

December 13, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on December 13, 2017, in the All-Purpose Room at Countrywood Primary School, 499 Old Country Road, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**

President
Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Carey
Mr. Bronson
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
Dr. Harris
Dr. Bloom
Mr. Fallon
Mrs. McLean

Not Present:

Mr. Joyner

Call to Order: Mr. Ciappetta opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and invited Girl Scout Troop 954 to approach; the Girl Scouts led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ciappetta welcomed all to tonight's meeting with two eventful presentations scheduled. Mr. Ciappetta was delighted to share the news that Dr. Bloom and Principal Murphy were to be recognized by the Suffolk County Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission on January, 12, 2018, with the "My Brother's Keeper" award. He also reported that Dr. Bloom will be honored by the Long Island University's Phi Delta Kappa Chapter 1525 as this year's Distinguished Leadership Award recipient for professionals in education. The celebration awards ceremony will take place on April 19, 2018.

**Holiday Musical
Presentation:**

Mr. Ciappetta introduced Mr. Adam Slawitsky and the Countrywood Singers, who sang a melody of holiday songs to the sheer delight of their parents, siblings, grandparents, Board of Education, administrators and residents. The stage was adorned with snowflakes suspended from the ceiling that sparkled and twirled while the students sang. It was a perfect winter wonderland backdrop to a heartwarming performance.

**Science Academic
Presentation:**

Mr. Maddy began the Science Presentation with the Vision Statement that emphasized fostering a spirit of inquiry, nurturing students' curiosity, and bringing current, relevant and real-world science into the classroom experience in preparing students to become educated citizens capable of comprehending and analyzing global issues. The three phases of the new Science standards were reviewed:

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Phase I – Initial Transition Raise Awareness and Build Capacity

Phase II – Transition and Implementation

Phase III – Implementation and Sustainability

Dr. Michaelian shared the numerous K-5 program highlights that engaged hands-on learning through investigations developed by BOCES (ESP) and Carolina Biological (Life Cycles, Electricity, Magnets & Motors, Motion & Design, Botany and others), as well as Science Practices through ZSpace virtual labs, combined with real field experiences, such as the Vanderbilt Planetarium, Sweet Briar Nature Center, Sunken Meadow, Caumsett, Park Shore and others. Dr. Michaelian reported on Design Challenge kits that support engineering practices, a gradual transition to NYS Science Learning Standards, implementing one unit per year in each grade. She accentuated that there was increased emphasis on engineering/problem solving, and a strong connection to literacy and mathematics. There was a shift from learning about a Science idea to developing and using the Science idea, producing a much deeper level of understanding.

Principals Smith and Murphy reviewed the program highlights for Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 and the various grade-level accelerated classes, including electives.

Principal Murphy addressed the three-year trends with the NYS Science Regents Exam Living Environment reflecting an increase in proficiency and mastery for all students and increases across the board for ENL, economically disadvantaged, Black, Hispanic and special education students. A similar trend existed for the Earth Science Regents, with even higher increases noted at each level. The Chemistry Regents yielded substantial increases as well and reflected ENL students taking the test, where none had taken the exam in 2015. Principal Murphy shared that of the nine students who took the test, eight passed the Regents. The trend for Physics was reviewed, again with similar increases in proficiency and mastery levels, however, there was a decline in the number of economically disadvantaged and Black students taking the Physics Regents, a concern articulated by Principal Murphy. The three-year trend for college level and advanced placement courses was reviewed noting substantial increases—namely, a 20% increase in the number of students taking Science AP exams; a 23% increase in Hispanic students receiving a 3 or higher on AP exams; 76% of students achieving a 3 or higher; 42% of students achieved a 4 or 5; and there was a 27% increase in the number of students taking a fourth-year Science course.

Areas of focus were shared—closing the achievement gap, continued professional development for teachers; continued use of technology within the curriculum, and a strong commitment to developing students' skills, as well as teacher instructional practices with the new NYS Science Learning Standards.

Mr. Macaluso concluded the presentation, "Tying it all Together," and

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reported that there was a variety of course offerings at multiple levels ensuring that students continued with science for all four years—in fact, 77% of the senior class was enrolled in a science course. Mr. Macaluso also stated that additional supports, such as AIS, learning labs, Regents prep, Regents Prep Academy and the Lab Support Program ensured student success and continued enrollment. He added that with the increased proficiency demonstrated on Regents exams, there was an 11% increase in Advanced Regents Diplomas since 2015. The performance and enrollment in AP science classes reflected a rigorous academic science program, as well as an enhanced ability for students to be accepted to top colleges. Lastly, Mr. Macaluso reported that guidance counselors continued to encourage all students to enroll in science courses that challenged them academically and best prepared them for college.

Adoption of Agenda:	Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the revised agenda be adopted. Motion carried unanimously.
Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Bronson, 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 8, 2017.
Schedule of Investment Accounts:	Schedule of Investment Accounts, as of October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 858.
Treasurer's Report:	Treasurer's Report, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 858.
Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 859-867.
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 868.
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 869.
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 869.
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 870.

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Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund:

Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 870.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 871-874.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 875.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 875-876.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 876.

Budgetary Transfer Report:

Budgetary Transfer Report, for October, 2017, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 877.

Tax Levy Schedule:

Tax Levy Schedule, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 877.

Library Tax Levy:

Library Tax Levy, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 877.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, October, 2017, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 878-880.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):Schedule of Bills (Warrants)

General (A)	Warrant 46	\$6,196.53
	47	\$720,209.48
	48	\$3,847.06
	V047	(\$4,400.70)
School Lunch ©	Warrant 21	\$41,862.62
	V021	(\$111.60)
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 21	\$82,729.63

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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.

**Resolution for
Teaching Assistant
Tenure:**

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the decision of the Commissioner of Education in Case No. 16417, the District was required to convert certain paraprofessional positions to teaching assistant positions; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of a Board Resolution adopted on July 11, 2017, the Board officially created teaching assistant positions in the District; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of operation of law and the passage of time a designated number of teaching assistants have fulfilled their three-year probationary terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, the employees identified in the attached list shall be deemed to have acquired tenure in teaching assistant positions based upon their years of service in such positions, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 881-883.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta congratulated Ms. Dell and Ms. Tedesco, the long-time co-presidents of the Paraprofessional Association, and expressed how much the Board appreciated all that their unit members did for our students. Mr. Nitkewicz expressed similar sentiments.

**Donation from
Platinum
Properties:**

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 \$1,250 donation from Platinum Properties to be used specifically for the printing and mailing of the winter issue of Spotlight.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation from
Birchwood Teacher
to District:**

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 donation from Mrs. Barbara Wright, Birchwood teacher, of five ChromeBooks and two iPads to the District secured through a Donors Choose grant.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Bronson, be it Resolved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a confidential student matter.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

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Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta reported that the request to remain in South Huntington Schools was for the duration of the current school year (the student's junior year) and for the 2018/2019 school year (the student's senior year). This request, Mr. Ciappetta shared, was definitely out of the norm, as the typical request was for the duration of the current school year only, with greater consideration given to moves after the semester break. He added that the Board Policy permits students whose parents/guardians have moved outside the attendance boundaries of the District to conclude the school year in their current building of attendance. This request for the conclusion of the current school year, as well as the following senior year, was highly unusual.

Mr. Nitkewiz stated that the student's parents purchased a home thought to be located within the District's boundaries, only to find out after the sale that it was in a neighboring district. While the situation was unique, Mr. Nitkewicz communicated his commitment to the student and his desire to approve the request.

A lengthy discussion ensued and several Board members articulated their concern for the cost to the taxpayers, as well as adherence to the Board Policy, and were not comfortable with approving the student remaining as requested. Mrs. LaCara shared that in her 12 years of service on the Board, she had no recall of ever approving such a request, and further stated that the cost of doing so was an issue.

The suggestion was made to approve the student to remain for the current school year only, and if the parent rented and relocated to an apartment within our boundaries, the student could remain for the following year as a senior. Again a robust discussion ensued regarding this concept. Concern was shared for the student that if parents could not relocate, it would be prudent for the student to start in the neighboring district as quickly as possible. Mr. Nitkewicz was not pleased to share the negative response one week prior to the Christmas holiday, however, Mr. Bronson responded that if the student were not to stay in the senior year, it would be easier for the student to leave South Huntington now.

Mr. Ciappetta requested a motion to approve the request as submitted. Motion by Mr. Bronson, with a second from Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the request for the student to remain in the District throughout the student's senior year.

Motion denied; Mr. Nitkewicz casted the sole yah vote.

Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the year for formal approval to remain in the district; Mr. Ciappetta concluded that at this point it was very close to the beginning of the second semester for approval consideration.

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Mr. Nitkewicz moved, with a second from Mr. Bronson, that the Board amend the approval of the request as follows and moved its adoption:

Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby permits the parent request to allow the student to remain in our District to the end of the student's junior year only, so long as the residency remains outside of the South Huntington Union Free School District, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 884-888.

Be it Resolved that the request to remain in South Huntington Schools as amended, be adopted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SEQRA Resolution
re Renovations at
Teen Center:**

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District desires to embark upon a capital improvement project at the Teen Center for the Renovations at the existing facility and,

WHEREAS, said capital improvement project at the Teen Center is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in Section 617.4 of this part, are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (2)); and

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the capital improvement project and has determined that the capital improvement project for the Renovations at the Teen Center is classified as a Type II Action pursuant to Section 617.5 (2) of the SEQRA Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby declares that the Renovations

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at the Teen Center are a Type II Action, which requires no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby shall move forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the listed projects from the New York State Education Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Tuition Contract
for Non-Resident
Student:**

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 tuition contract between the District and the parents of the student identified in the formal contract, to attend Walt Whitman High School on a tuition basis, commencing January 2, 2018, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 889-892.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Field
Trip:**

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 Varsity Cheerleading field trip request to attend the UCA School Cheer Divisions on Sunday, January 7, 2018, in New Jersey.
Motion carried unanimously.

**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 October 23, 30, November 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 27, 29, 30, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated September 13, October 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 27, 28, November 6, 27, 28, 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. 893-910.

Motion carried unanimously.

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. 911-923, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 2: Probationary Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 5: Part-time Appointments (Instructional)

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Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement 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 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)
 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. Attendance Report for Period Ending November 30, 2017
2. Personnel Postings
3. The Silas Scoop – December 2017
4. The Countrywood Chronicle – December 2017
5. Newsday Article, December 3, 2017
6. The Long-Islander, November 30, 2017
7. WWHS Winter Concert Series Presented by Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology
8. Superintendent Letter to Place-Holders in Andrew Peers Tournament
9. Letter to Students Who Assisted with Progress Night from Principal Murphy

Information Sent to Board Week Ending December 1, 2017

1. Letter of Appreciation to BOE President Ciappetta re Diploma Presentation to World War II Veteran George Kunz from Assemblyman Lupinacci
2. Ingerman Smith - Litigation Involving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, dated November 27, 2017
3. SHTA Executive Meeting Minutes from November 27, 2017
4. Oakwood Principal's December Message and Calendar
5. 8th Grade Parent Orientation Letter from Principal Murphy
6. Personnel Postings
7. Facilities Committee Agenda for December 5, 2017, Meeting

Committee Updates:

Mr. Ciappetta provided a recap of the Facilities Committee meeting that took place on December 5, 2017. Other than the boilers in Stimson and Silas Wood, all are the original units installed when the buildings first opened. The age of the boilers presents problems with efficiency and with securing replacement parts. There was also a review of the fields and an irrigation update, as well as discussion on future plans for the Performing Arts Center. Additionally the bleachers at Walt Whitman High School require some work—they are structurally sound, but do require painting. Mr. Ciappetta also reported that the Facilities Survey has been released via Spotlight, the website and email, and he urged residents to submit their completed surveys. The information will be most useful with consideration of a future bond.

Comments from Board Members

None provided.

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and Staff:

Voice of the Residents: Visitors were invited to participate.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 858 through 923.