

February 28, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on February 28, 2018, in the Board Room, #110, of the James Kaden Administrative Offices, 60 Weston Street, 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
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. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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.

Moment of Silence: Mr. Ciappetta solemnly shared that on February 14, 2018, evil visited the Stoneman Douglas High School in the presence of someone who intended to kill as many students as possible. He succeeded, and 17 lost their lives. Mr. Ciappetta added that events such as this stir so many emotions—anger, shock, and deep sadness. It made one wonder how someone could intentionally hurt so many innocent people. However, in the aftermath of this terrible tragedy are students who have provided a voice, speaking publicly of this horror, demonstrating courage and poise well beyond their years. Pausing, Mr. Ciappetta reported that we see these attributes in our own students—in our schools, citing the morning’s Oheka Castle Project Excel event, and this evening with the DECA student presentation. Continuing, Mr. Ciappetta expressed that our students provide hope that these tragedies will lessen, that better things will emerge with a brighter tomorrow. Mr. Ciappetta requested

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that 17 seconds of silence be provided for those 17 individuals who lost their lives in Parkland, Florida.

**DECA
Presentation:**

Mrs. Deanna Morga and four DECA students approached the Board. Mrs. Morga stated that she had been the DECA advisor for the past eight years, and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have her DECA students speak tonight. She shared that DECA provided tremendous opportunities with regard to scholarships at the best of colleges and universities—Binghamton, Bentley, Fordham were cited. Valedictorians and salutatorians have been DECA leaders, and our DECA students participated at the State and National levels. Mrs. Morga happily reported that our DECA students made their mark on the national map. Mrs. Morga thanked the Board for their support of this prestigious group of students throughout the years and shared that they represent the best and brightest at Walt Whitman High School.

Senior Joseph Van Gostein, President of the DECA team, spoke highly of the scholarship opportunities and the recognition that colleges had for students with DECA experience. Joseph shared that DECA was now an international organization, including countries such as China, Japan and Germany. Joseph thanked the Board for their support with the team's travel costs, and added that the experience was invaluable.

Junior Parker Keller, a second-year DECA member, expressed his excitement for the State competition beginning March 7th. He added how much he enjoyed the State competition last year and the opportunity to meet new people.

Sophomore Nathan Blank, a second-year DECA member, was pleased to report that he and DECA member Jeremy Forman recently won first-place in their category. He spoke of the practical lessons, such as direct eye contact, a firm handshake, as well as the variety of business opportunities that DECA provided.

Sophomore Jeremy Forman, a first-year DECA member, expressed his eagerness to attend the forthcoming State competition. Jeremy was grateful for the opportunity to meet new people, and was excited to explore various business careers and fields.

Board member Sidney Joyner expressed pleasure in hearing the experiences that DECA provided these four young men. Mr. Joyner added that he, too, was a DECA member, and attested to the value of this organization. Mr. Joyner, impressed and pleased with the students' comments, stated to the group, "I applaud you."

**School Safety
Update:**

Dr. Bennardo reported that the tragedy at Stoneman Douglas High School had stimulated increased talk of school security. While safety discussions were ongoing, he cautioned that emotions were at their rawest during tragedies, and we needed to be thoughtful, contemplative and empathetic in our response to school security. Dr. Bennardo shared that school security was multifaceted—technology, personnel, safety committee plans, social-emotional

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outreach/treatment, and staff/student/parent connections were all components. Dr. Bennardo reviewed the actions taken over the years, most implemented since the Sandy Hook tragedy in December of 2012. Items in progress at this time were camera and computer/communication upgrades. For immediate action were doorway driver's license scanners, lockdown drills with police review, active shooter training for staff, immediate review from district/building committees, building safety maintenance tours, a security training video for outside groups, administrative safety walk-throughs, and internal communication scans. Items for immediate consideration included license-plate parking lot scanners, first-floor window issue solutions, elementary security presence, enhanced recognition training of students in crisis, and enhanced surveillance of social-media threats. Dr. Bennardo emphasized the need for thoughtful ongoing vigilance, conversation, partnerships and communication. Discussion ensued regarding the elementary security presence; placing one security guard at each of the elementary buildings, including Silas Wood Sixth-Grade Center, would cost the district approximately \$200,000. The question was posed by resident Marjorie Cozzetto as to whether the cameras currently used were delayed or live feed; Dr. Bennardo responded live feed. Insofar as the first-floor window issues at the elementary buildings, Dr. Bennardo reported that repositioning the air-conditioners in the buildings to the first floor could alleviate that problem but consideration was required with relocating lower grade students to the second floor. Discussion ensued regarding the Parkland tragedy, and Mr. Nitkewicz articulated his opposing position for citizens to possess semi-automatic weapons. Mr. Nitkewicz reminded all that the second amendment's "right to bear arms" was adopted when a musket was the standard firearm.

Mr. Ciappetta asked the Board their position on additional security guards for the elementary school buildings as was previously cited. The overwhelming consensus of the Board was to move forward accordingly.

A resident asked if there were plans to arm our security guards, to which Dr. Bennardo replied that all of our high school security guards were licensed to carry guns, however, they do not. The media's report regarding another district did not accurately define whether guards would be armed in the schools. Dr. Bennardo added that the insurance liability for a district considering this direction was something that would increase insurance costs tremendously, and a robust discussion would be required. Dr. Bennardo shared that the high school always had security guards who were either current or retired law enforcement agents. Mr. Nitkewicz added that the District had an outstanding security force. He, too, emphasized the need for very deliberate discussions regarding school safety matters. Mr. Joyner also articulated the need and significance for further conversation regarding this topic. He emphasized that nothing should be left off the table for discussion.

**2018/2019 Budget
Overview:**

Dr. Bennardo explained that school districts have limited ways of raising funds. In 2017/18, 69% of the budget was raised by taxation, state aid was 21.5%, and 9.5% came from other revenues. A review of the basic school district costs was conducted, as was the Facilities Committee's plans for maintenance and

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renovation.

Dr. Bloom provided a synopsis of the high school course opportunities introduced during 2017/18 without any additional cost to the district. Dr. Bloom spoke of added technology, and the afterschool coding program—the only district with a K-12 coding program on Long Island.

Dr. Centamore reported on the three-part budget for the current school year. The administrative portion was \$19,161,264; the program portion was \$122,783,672; and the capital was \$20,849,904. Dr. Centamore provided the 2018/19 tax levy of 2.15% from last year's 1.41%, and .10% from 2016/17.

Dr. Bennardo introduced the tax levy “cap” formula breakdown and invited anyone who wished for a one-on-one breakdown to contact him. An explanation of the tax base growth factor was provided by Dr. Centamore. New construction, newly taxable status of existing properties or measureable improvements to taxable property affected the growth factor. In 2015/16, the growth factor was 1.0007, where for the 2018/19, it was 1.0017. With the tax levy formula, the inflation factor also increased. In 2015/16 it was 1.62%, dropping to .12% in 2016/17, increasing to 1.26% in 2017/18, to 2.00% in 2018/19. Dr. Centamore addressed exclusions to the tax levy formula—namely, pension increases greater than 2%, capital expenditures of debt service (bonds), transfer to capital expenditures, buses, and installment purchases, such as copiers. Dr. Bennardo spoke of Foundation Aid, the largest unrestricted aid category supporting public school district expenditures in New York State. While it was formula based, Dr. Bennardo explained that due to the State's financial challenges (\$4.4 billion deficit), it was underfunded. Our district received only about half of what the formula called for. An explanation was provided for expense-based aid—aid received on eligible expenditures, such as capital expenses, debt services, BOCES, and transportation. It was based on annually calculated percentages of monies the district had actually expensed. Reimbursement factors include district wealth, student enrollment and student attendance.

The Governor's Executive Budget proposed state aid for 2018/19 was \$36,449,580—broken down as Foundation aid of \$20,463,371 (1.77% increase), other Non-Expense Aid of \$3,111,626, and Expense-Based Aid of \$12,874,583.

Dr. Bennardo reported that for 2018/19, the tax levy was \$114,599,696 and with the proposed state aid of \$36,449,580, the total was \$151,049,276. Dr. Bennardo added that the pension system rates for ERS and TRS were 11.49% and 10.63% respectively. Healthcare costs increased 8.5%, and utility costs increased from 5% to 7%.

Dr. Centamore addressed the sale of the Depot Road property for \$150,000. This was a small, obsolete piece of land owned by the district for decades. Additionally, Dr. Centamore reported that the district sought to purchase the land adjacent to Stimson Middle School on Oakwood Road for \$365,000.

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Funding for this purchase would come from the sale of the Depot Road property (\$150,000), and the remaining \$215,000 from fund balance. This property would be earmarked for future parking and field utilization. Dr. Centamore reported on the terrible parking situation with events housed at Stimson Middle School, which actually led to dangerous situations on Oakwood Road. Both the sale and purchase of these properties will have separate propositions for voter approval on the ballot for the May 15, 2018, budget vote/elections. Dr. Bennardo concluded the budget overview with a review of goals for the 2018/09 school year with fiscal sustainability, in addition to academic and community-strengthening objectives, in the forefront.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

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

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

Motion by Mr. Bronson, 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 January 10, 2018.

**Schedule of Bills
(Warrants):**

General (A)	Warrant 75	\$2,038,380.43
School Lunch	Warrant 31	\$31,250.42
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 32	\$28,507.34
Capital Checking	Warrant 15	\$16,838.16
	V014	(\$16,838.16)
2003 Bond	V014	(\$440.23)

Approved – Weekly Packet of February 16, 2018

General (A)	Warrant 73	\$31,879.07
	74	\$928,508.49
	V058	(\$100)
	V074	(\$1,855.50)
School Lunch	Warrant 30	\$418.56
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 30	\$6,388.66

Approved – Weekly Packet of February 9, 2018

General (A)	Warrant 67	\$400.00
	70	\$306,799.85
	71	\$11,666.67
	72	\$52,863.63
School Lunch	Warrant 29	\$28,952.43
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 29	\$19,099.15
Capital Checking	Warrant 12	\$42,547.77

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Approved – Weekly Packet of February 2, 2018

General (A)	Warrant 68	\$3,142,391.44
	Warrant 69	\$4,434.33
School Lunch	Warrant 28	\$31,398.01
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 28	\$77,770.93
	V026	(\$1,000.00)

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.

Field Trip Request: 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 to the RBERN Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute scheduled for March 10 through March 12, 2018, for the group of Grade 12 ESL students selected for this event.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Teacher Representative to School Safety Committee: 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 addition of Ms. Kelly Crocco as a teacher representative to the District-Wide Safety Committee.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Driver Education Contract Extension: Mr. Nitkewicz offered the following resolution and Mrs. LaCara moved its adoption: Be it resolved that the agreement between Twin County Driving School and the South Huntington Union Free School District, as of February 28, 2018, be extended for the 2018/2019 school year pursuant to the terms and conditions of the contract and as modified by correspondence dated February 15, 2018, and subsequent agreement establishing a contract price at no increase.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated December 5, 20, 22, 2017, January 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 31, February 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2018,, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated December 13, 18, 2017, January 18, 23, 30, February 5, 8, 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. 1128-1152.
Motion carried unanimously.

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Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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. 1153-1162, and authorizes implementation thereof:
 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 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:

Information and Reports

1. The Long-Islander, Letter to Editor from Dr. Bennardo, and Dr. Bennardo Quote, February 22, 2018, issue
2. Upcoming Events for Stimson from Principal Smith
3. Congratulatory PTA Reflections Letter from Superintendent
4. Congratulatory National Merit Scholarship Letter from Superintendent
5. The Long-Islander, February 15, 2018 (2)
6. Junior Prom Letter to Students/Parents from Principal Murphy
7. Appreciation Letter to Xanadu Participants from Principal Murphy
8. Congratulatory Letter to Wrestling Team Members from Principal Murphy

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 16, 2018

1. Personnel Postings

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 9, 2018

1. WS BOCES Notification re Budget Vote and Elections, April 24, 2018
2. Introduction Letter to SHUFSD Board President from Legislator Berland
3. News from Sheila Buhse re Nutrition Services
4. Enrollment Report for January, 2018
5. Career Day Letter to Parents from Principal Toto
6. The Silas Scoop, February, 2018
7. Personnel Postings
8. Long-Islander, Articles (2), February 1 and February 8, 2018

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 2, 2018

1. Internal Controls re Revenue and Cash Management Cycle
2. Letter to Mentor NY re Project Excel Program from Superintendent
3. Congratulatory Letter to Dr. D'Elia re Recognition from Mentor NY Program from Superintendent
4. Countrywood Chronicle, February, 2018
5. Oakwood Principal's Newsletter, February, 2018
6. Invitation to Women of Color on February 15 at Jack Abrams School, 7 p.m.

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7. School Safety Conference, April 26 and 27, Huntington Hilton, Melville
8. NEWSDAY, Article, January 28, 2018
9. Long-Islander, Article, January 25, 2018

**Committee
Updates:**

Mr. Joyner provided information pertaining to SHEF's first annual fundraising Gala Event to be held on Thursday evening, April 19, 2018, at the Mansion at Oyster Bay in Woodbury. Mr. Joyner announced the honorees—Mrs. Alice D'Addario, Mrs. Kim Latko and Mr. Bob Budah. Mr. Joyner shared information pertaining to the various sponsorships, the significance of the event, and added that brochures were available for registration purposes.

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta recalled a previous conversation at the January 31st Board meeting regarding the Life Skills students' ability to attend school during the January Regents week and asked Dr. Bennardo for an update. Dr. Bennardo was pleased to share that Principal Murphy and Special Education Chairperson Dan Lombardo planned to provide the following during the four-days the Regents/final exams were administered: 2 field trip days, 1 instructional day; and an instructional half-day. Dr. Bennardo commented that while it was acknowledged that there was a large number of special education students who took Regents and/or final examinations during these four days, this plan was specifically arranged to benefit the life skills students. Mr. Nitkewicz articulated his appreciation to Dr. Bennardo, Principal Murphy and Mr. Lombardo. It was the consensus of the Board that this direction be implemented.

Mr. Ciappetta addressed Coach Tom Fitzpatrick's recent "retirement" as the Varsity Basketball coach. Mr. Ciappetta shared that Coach "Fitz" coached for almost two decades, 235 games and led the WWHS Varsity Basketball squad through two state championships. Mr. Ciappetta shared his enormous respect and admiration for Coach Fitzpatrick.

Mr. Ciappetta then articulated the recent news of President Donald Trump naming Vice Admiral John Christopher Aquilino as the new United States Pacific Fleet Commander, who was a 1979 graduate of Walt Whitman High School. If confirmed by the U. S. Senate, the 1979 graduate would be promoted to the rank of Admiral, taking charge of a fleet stretching nearly 100-million square miles, approximately half of the Earth's surface. A brief discussion ensued as to the enormity of this announcement. Mr. Ciappetta advocated Vice Admiral Aquilino's nomination to the South Huntington School District's Hall of Fame.

Mr. Joyner addressed the district's activities with Black History Month and its significance in American history. Mr. Joyner articulated his appreciation for this annual celebration and the district's efforts in supporting this recognition. He also shared and recommended the movie, "The Black Panther" commenting on lessons learned through conflict, touching upon geopolitics, history, family values, certainly a great conversation piece. Dr. Centamore agreed, sharing that he had taken his family to see the movie recently.

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Voice of the Residents:


Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

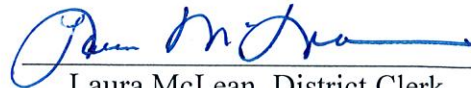
Motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:50 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1128 through 1162.