

January 10, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, in the Forum at Stimson Middle School, 401 Oakwood Road, Huntington Station, 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

\*Mrs. DeGaetano was delayed, arrived at 8:30 p.m.

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

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

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

**Stimson Dance  
Team Presentation:**    Coached by Mrs. Nicole Willis, the Stimson Middle School Dance Team performed splendidly to a hip-hop melody of songs. The students 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.

**Special Education  
Academic  
Presentation:**        The Special Education administrative team, consisting of Dr. Matthew Krivoshey, Ms. Cynthia Quinlan, Mr. Daniel Lombardo, Ms. Karen Mushorn, and Principal John Murphy, directed the presentation, with Dr. Krivoshey sharing that Special Education continuum included specialized instruction, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling, behavior specialists, assistive technology, transition planning and physical therapy. Dr.

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Krivoshey, Special Education Supervisor, reviewed the Student Services vision statement whereby all students with disabilities were ensured to have access to a high quality curriculum, supported by specially designed instruction that met each student's unique learning needs in a safe and culturally responsive environment that prepared them for life beyond school. The NYSED's blueprint for improved results for students with disabilities was also reviewed, as well as established priority improvement areas, such as achievement/performance outcomes, least restrictive environment, disproportionality and secondary transition. Dr. Krivoshey stressed that research consistently demonstrated that the inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms resulted in favorable outcomes. Positive outcomes have been shown for students with high incidence disabilities—learning disabilities and other “mild” disabilities—and those with low incidence disabilities—intellectual, multiple, and “severe” disabilities. Dr. Krivoshey further added that in the 2016/2017 school year, 75.6% of our students with disabilities were educated in-district; 16% in parentally placed non-public schools, 7% in a separate school, 1% in a residential facility, and less than .4% in a home placement by the Committee on Special Education. The continuum of services for school-age students with disabilities included consultant teacher services—direct and/or indirect—resource room services, related services, integrated co-teaching services, and special classes. Dr. Krivoshey reported that the 12-month extended school year was extremely successful, allowing over 100 students to participate 12 months of the year eliminating concern for loss of substantial regression. An explanation of the Least Restrictive Environment was completed with statistics reflecting an increase over the past three school years of having students with disabilities educated with non-disabled students.

Mrs. Quinlan, Assistant Supervisor of Special Education, provided a review of our preschool students with disabilities with related services, the South Huntington Intervention Program (12:1+1), related services at St. Hugh's, and other programs housed in other special education school settings. She further highlighted the Grades K-5 special education program with initiatives such as the Ambassadors Club, the Lunch Brunch, Project Friendship, System 44, Behavior Specialists, check-in/check-out procedures, co-teaching training and student directed IEPs. Emphasis was brought to the integrated co-teaching model with an increase of 26% of students participating, and a decrease of 16% in self-contained, special classes (12:1:1). Mrs. Quinlan accentuated how our students thrived in integrated settings and also shared the role of behaviorists in assisting students with various supports.

Mrs. Mushorn, Grade 6-8 Special Education Chairperson, completed the Silas Wood and Stimson Middle School program highlights and explained that the Read 180 addressed reading comprehension, and System 44 dealt with phonetic assistance for our intermediate and sixth-grade students. Mrs. Mushorn enthusiastically shared other program highlights such as Math support classes, a decrease in special class sections and the addition of more ICT sections, common planning among the ICT teachers and workshops with Lakretz Creative Support Services to enhance teaching strategies for the

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instructional staff. The Life Skills Vocational program and student-directed IEPs were also addressed by Mrs. Mushorn, as was the welcome news of a 12% gain for the co-teaching model and a decrease of 14% for the 15:1:1 special classes. Additionally, Mrs. Mushorn shared that the Life Skills Vocational Program increased by 6% at Stimson last year allowing our students to be educated in their home school rather than a BOCES program. This movement continues to the high school.

Mr. Lombardo, Grade 9-12 Special Education Chairperson, reviewed the program highlights for Walt Whitman—the increased inclusion courses, the PAES Lab and simulated apartment, the Ambassadors Club and Challenge Basketball, student-directed IEPs, and Career Development Occupational Studies. Mr. Lombardo spoke highly of the Ambassadors Club and Challenge Basketball providing tremendous social opportunities for our students. Mr. Lombardo also shared that the Life Skills Vocational Program’s simulated apartment assisted with the development of life skills, and the PAES Lab with the development of skills for job shadowing. Mr. Lombardo was proud to report that currently there are 15 students with student-directed IEPs; these students were active partners in the development of their IEPs assessing their strengths, areas of need and goals. Rather than be a passive voice in the process, the student was now totally involved and immersed with the development and implementation of the IEP. Another impressive statistic was the increase of 20% with the integrated co-teaching model, and the 10% decrease in the 15:1:1 special classes. Mr. Lombardo reviewed the three-year trend with the special education scores, with passing grades increasing substantially with every Regents exam—from Earth Science, Living Environment, Algebra ICC, Geometry CC, Global Studies, US History and Government and English CC. Mr. Lombardo provided accolades to our instructional staff—teachers, teacher assistants, paraprofessionals—and shared how proud he was of our students and staff.

Principal Murphy reported on the graduation rate for students with disabilities. Last year 80% of our students with disabilities graduated with a diploma. This year he projected that 100% of our students will graduate with a diploma. The audience applauded to Principal’s Murphy’s announcement.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked the team for providing such an informative presentation and congratulated everyone involved—especially the 27 instructional staff members in the audience. Mrs. Carey echoed Mr. Ciappetta’s comments and shared her appreciation for such a robust turnout of teachers, teacher assistants and paraprofessionals to this meeting.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, 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 Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:

**Minutes:** Minutes of Board meeting held on November 29, 2017.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	<u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>		
	General (A)	Schedule 55	\$11,666.67
		56	\$2,105,516.26
	School Lunch	Schedule 24	\$23,604.18
	Special Aid	Schedule 24	\$55,327.80
	<u>Approved – Board Packet December 22, 2017</u>		
	General (A)	Schedule 50	\$1,200, 517.71
		51	\$864,367.44
		52	\$11,666.67
		53	\$7,796.08
	School Lunch	Schedule 23	\$14,630.85
	Special Aid (F)	Schedule 23	\$61,283.66
	<u>Approved –Board Packet December 15, 2017</u>		
	General (A)	Schedule 49	\$1,190,118.25
		V000	(\$1,944.00)
	School Lunch	Schedule 22	\$22,651.99
	Special Fund	Schedule 22	\$14,261.67

**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 Huntington Honda:** 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 \$2,000 donation to the District from Huntington Honda to co-sponsor the Dance Team competition on January 20, 2018;

Be it Further Resolved, as the donation was made for a specific purpose, the budget code utilized for the event to be increased accordingly.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Huntington Honda and commented on how fortunate the District was to have such benevolent business partnerships.

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**Approval of Lead  
Evaluator of  
Teachers:**

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

Whereas, the South Huntington Union Free School District has provided appropriate training for its lead evaluators and evaluators, which includes independent observers, in accordance with §30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents; and

Whereas, §30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents requires lead evaluators to be certified as qualified lead evaluators in accordance with the requirements set forth under §30-3.10 and the training plan designed for certification of lead evaluators set forth in the District's APPR Plan, for the purpose of conducting and/or completing the evaluation of teachers pursuant to Education Law §30-3.10; and

Whereas, the individuals named below have successfully completed a training course that meets the requirements prescribed in §30-3.10 of the Rules of the Board of Regents;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, effective January 11, 2018, the South Huntington Union Free School District certifies Mr. Corey Blair, Administrative Dean, as a lead evaluator.

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 to Orlando, Florida, to compete in the National High School Cheerleading Championships from February 8-12, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Field  
Trip:**

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 Walt Whitman High School Marching Band field trip to Salem, Massachusetts, to compete in the Salem Regional Marching Band Competition from February 10-11, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
Contract of  
Purchase for  
Oakwood Road  
Property:**

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 authorizes the Board President to sign the residential contract of sale regarding the purchase of the property located at 441 Oakwood Road in Huntington Station, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 932-937.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta reported that the 1.9 acres was located directly next to Stimson Middle School, with a purchase price of \$365,000, and will be subject to voter approval at the May 15, 2018, budget vote. The property would be used for additional parking. Mr. Ciappetta added that the lack of appropriate

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parking when the school hosted sporting and other functions had become a public safety issue. Mr. Ciappetta also shared that at the November 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the sale of district property (off Depot Road) was approved for \$150,000, which would offset the purchase price of the Oakwood Road property. The residential contract of sale for the Oakwood Road property contained some minor adjustments, and once those were made, Mr. Ciappetta will review and sign the contract of sale.

**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 November 2, 8, 14, 15, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, December 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, and 22, 2017, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated November 20, 28, December 7, 14, 18, 21, 2017, and January 2, 2018, 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. 938-958.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Joyner, 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. 959-970, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

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 20: Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and  
Reports:**

1. Birchwood Teacher Project Funding Notification Memorandum
2. Enrollment Report for Period Ending December 22, 2017
3. Oakwood Principal's January Newsletter/Calendar
4. Countrywood Chronicle – January 2018
5. Letter to the Countrywood Singers for Performance at December 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting from Superintendent
6. Personnel Postings
7. The Long-Islander Articles, December 28, 2017
8. NYSIR News (Hard Copy provided at Board Meeting)

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Information and Reports – Board Packet December 15, 2017

1. Thank You to Daddy-Daughter Dance Sponsors from Superintendent
2. Thank You Letters to Chris Herren Drug Awareness Sponsors from Superintendent
3. Congratulations Letter for Wildcat Hero Recipients from Superintendent
4. Congratulations Letter to Students of the Month from Principal Murphy
5. Personnel Postings
6. SHTA Minutes of the Executive Board meeting of December 11, 2017
7. The Long-Islander Article, December 7, 2017

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Dr. Bennardo provided accolades for the special education presentation provided earlier in the evening and shared that the District had entered into a Golden Age era brought on by our instructional staff, parents and our students. Dr. Bennardo proudly shared that he considered himself privileged to work for South Huntington Schools, and that a difference was surely being made.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that he had attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony for James Reilly the weekend prior, despite the bitterly cold weather. Mr. Ciappetta remarked that Principal Murphy was the Master of Ceremony, which was a true testament of the relationship between Principal Murphy and James.

Mr. Nitkewicz spoke of the Town of Huntington inauguration ceremony that took place on January 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Performing Arts Center and proudly announced that Mr. Ciappetta was recently appointed to Town Attorney for the Town of Huntington. A round of applause was provided in response to this public announcement.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked the audience and his fellow Board members, and further shared how much he looked forward to his work with the Town of Huntington. Mr. Ciappetta tenderly shared his public service philosophy, especially his appreciation serving as President of the Board of Education, with his passion and fondness for our South Huntington learning community affectionately communicated.

**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President

  
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Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 932 through 970.