 733.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
Professional  
Development Plan  
Statement of  
Certification:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the annual Professional Development Plan Statement of Certification.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
Tuition  
Arrangement to  
Attend Walt  
Whitman High  
School:**

Mr. Bronson offered the following resolution and Mrs. Carey moved its adoption:

Whereas, Mrs. Lori Bolger, Social Studies teacher at Walt Whitman High School, resides in the Northport-East Northport School District and is desirous of having her ninth-grade daughter attend Walt Whitman High School under a tuition arrangement;

Whereas, the District is in agreement that Mrs. Bolger's daughter can attend Walt Whitman High School with Mrs. Bolger to pay tuition to the South Huntington School District commensurate with New York State approved tuition guidelines;

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the request of Mrs. Lori Bolger to have her ninth-grade daughter attend Walt Whitman High School and pay tuition to the South Huntington School District commensurate with New York State approved tuition guidelines and subject to the execution of a Board approved tuition agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated September 27, 29, October 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 2017, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated October 10, 18, 19, 24, 2017, is satisfied that the procedures of Chapter 853 of the Education Law were followed and

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accepts the recommendations for placement set forth, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 734-745.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion on  
Ranking:**

Principal Murphy and K-12 Guidance Supervisor Jon Macaluso shared with the Board that through Suffolk County, approximately 50% of school districts utilize a ranking system, or a percentile, based on class size. Mr. Ciappetta asked if this was a trend, to which Principal Murphy indicated that movement seemed to be going in the direction of using percentiles. Mr. Murphy further explained that with a percentile, students could be ranked in the top five percent, the top ten percent, etc. If a specific ranking was requested by a college, the number could be obtained and provided.

Mr. Macaluso added that certain students may take less vigorous classes in order to secure a better grade. Without ranking, students could take more challenging classes without care of the ranking system. Mr. Nitkewicz questioned whether a valedictorian and salutatorian would be announced without a ranking system. Principal Murphy responded that the first and second “ranked” students would be announced, based on ceremony. The identification of valedictorian and salutatorian would not be eliminated. Discussion ensued regarding this concept. Mr. Macaluso indicated that some districts have in fact moved away from “valedictorian/salutatorian” and have chosen “student leaders” as the new term to identify the top two academic students. Mr. Murphy provided the example of a student who was No. 51 in his/her class of 500 students. He shared that to say this student was in the top ten percent of his/her class presented better than stating the rank was 51. Mrs. LaCara questioned if colleges utilize the ranking system in their application process. Principal Murphy responded that colleges look at the “strength” of the student—what courses were taken, test scores and their GPA. Mrs. DeGaetano shared her recent college application experience with her son whereby he had applied for 12 colleges, and not one asked for his ranking. Mr. Nitkewicz strongly communicated that whether it was ranking or percentile categorizing, it was “ranking” nonetheless. He suggested elimination of the entire system. Mr. Bronson communicated that when his sons attended WWHS, students’ ranking with two decimals out had a minimal consequence. As such, Mr. Bronson added that there was benefit to the percentile concept.

A lengthy discussion followed; Mr. Ciappetta posed the question of whether the change from ranking to use of percentiles would help or hurt our students? Mr. Macaluso, with the experience of having ten years in the Commack School District, shared that his prior district did not rank; for the most part, he shared, students did not know where they stood in their class. The two top students were referred to as Academic Leaders. The question was raised regarding the Principal’s List, to which Principal Murphy provided assurance that this discussion did not affect the Principal’s List—the Principal’s List acknowledged a great group of students, which would continue regardless of the decision to rank or not. In response to whether one concept benefits students, Principal Murphy shared an experience when writing a letter of



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recommendation for a student to West Point. The student—who absolutely deserved to attend the institution—ranked 154 out of a class of 408. Principal Murphy stated that he would have preferred to say that the student was in the top one-third of his class rather than identify a ranking number.

Mr. Macaluso added that in speaking with admissions counselors, the trend was moving away from ranking. He queried if it was a softening of the culture, and whether it assisted with acceptance to colleges.

After additional discussion and questioning, consensus was reached to secure additional information in order to proceed with an actual determination. Dr. Bennardo and Principal Murphy will provide 15 examples and the College Common Application. Mr. Ciappetta requested that this matter be placed on the agenda for the November 29<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

**Discussion on the  
Dual-Language  
Program  
Procedures:**

Mr. Ciappetta reported that the request was made by a resident to have the dual-language entry process reviewed, and the Board subsequently discussed the matter in depth at their Board Retreat. Mr. Ciappetta asked Dr. Bloom to address the enhancements considered. Dr. Bloom communicated that while reviewing the entry process, emphasis was placed on increasing the number of Kindergarten students who were English Proficient into the Dual-Language Program. To do this, Dr. Bloom stated the District will address the hiring of bilingual staff during the hiring process at the elementary level. Having ample dual-language instructional staff will ensure that at the first- and second-grade level, should additional sections be required, the staff would be in place. Should the district not have adequate bilingual staff, a lottery would be utilized. Dr. Bloom assured the Board that everything possible was being done to increase the number of English-Proficient Kindergarten students into the program.

Mr. Ciappetta was most appreciative and shared that the sense of the Board was to accept the changes Dr. Bloom addressed. Dr. Bloom also added that information will be sent out to parents; Mr. Ciappetta asked to be kept abreast.

Dr. Bennardo thanked Dr. Bloom and Mrs. Blanco for the fine job in determining what could be done to increase the dual-language program at the kindergarten level.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Bronson, 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. 746-760, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 13: Salary Change (Instructional)

Schedule 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)

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Schedule 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)  
 Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)  
 Schedule 20: Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)  
 Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)  
 Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and  
 Reports:**

1. Letter to Board President Nicholas R. Ciappetta from Western Suffolk BOCES Board President Salvatore Marinello re the November 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Board Dinner with Individual Invitations to Board Members
2. Letter to Parents from Principal Murphy re Regents Prep Academies
3. Letter to Parents/Students from Principal Murphy re Re-Taking Regents Exams and Requesting Final Grade Change
4. Ingerman Smith re FOIL from Parents Foundation for Education re Staff  
 Information dated November 1, 2017
5. Personnel Postings
6. The Countrywood Chronicle
7. Newsday Articles
8. Invitation from President Glenda A. Jackson and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chair Betty Jean Miller of the National Council of Negro Women to the November 25<sup>th</sup> Flap-Jack Fundraiser Breakfast, 8 a.m., at Applebee's
9. Long-Islander Article
10. Letter to Parents from Principal Smith re Parent Teacher Conferences

Information Sent to Board Week Ending October 27, 2017

1. Audit Committee Meeting Minutes from October 17, 2017
2. BOCES Invitation to Annual Board Dinner on November 30, 2017
3. Student Letter re Graduation Criteria and Class Placement from Principal Murphy
4. Junior Parent Letter from Jonathan Macaluso re College Night, November 16, 2017, 7 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center
5. SHTA Executive Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2017 Meeting
6. The Long Islander Article

Information Sent to Board Week Ending October 20, 2017

1. Proclamation from Senator Marcellino to the South Huntington School District's Board of Education re School Boards Recognition Week in N.Y.S.
2. Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2017
3. Thank You Letter from Principal Murphy to Students re Marching Band Show
4. Letter to Student from Dr. Muller re January Regents Exam for Regents CC Algebra I
5. Personnel Postings
6. The Long Islander Articles

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**Comments from  
Board Members  
and Staff:**

Mr. Joyner addressed resident Erin Meijer and thanked her for bringing the Dual-Language matter to the Board's attention.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mr. Ciccarelli for hosting this evening's Board meeting and for the decorations that added to the festivities for World War II Veteran George L. Kunz.

**Voice of the  
Residents:**

Mrs. Erin Meijer addressed the Board and provided her gratitude for the effort taken with the Kindergarten entry process for the Dual-Language Program. Mrs. Meijer thanked Mrs. Cecilia Blanco for her work with this issue as well. She then directed a question to Dr. Bloom, and asked specifically what the district was doing to ensure that staff had the appropriate certification to teach the Dual-Language program. Dr. Bloom responded that the district was committed to several approaches—one was to provide information pertaining to the bilingual certification so that current staff can pursue; another consideration was when current staff left our employ, to hire teachers with the bilingual certification; and yet another consideration was to network with outside colleges/universities to enhance and motive staff in securing certification. The approaches would satisfy both the side-by-side and stand-alone models.

Mrs. Meijer articulated her appreciation for the Social Studies staff and the presentation provided and shared her background as an alumnus of the district. The Social Studies courses she had taken at Walt Whitman more than adequately prepared her for college where she graduated in three years as an International Business major. Mrs. Meijer also spoke to the ranking discussion previously conducted with an understanding of how the competitive system affected many students with added pressure to rank at the highest level possible.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President

Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 675 through 760.