

March 28, 2018

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on March 28, 2018, in the Cafeteria of Oakwood Primary School, 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  
District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo  
Dr. Centamore  
Dr. Harris  
Dr. Bloom  
Mrs. McLean

**Not Present:** Mr. Fallon, Personnel Administrator

**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 Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta opened the Business Meeting at 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**International  
Night:**

In celebration of International Night, music teachers Mrs. Pinelli and Mr. Slawitsky led the Oakwood 2<sup>nd</sup> grade dual-language classes of Ms. Milo, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Medina, as well as the Countrywood 2<sup>nd</sup> grade dual-language class of Ms. DiNorcia in the song, "This Land is My Land, This Land is Your Land" in English and then in Spanish. The children's fluency with both languages was sung with perfection, and they sang robustly with pure enthusiasm and joy on their faces. The presentation was clearly a delight for parents, grandparents, Board of Education, Cabinet, administration and staff members, and at the conclusion, the audience provided the students with overwhelming applause.

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**iREADY  
Demonstration:**

Mrs. Carey stated that the District used NWEA MAP as a universal screener for all K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mrs. Carey shared that it had been a useful tool for supporting our RtI initiatives, however, recent technology issues diminished its usefulness. A replacement product was sought by a committee of District stakeholders, and the Curriculum Committee accepted the recommendation of the RtI Committee to move forward with iREADY. Mrs. Carey provided a brief synopsis of iREADY's features—as a nationally-normed screener, percentiles from NWEA can be compared to percentiles with iREADY allowing for a smooth transition. The screener adapts from difficult or easy questions depending upon the student's level. It also provides for fun game breaks to motivate and engage students as they complete the diagnostic. Mrs. Carey added that iREADY will be administered three times per year—in the fall, winter and spring—and parents will continue to receive progress reports.

Dr. Bloom provided an iREADY video demonstration that provided the aforementioned features and shared that the diagnostic identified what the student knew, and what the student needed to learn.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mrs. Carey and Dr. Bloom for the information and added that it appeared to be a better tool with attractive student “friendly” graphics.

**Budget Work  
Session:**

Dr. Bennardo shared with the audience that the state budget was not yet completed, which, of course, had a big impact on the 2018/2019 budget. Dr. Bennardo explained that the budget codes will be closely examined during this evening's budget work session. He also stated the proposed budget was flat, and reserves will be utilized.

Dr. Centamore reviewed the state budget codes:

1000 General Support – 8.98% of the budget  
 2000 Instruction – 56.43% of the budget  
 5000 Transportation – 5.74% of the budget  
 7000 Community Service - .02% of the budget  
 9000 Undistributed - 28.83% of the budget

A review of the 1000 General Support code reflected a proposed \$15,304,712 from the current year's \$15,020,654—a \$284,058 increase or 1.89%.

Dr. Centamore addressed the 2000 code—Instruction—which was over half of the budget. He shared that education was a “people” business, to which Dr. Bennardo added that there was nothing as important as the teacher who teaches our students. Dr. Centamore spoke of our Special Education program, which our district was well-known for. Mrs. Harris commented that the program was running smoothly. An 11.49% increase in the contractual code was due to BOCES and tuition-related increased costs. The final review of the 2000 code reflected a proposed \$96,213,221 from the current year's

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\$91,777,469—a \$4,435,752 increase or 4.83%.

The 5000 Transportation was the next code reviewed. Dr. Centamore reported that one large propane bus and two mini-buses totaling approximately \$218,000 was included in the code. The final review of the 5000 code revealed a proposed \$9,779,260 from the current year's \$9,717,827—an increase of \$61,433 or .63%.

The 7000 Teen Center code was briefly reviewed; the proposed budget was the same as the current year's budget of \$26,700.

The 9000 Benefits and Debt Service code was reviewed. The functions within this budget code included health insurance, dental insurance, Medicare reimbursement, disability insurance, unemployment insurance, retirement systems (ERS and TRS), Social Security, Worker's Compensation and life insurance. Dr. Centamore explained that the ERS proposed budget decreased by \$350,000, due to the movement of 100 Teacher Assistants to the TRS, thereby increasing that function by \$6,600,000. Debt service was also within the 9000 code, and addressed borrowing costs for capital projects, TANS and lease purchase agreements. Dr. Centamore reported that there was a \$1,000,000 transfer to capital for improvements and projects for the 2018/2019 budget. The 9000 code reflected a proposed \$49,181,781 from the current year's \$46,252,190—a \$2,929,591 increase or 6.33%.

Dr. Bennardo brought attention to the fact that there was a five-year plan with the use of reserves. Last year the State Comptroller indicated that the District had too much money saved, and a plan was needed to spend it down—however, Dr. Bennardo cautioned a plan to spend it down without running out of money was truly required. The “revenue gap” was \$5,799,999; there was \$30 million dollars in reserves currently. To bridge the \$5.8 million dollar gap in revenues, the recommendation was for the additional use of reserves, as well as fund balance for the 2018/2019 budget. However, Dr. Bennardo added that any additional state aid allocations would reduce this use. The plan was to reduce the use of reserves over an estimated five-year period by approximately a million dollars or so each year. Dr. Bennardo shared the plan was to remain sustainable.

The recommendation for the 2018/2019 budget was \$170,505,675 from last year's \$162,794,840—an increase of \$7,710,835 or a 4.74% increase.

Dr. Centamore reviewed the property propositions that will be on the ballot at the May 15<sup>th</sup> budget vote/elections. The first was the sale of the property on Depot Road for \$150,000, which will off-set a portion of the \$365,000 cost to purchase land adjacent to Stimson Middle School on Oakwood Road (just over 2 acres). The remainder would come from fund balance (OPEB). Dr. Centamore emphasized that the Oakwood Road property, if approved, would be earmarked for additional parking and field utilization. There will be separate propositions for voter approval on May 15.

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Mr. Nitkewicz emphasized the importance to publicize this sale and purchase of properties so residents would be aware of this deliberate plan.

Mr. Ciappetta thanked Dr. Bennardo and Dr. Centamore for the work with the 2018/2019 budget development process.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. DeGaetano, 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 February 28, 2018.

**Schedule of Bills (Warrants):**

General (A)	Warrant 80	\$147,450.00
	81	\$376,467.35
School Lunch	Warrant 33	\$46,502.74
	V033	(\$336.33)
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 34	\$7,215.22
Capital Checking (H)	Warrant 17	\$5,014.80
<u>Approved – Weekly Packet of March 2, 2018</u>		
General (A)	Warrant 76	\$83,340.00
	77	\$2,412.70
	78	\$117,907.63
	79	\$3,360.83
	V054	(\$3,042.10)
School Lunch	Warrant 32	\$14,855.50
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 33	\$54,236.72
Capital Checking (H)	Warrant 16	\$9,701.42

**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.

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**Approval of SHTA  
Memorandum of  
Agreement:**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement made between the South Huntington Union Free School District and the South Huntington Teachers' Association on March 12, 2018;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools are authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the above referenced agreement, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1205-1213.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta shared that the District had high expectations, we do not rest on our laurels. Mr. Ciappetta added that we strive for excellence, expecting the best, and this falls directly on our teachers. Continuing, he stated it was their work that brought great accolades to the District. Mr. Ciappetta shared that the Board was proud of how far we have come. He also communicated that the negotiations process was creative, transparent and resulted in a MOA that was sustainable, and fair to the teachers as well. Additionally, Mr. Ciappetta stated that through the entire negotiations process, there was mutual respect on both sides. Mr. Ciappetta proudly shared the MOA was for a six-year period, which for all the time he served on the Board, a six-year contract had never been accomplished. It was clear that the moment was a proud one, and Dr. Bennardo added that this Memorandum of Agreement will be a legacy of this Board of Education and teachers. Mr. Ciappetta recalled a time when teachers made contractual sacrifices; he added that there were elements within this agreement where the favor was returned. Again Mr. Ciappetta stated that our District always strived for better, and this Memorandum of Agreement was an extremely proud moment.

Mr. Nitkewicz added that he and Mrs. LaCara were the longest serving members on the Board, and he concurred with Mr. Ciappetta's comments. He thanked the teachers for their incredible work with our students.

Mr. Bronson shared that he had two sons—one in college and one a senior at Walt Whitman High School. Their educational experiences were extremely positive, and he expressed his gratitude accordingly.

**Approval of  
Memorandum of  
Agreement for  
UPSEU-Health  
Insurance:**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement made between the South Huntington Union Free School District and UPSEU on March 23, 2018;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education

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is authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the above referenced agreement, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1214-1215.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for UPSEU-Maintenance and Operations:**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement made between the South Huntington Union Free School District and UPSEU on March 23, 2018;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the above referenced agreement, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1216-1217.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Field Trip Request:**

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 DECA International Career Development Conference trip held in Atlanta, Georgia, for the senior DECA students April 21-25, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Donation from CA Technologies:**

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 \$2,500 donation from CA Technologies to be utilized specifically for the First Annual Next Generation Science STEAM Competition on May 23, 2018, and as such, the budget code for this event be increased accordingly, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1218-1221.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Welllife Network Drug Counselor at WWHS:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Welllife Consultant Services Contract for provision of a drug counselor at Walt Whitman High School commencing April 17, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated February 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27, 28, March 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 19, 2018, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated February 26, 27, March 1, 6, 8, 12, 15, 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. 1222-1245.

Motion carried unanimously.

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**Approval of  
Election Officials  
for Budget  
Vote/Elections on  
May 15, 2018:**

Motion by Mrs. Bronson, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the following individuals to act as officials at the Annual School Budget Vote and Election held on May 15, 2018. The rate of pay for Suffolk County Board of Election Inspectors shall be \$12.50 per hour. The rate of pay for the Suffolk County Board of Election Custodian, identified by the Suffolk County Board of Elections, shall be \$42 per hour starting at 4:30 p.m. through 10 p.m., a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1246-1247.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
Superintendent  
Travel/Conference:**

Motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Superintendent's Travel/Conference to the Heritage Festival in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 23-24, 2018, with the WWHS Marching Band and the Stimson Middle School's Washington D.C. trip, March 26-27, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the  
Establishment of  
SHTA Sick Bank:**

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 establishment of a 45-day SHTA Sick Bank for use by the teacher discussed during Executive Session, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1248.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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.1249-1255, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 6: Summer School Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)

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

Motion carried, 6-0, with Mr. Bronson abstaining.

**Information and  
Reports:**

1. NEWSDAY Article re Vice Admiral John C. Aquilino's Presidential nomination to Commander of Pacific Fleet, WW Graduate of 1979
2. Invitation from Principal Murphy to Board of Education to the ACT/SAT Scholar Ceremony on March 22, 2018, in South Cafeteria at WWHS
3. W/S BOCES Budget Packet re Annual Meeting on April 10 and Budget Vote and Elections on Tuesday, April 24, 2018
4. Letter to Board of Education from Salvatore Marinello, President of Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education, requesting support for

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- three-year term as Trustee
- 5. Letter to Board of Education from Sydney Finkelstein, Trustee of the Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Education, requesting support for three-year term as Trustee
- 6. Enrollment Report for Period Ending February 28, 2018
- 7. Parent Letter re Emergency Response Protocols from Principal Murphy
- 8. The Countrywood Chronicle, March 2018
- 9. Personnel Postings
- 10. Parent Letter re Spring Assessments from Principal Smith
- 11. Congratulations Letter re Boys State Program from Superintendent
- 12. NYSIR News and NYSIR News Extra, February 2018 (At Meeting)

Information and Reports Sent Weekly Packet of March 2, 2018

- 1. Invitation from Congressmen Suozzi and King to Young People's Movement Rally March 24, 2018, 11 a.m. at SUNY Farmingdale
- 2. Ingerman Smith Memo re Student and Employee Walkout Demonstrations
- 3. Ingerman Smith Memo re Use of Armed School Personnel
- 4. NYSSBA Invitation to Addressing Mental Health Conference, March 15
- 5. School Safety Officer Personnel Posting
- 6. Personnel Postings
- 7. SHTA Executive Minutes from February 26, 2018, Meeting
- 8. Facilities Committee Agenda for March 5, 2018

**Committee Updates:**

Mr. Joyner reported on the SHEF Gala Event scheduled for April 19, 2018, at the Mansion at Oyster Bay. Anticipating a great evening, Mr. Joyner shared the cost of \$125 per person will be increased to \$135 after April 1<sup>st</sup>, and urged everyone to take advantage of the lower cost right away. Mr. Joyner spoke of the honorees—Mrs. Alice D'Addario representing the past, Mrs. Kim Latko representing the present, and Mr. Bob Budah representing the future of the District, as well as the various sponsorship opportunities. Mr. Joyner reported that Mr. Budah generously donated to SHEF a six-week summer camp experience at the Park Shore Day Camp for a child, which will surely be a bidding sensation during the gala. Mr. Joyner enthusiastically announced that the event will surely be the talk of the town and urged everyone in the audience to attend.

Mr. Nitkewicz spoke of the March 21<sup>st</sup> Audit Committee meeting, and shared that the meeting was “uneventful,” but noting “uneventful” was actually a positive feature, as it represented finances operating in a smooth manner. The next Audit Committee meeting was scheduled for April 17, 2018.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta reported with pleasure on the SAT/ACT Breakfast that he attended on March 26, 2018, at Walt Whitman High School. Mr. Ciappetta thanked Principal Murphy and his team for putting the event together, and commented on the fabulous growth—three years ago the recognition was held in the library, and this year in the South Cafeteria with a tremendous turnout. Mr. Ciappetta added that it was great to see how many more students were recognized just in three years.



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Mr. Ciappetta took the opportunity to wish all present a blessed Easter and Passover holiday.

**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.


**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President



Laura McLean, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1205 through 1255