

The Budget Overview and a regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District were held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, in the Performing Arts Center of Walt Whitman High School, 301 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, New York.

**Present:**      **Board Members:**

President  
Vice President

Mr. Kaden  
Mr. Teresky  
Mr. Ciappetta  
Mrs. LaCara  
Mr. Lupinacci  
Mr. Nitkewicz

**Staff:**

Superintendent of Schools  
Asst. Supt. for Business  
Asst. Supt. for Student Services  
Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Curriculum  
Asst. Supt. for Personnel & District Services  
District Clerk

Dr. Shea  
Mrs. Occhiogrosso  
Ms. Harris  
Dr. Eagen  
Dr. Centamore  
Mrs. Hammond

**Absent:**      Board Member

Mrs. Brieff

**Call to Order:**      Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**Executive Session:**      Motion by Mr. Teresky, 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. Lupinacci, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:45 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda:**      Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mr. Teresky, be it Resolved that the tentative agenda being revised to move New Business Item 2 to the beginning of the meeting be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal:**      Eagle Scout candidate, Thomas Ciravolo, made a PowerPoint presentation to the Board describing his Eagle Scout project. He stated that he planned to redo the courtyard area outside Walt Whitman High School near the 200 wing. Mr. Ciravolo stated that he planned to remove all old plants and bushes as needed. He would also repair, paint or replace four benches. He would also refurbish the landscaping by placing new seed, stone, plants and various bushes where needed.

**Eagle Scout Service  
Project Proposal:  
(Continued)**

Following Mr. Ciravolo's presentation, the Board took the following action:

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal submitted by Thomas Ciravolo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden thanked Mr. Ciravolo for his presentation.

**2012-2013 Budget  
Overview:**

Dr. Shea began the budget overview by reviewing the tax levy calculation. Dr. Shea stated that the school property tax levy represents the amount of funding a school district needs to raise through property taxes to balance its budget. Dr. Shea explained that the property tax levy is calculated as follows: Projected school spending minus state aid, other revenues and the prior year's fund balance. This amount equals the property tax levy. Dr. Shea noted that on Long Island, property taxes comprise nearly 70% of school funding. Dr. Shea stated that the tax cap applies to the levy, not the rate or the homeowner's payment. The Levy Cap is calculated by a complex formula created by New York State. Dr. Shea noted that exceptions would allow the cap to exceed 2% and CPE could hold the cap below 2% - it is not simply 2%. Dr. Shea stated that the tax levy must be approved by the voters and a 60% majority would be needed to pass a tax levy above the cap. A 50% majority would be required to pass a tax levy at or below the cap. Dr. Shea noted that if the voters reject the levy twice, it would be capped at 0.0%. Dr. Shea reviewed the tax levy cap calculation for 2012-13. South Huntington's tax cap increase equals 4.22%.

Dr. Shea then reviewed "non-discretionary" cost increases:

- Pension Contributions (TRS and ERS) is being increased by \$1,525,539 which is a 17.91% increase.
- Debt Service is being increased by \$1,802,402 which is a 27.74% increase.
- Special Education (does not include salaries and benefits) is being increased by \$328,453 which is a 3.68% increase.
- General Insurance Premiums (does not include employee benefit insurances such as health, dental, workmen's compensation and life) is being increased by \$75,000 which is a 10.84% increase.
- Utilities are being increased by \$55,507 which is a 2.41% increase.
- BOCES Administrative and Capital Charges (all districts pay a share of all BOCES administrative and operational costs) are being increased by \$15,000 which is a 3.28% increase.
- Salaries and contractual obligations (Dr. Shea noted all units were asked to take a hard wage freeze. Only the South Huntington Administrators Association responded positively to this request. Dr. Shea thanked the association for their willingness to take a wage freeze.) is being increased by \$4,310,953 which is a 4.76% increase.

**2012-2013 Budget  
Overview:  
(Continued)**

Dr. Shea stated that the total for the non-discretionary increases over last year's categories equals \$8,112,854 which is a budget increase of 5.77%.  
Dr. Shea reviewed what we must spend vs. the tax cap:

Tax Cap Increase	\$4,234,144
Non-Discretionary	<u>8,112,854</u>
Difference	-3,878,710

Dr. Shea then reviewed "discretionary" spending:

- Staffing
- Textbooks
- Supplies and equipment
- Instructional computer technology
- Co- & Extra-Curricular Activities
- Travel and conferences
- Capital improvements and maintenance

Dr. Shea then reviewed revenue sources:

- State Aid – 2012-13 would be \$26,230,001 which is an increase of \$2,080,459 or 8.61%. Dr. Shea reviewed the different categories and the 2012-13 change.
- Federal Education Jobs Act – Dr. Shea noted that this ended in 2011-2012. This would be a loss of -\$550,000 in 2012-13.
- Applied Fund Balance – this is the portion of the prior year's surplus funds used each year to offset the tax rate. In 2012-13 the district could use \$3,200,000 in applied fund balance.
- Inter-Governmental Funds (Library Bond) is being decreased by \$96,752 which is a 10.55% decrease.
- Health Fees – health services provided to students attending private and parochial schools within South Huntington from out of district. The students' home districts are billed each year. There is no change anticipated in 2012-13.
- Tuition Other Districts – Special Education services provided to students attending private and parochial schools within South Huntington from out-of-district. The students' home districts are billed each year. There would be no change in 2012-13.
- Insurance Contributions (portion of premiums paid by employees per labor contracts) is being increased by \$335,000 which is a 16.75% increase.
- Rental Income is being decreased by \$166,966 which is a 14.30% decrease.
- Miscellaneous Components is being decreased by \$606,521 which is a 27.44% decrease.
- Interest Income is being decreased by \$152,779 which is a 27.39% decrease.
- Adult Education – no change.

Dr. Shea stated that reserves are a separate account established to finance specific district costs. Dr. Shea then reviewed the projected reserves for

**2012-2013 Budget  
Overview:  
(Continued)**

2012-13. Dr. Shea also reviewed the different categories of revenue and the changes for 2012-13.

Dr. Shea then outlined what we "must" spend vs. the tax cap and the loss of revenue:

Tax Cap Increase	\$4,234,144
Non-Discretionary	8,112,854
Difference	-3,878,710
Loss of Revenue	-1,499,031
Total Difference	-5,377,741

Dr. Shea noted that at this point, to stay within the cap with non-discretionary cost increases, \$3,878,710 must be cut somewhere else in the budget. To make up the loss of revenue and to stay within the tax cap, an additional \$1,499,031 must be cut from the budget. The total cuts to stay within the tax cap equal \$5,377,741, just to account for mandated spending and revenue loss.

Dr. Shea then outlined the tax levy cap budget for 2012-13:

2012-13 Tax Capped Levy	\$104,635,434
2012-13 Other Revenues	<u>38,354,716</u>
2012-13 Tax Cap Budget	\$142,990,150
Current 2011-12 Budget	\$140,255,037
Difference	2,735,113
Percent Difference	1.95%
Est. Tax Rate Increase	5.38%

Dr. Shea then reviewed the state aid, assessed valuation and budget trend for 1990-2011 and some Long Island facts. Dr. Shea then reviewed facts about a contingent budget. Contingent budgets fund only certified staff salaries and those items the Board of Education determines to be "ordinary contingent expenses." Dr. Shea noted that transportation would be considered an ordinary contingent expense. Dr. Shea also noted that the new tax law required the district to remain at the same tax levy as the prior year. The required deductions from previous budget laws also remain. The 2012-13 contingent budget would be \$133,194,357 which is \$7,060,680 less than the current 2011-12 budget.

A resident asked if state legislators were invited to attend the budget work session. Mr. Kaden stated that he had spoken with state legislators on numerous occasions regarding school budget concerns. Mr. Nitkewicz also noted that he had met with Senator Carl Marcellino to discuss the state aid situation. Mr. Kaden noted that what was driving the tax rate is the amount of state aid we have received over the past 15 years. The budget has increased about 5% each year. Mr. Kaden stated that if you put the numbers side by side you would see the lack of revenue was a bigger drive than the increase in budget.

**2012-2013 Budget Overview:  
(Continued)**

Dr. Shea concluded his presentation by reviewing the upcoming budget workshop dates and topics:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
3/7	Central Administration, Employee Benefits, Debt Service & Fund Transfers
3/14	Transportation
3/21	Instruction and Staffing
3/28	Instruction and Staffing
4/4	Budget Adoption
5/8	Public Meeting on Budget
5/15	Budget Vote

Following Dr. Shea's presentation, the Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion.

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

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mr. Teresky, 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 25, 2012.

**Single Audit Report, Federal Funds:**

The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, audit reports prepared for the District by the firm R. S. Abrams & Co., LLP for federal funds for the 2010/11 school year.

**Bids:**

The following bid, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 940-943.

RFP for Real Estate Schedule 12-07R

**Schedule of Bills (Warrants):**

General Fund	Warrant 78	\$ 1,882,180.24
"	79	1,415.66
"	V075	(23,607.20)
School Lunch	34	128,441.04
Special Aid	31	62,215.18
Capital Reserve Bond	34	1,850.32

Approved – Board Packet of February 17, 2012

General Fund	Warrant 76	\$ 3,855.33
"	77	1,039,678.77
School Lunch	33	25,649.64
Special Aid	30	8,843.65
Capital Reserve Bond	33	17,099.91

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

Mr. Kaden asked for any additional comments or questions on the above items, and then called for a vote on the motion.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Communications:**

- Letter from Wayne T. Rogers and Anita S. Katz, Suffolk County Board of Elections, re use of school buildings as polling places for elections

**Communications:  
(Continued)**

2. Letter from Sal Marinello, Western Suffolk BOCES, re support of candidacy for term on the BOCES Board
3. Letter from Sydney Finkelstein, Western Suffolk BOCES, re support of candidacy for term on the BOCES Board

**2012-2013 School  
Calendar:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2012-2013 school calendar.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Teresky, 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 January 5, 11, 18, 23, 25, 30, 31, February 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14 and 15, 2012, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated February 17, 2012, 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. 944-954.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mr. Teresky, 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. 955-963, and authorizes implementation thereof:

- Schedule 2 – Administrative/Supervisory Appointments (Instructional)
  - Schedule 6 – Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)
  - Schedule 7 – Reemployment to Positions (Instructional)
  - Schedule 8 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
  - Schedule 10 – Terminations (Instructional)
  - Schedule 11 – Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (½ Pay);  
Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)
  - Schedule 12 – Salary Change (Instructional)
  - Schedule 23 – Substitute Employees (Instructional)
  - Schedule 24 – Substitute Employees (Non-Instructional)
- Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and  
Reports:**

1. **Confidential** memo from Ingerman Smith, LLP re a personnel matter
2. Testimony of James March, Mary Jo O'Hagan and Jim Kaden at the New York State Mandate Relief Council Public Hearing, 2-10-12
3. Welcome Speech of Mary Jo O'Hagan at the Nassau Schools – Financial/Legislative Advocacy Forum, 2-10-12
4. Memo to the Board of Education, Cabinet and Ms. Acker from Ms. Harris re Student Letter
5. Personnel Posting (1)
6. *Legal Liability Reporter*, NYSIR, Spring 2012
7. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-16-12

**Information and Reports:  
(Continued)**

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 17, 2012

1. **Confidential** memo from Ingerman Smith re a personnel matter
2. **Confidential** memo from Ingerman Smith re a business matter
3. Letter to Parents from Ms. Harris re Birchwood pilot program for free school breakfast
4. Magazine article: "The Dangers of Fast Thinking," *The Week*, 2-10-12 (courtesy of Lee Nober)
5. Budget Dates Postcard to Residents
6. Personnel Postings (2)
7. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 2-13-12

**Committee Updates:**

None given.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

None given.

**Voice of the Residents:**

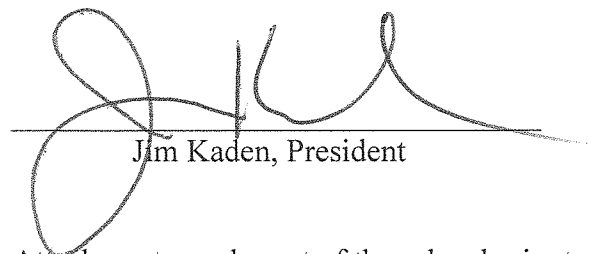
Visitors were invited to participate.

Richard Jacques of the *Huntington Patch* asked about the search for a new Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Kaden stated that the résumés were being reviewed and interviews would begin in April.

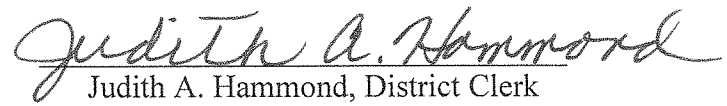
**Adjournment:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:05 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 940 through 963.