

A Budget Work Session and regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, March 28, 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
Mrs. Brieff
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

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

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

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

Voice of the Residents: Eve Metzger, an 8th grade student at Stimson Middle School, addressed the Board regarding a petition she wanted to present to the Board. The petition, which had 179 signatures, requested that the Board design a test in order to determine who was best suited for elective courses.

Budget Work Session: Dr. Shea began the budget work session presentation by reviewing last week's questions. Dr. Shea reviewed the scheduling process at Walt Whitman High School:

- Maintain overall academic program
- Provide support in major areas of accountability
- Maintain Advanced Placement program and courses required for graduation

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

- Allow for opportunity for four credits of math and science
- Minimize impact to students
- Savings to meet the challenge of the tax cap
- Starting point was “roll up” levels of staffing
- Analysis focused on student course requests and projected class sizes
- Guidance sought students’ revised requests
- Request counts were reanalyzed to determine changes/impact
- Class/student finalized late spring once budget is approved and staffing finalized

Dr. Shea reviewed enrollment numbers for various courses which included dance. Dr. Shea noted that there were classes with as few as three students. Dr. Shea stated that the problem the dance program is having is the fact that 39 students did not justify a full time dance teacher. Dr. Shea noted that there were eight sections in Studio in Art with room for about 24 more students and there were currently thirteen students on a wait list. There were students present at the meeting who addressed the Board in support of the dance program. They felt it would be a great loss to lose the dance program and they wanted other students to have the opportunity to take the course. Dr. Shea challenged the students to get additional students to take the dance course so that the program could be saved. A parent addressed the Board stating that she felt it was ludicrous to consider keeping the dance program when the Board was considering a half day kindergarten.

Dr. Shea reviewed the transportation comparison costs with regard to outsourcing transportation. Some of the concerns are unemployment costs and legal issues involving the Taylor Law. Dr. Shea noted that under the Taylor Law the process would have to be negotiated. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the numbers were different than numbers seen before. Mr. Ciappetta suggested a full study by an outside group. Dr. Shea agreed that an outside group should be hired to look at this matter. Dr. Shea stated that his recommendation would be to go to an extended school day model and see how that works out. Dr. Shea noted that the extended day model would save approximately \$448,239.

Kevin Boyle, President of the United Public Service Employees Union, was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. He spoke about the recent settlement at the Manhasset School District with regard to their outsourcing of transportation. Mr. Boyle stated that the district settled the case at a cost of \$9 million. Mr. Boyle noted that there are laws that protect people and these are good people who do a great job for the school district. Mr. Boyle felt that the in-house cost for a large bus depicted on one of the slides was not accurate. He questioned that a large bus would cost \$78,664. Mr. Boyle stated that he appreciated that the district would do a study. Mr. Kaden noted that the legal costs were a major concern.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Brendon Clifford of Huntington Coach addressed the Board. He had issues with the unemployment costs listed on the slide. Mr. Clifford stated that Huntington Coach would be offering our bus drivers work so there should not be unemployment costs even if they turn the job down. Mr. Clifford noted that the Manhasset School District is very happy with the bus situation. Mr. Clifford stated that he would be happy to go over the numbers with the union. A resident asked Mr. Clifford how long Huntington Coach would guarantee the number on the slide. Mr. Clifford stated that there would be a cost of living increase every year. Mr. Clifford stated that Huntington Coach would be happy to continue to work with the district.

Dr. Shea noted that there was a question last week from Mr. Callahan regarding how much the district would save if the teachers took a freeze. Dr. Shea reviewed the numbers:

• Teachers' hard freeze	\$1,072,588
• Federal Education Jobs Act	614,139
• Contingent Teachers (2)	<u>150,000</u>
• Total	\$1,836,727

Dr. Shea again reviewed the tax levy calculation slides that were covered at previous budget work sessions.

Dr. Shea stated that the "working budget" for tonight is \$146,744,492 which is a budget increase of 4.63% and a 9.16% tax rate increase.

Dr. Shea reviewed administration recommendations:

• Reduce all equipment purchases (except Instructional Technology)	\$17,400
• Change School Times to allow for cost reductions	448,239

Dr. Shea reviewed a new transportation option due to parent concerns, which is being labeled Transportation Option C:

<u>BUILDING (BUSES)</u>	<u>ARR</u>	<u>INSTRUCTION</u>	<u>DEP</u>
WWHS (44)	7:10	7:20-2:00	2:05
OW/CW (37)	8:10	8:20-2:35	2:45
BW/MW (41)	8:50	9:00-3:15	3:25
SMS/SW (38)	9:30	9:35-4:25	4:30

Dr. Shea continued with the administration recommendations:

• Reduce Teaching Staff by 19.2 FTE	784,861
– Elementary Teaching Staff – 10.0 reduction	
– Secondary Teaching Staff – 9.2 reduction	

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Possible Walt Whitman Teaching Staff Reduction:

- +0.2 Art
- -1.0 Dance
- -0.7 English
- -0.9 Mathematics
- -1.0 Physical Education (District-wide)
- -0.2 Regents Prep (Reading)
- -1.0 Social Studies
- -0.2 Science
- -0.4 World Languages
- -5.2 Net Change

Jessica Rubinstein, an Oakwood elementary teacher, was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. She expressed her feelings of concern and unhappiness over the fact that she had been receiving excess letters for the past four years. She stated that she wanted to put a face and name to the number of cuts listed. Mr. Kaden stated that he knew it was difficult and he agreed that it was very hard. Mr. Kaden noted that he, also, had received letters of excess. Mr. Kaden stated that he was sorry that Ms. Rubinstein had to go through that every year and he wished her well. Dr. Shea noted that he, too, had faced excessing in the past. Dr. Shea acknowledged that it bothered him as much as it bothered Ms. Rubinstein. Mrs. Brieff thanked Ms. Rubinstein for her impassioned letter. Mrs. Brieff noted that it took courage to speak.

Dr. Shea continued with the administrative recommendations:

Possible Silas Wood/Stimson Teaching Staff Reduction:

- -2.0 Team Reduction (SW)
- -0.6 World Languages
- -0.4 Art
- -0.4 Home & Careers
- -0.8 Technology
- -0.4 Psychologist
- -1.0 Librarian
- -0.4 Resource Room
- -6.0 Total Reduction

Recess:

Mr. Kaden called for a brief recess.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Dr. Shea stated that he would also be recommending a half day Kindergarten:

- Modify the Kindergarten day to a morning program approximately 2.5 hours.
- Reduces 21 full time teachers to part time.
- Allows for the students to attend day care in the same building.
- Save the district a total of \$1,104,305.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Dr. Shea then reviewed a slide for substitute pay rate reduction. Dr. Shea noted that another Long Island district did not use substitute teachers. Instead they have students go to a central location for a study hall when their teacher is out sick. Dr. Shea stated that he was not certain this would work at our district. Dr. Shea is proposing a reduction in the rate of pay to \$95 per diem and \$105 for short term and permanent substitutes. That would save the district \$129,584.

Dr. Shea reviewed a slide for home tutoring. Dr. Shea noted that the district has begun to have students in small groups instead of individual instruction. There has been a cost reduction of \$100,000.

Dr. Shea continued with the administration recommendations:

- Reducing one or more chairpersons \$129,500
Mr. Ciappetta asked how many chairpersons would be eliminated if the district went to a 6-12 model. Dr. Shea stated it would be four.
- 10.0 Instructional Elementary Paraprofessionals 140,587
- 1.0 Maintenance, 1.0 Grounds, 4.0 Custodial 423,615
- Clerical Staff Reduction 210,500
- Middle School Sports 180,158
- Intramural Program Added -31,000
- Bowling, Golf & Swimming Added -29,000

Dr. Shea then reviewed the Debt Service slide and the estimated tax implications.

Dr. Shea reviewed the upcoming budget workshops and vote dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
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.

Some of the concerns expressed by audience members included:

1. Dance program at Walt Whitman High School.
2. Outsourcing transportation.
3. Half day kindergarten.
4. Staff being excessed.
5. Change in school hours with new transportation options.
6. Cut things that will have the least impact on educating children.
7. Waiting list for art classes.
8. Cost of summer school.
9. Leasing of the Performing Arts Center for added revenue.
10. Loss of the librarian at Silas Wood/Stimson Middle School.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

11. A question was asked about who compiles the numbers? Mr. Kaden explained what auditors the district uses.
12. A question was asked about the MTA payroll tax.
13. What programs would be cut out of the kindergarten day? Dr. Eagen stated that PE is required and would be offered. Specials are not required (library, art and music).
14. Are teachers considering a freeze?
15. Cost of the Saturday Academy.
16. Has the Board considered how much it would cost to send a student to the Long Island School for the Arts? Would students be able to go if the dance program was cancelled?
17. A resident asked that the Board consider giving a little in quality of life concessions to unions so that we can get something in return.
18. A resident asked the Board to put up a higher budget and give the voters a chance to vote on that.
19. Raise money for sports by fundraising. Mr. Kaden stated that the issue with fundraising is that it is more difficult when you have to raise the money each year. Mr. Kaden noted that interest could be generated for one year but it was very hard to keep it up.
20. Consider having the older children dismissed first so they are home for the younger students.
21. Would middle school students be allowed to participate in high school sports?
22. Would cuts be saved if the teachers took a pay freeze? Would it help if the teachers took half a raise?
23. A resident suggested cutting JV sports rather than middle school sports.
24. OSA Co-President Joanne Miranda addressed the Board. She stated that when the letter asking for a hard freeze came, the association was just beginning the negotiations process. Mrs. Miranda noted that she had met with Dr. Shea to ask for a retirement incentive for their members that she felt would save the district money. Mrs. Miranda stated that she felt everyone needed to work together and we all must continue to contact our representatives in Albany.
25. Use reserves to save Kindergarten and other programs.
26. Was an extended day Kindergarten being considered?
27. SHPA Co-President Pat Dell addressed the Board. She stated that last year the SHPA lost 30 members due to excessing. Mrs. Dell noted that in 2009 the union gave five days back. Mrs. Dell noted that the SHPA had submitted a proposal for an extension of their contract that was rejected by the Board.
28. Would prefer to have the district keep their own buses.
29. A resident asked what the consequences were if the district goes above the tax cap and it doesn't pass by 60%.
30. Switch Stimson Middle School hours with Birchwood.
31. What happened to the Lottery funds? Mr. Kaden explained.

**Budget Work Session:
(Continued)**

- 32. Can we put up a “wish list” budget on the ballot and then have another budget?
- 33. Can we get corporate sponsorship to help save our programs?
- 34. What could parents do to help save the programs?
- 35. Shouldn't structural long term changes be considered such as using Memorial for Kindergarten classes and closing Silas Wood?
- 36. Should Huntington Coach have really been in talks to determine the cost of our buses?
- 37. What was the Board's position on debt service?
- 38. Consider dropping chaperones at sports rather than the whole sports program?
- 39. How aggressive are we with grant writing? Could we hire someone on contingency to work on grants?

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried 6-1, with Mrs. Brieff opposed.

Motion by Mr. Teresky, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Approve an Extension of the Time Limit Past 11:30 p.m.:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves an extension of the time limit and allow the meeting to proceed past the hour of 11:30 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):

Motion by Mr. Teresky, 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 February 28, 29 and March 7, 2012.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):

General Fund	Warrant 87	\$ 97,300.00
"	88	2,790.00
"	89	392,576.68
"	90	782.00
School Lunch	37	21,399.80
"	38	188.50
Special Aid	36	4,213.33
Capital Reserve Bond	37	99,881.06

Schedule of Bills	<u>Approved – Board Packet of March 16, 2012</u>		
(Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 84	\$ 22,010.76
(Continued)	"	85	992,966.40
	"	86	1,250.00
	School Lunch	36	2,191.32
	"	V035	(914.69)
	Special Aid	35	9,138.90
	Capital Reserve Bond	36	111,432.13

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:**
1. Letter from Robby Deitz re the art program at Walt Whitman High School
 2. Letter from Ellen Esposito re dance program at Walt Whitman High School
 3. Letter from Theresa M. Clark re Proposed Budget Cuts
 4. Letter from Christine Stalters re Proposed Budget Cuts

Field Trip Request: Motion by Mr. Teresky, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip to Salt Lake City, Utah for the International DECA Competition to be held on April 28 – March 2, 2012.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program: Motion by Mr. Teresky, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program, a copy of the resolution made part of these legal minutes, p. 1053.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Teresky, 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 12, February 8, 15, 27, 28, 29, March 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2012, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated February 6, March 9, 12, 13, 15 and 20, 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. 1054-1070.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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

**Personnel:
(Continued)**

schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1071-1077, and authorizes implementation thereof:
 Schedule 8 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
 Schedule 10 – Terminations (Instructional)
 Schedule 15 – Terminations (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 16 – Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 19 – Temporary/Seasonal Appointments (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 23 – Substitute Employees (Instructional)
 Schedule 24 – Substitute Employees (Non-Instructional)
 Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Memo to Dr. Shea from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Meeting Minutes of Architect Meetings of February 8, 22, 29 and March 7
2. Memo to the Board of Education from Ms. Harris re Health & Wellness Fair
3. Memo to Dr. Shea from Ms. Acker re New York State Scholarships for Academic Excellence
4. Personnel Postings (9)
5. News articles; *The Long-Islander*, 3-15-12

In envelopes:

1. *Year 2012 Legislative Priorities for Public Education*, N-SSBA (Board Members Only)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending March 16, 2012

1. Letter to the Board of Education from Dr. Michael Mensch, Western Suffolk BOCES, re BOCES Tentative Budget for the 2012-2013 School Year (Board Members Only)
2. **Confidential** memo from Ingerman Smith, L.L.P. re a legal matter
3. Letter to the Board of Education from Carlo Giordano re proposed custodial layoffs
4. Memo to Mr. Kaden from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Audit Committee Minutes, 3-12-12
5. Memo to Dr. Shea from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Projected Fund Balance
6. Memo to Dr. Shea from Ms. Harris re School Grade Enrollment Report for the First Attendance Period February 1, 2012, through February 29, 2012
7. **Confidential** letter from Marian Christie re a personnel matter
8. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 3-12-12
9. Invitation to Roberta Lewis' Retirement Party
10. Suggestion (1), Administration Building
11. Suggestions (2), Walt Whitman High School
12. *NYSIR News*, Spring 2012 (Board Members Only)

Committee Updates:

None given.

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

None given.

**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

Pat Dell, Co-President of SHPA, thanked the Board for the extension of a leave of absence for one of their members.

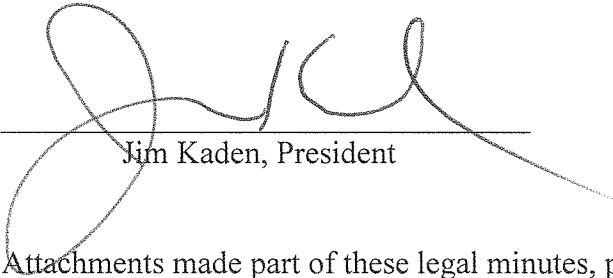
Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mr. Teresky, be it Resolved that the Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 1:50 a.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1053 through 1077.