

The Budget Adoption and a regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in Conference Room B of the Administration Building, 60 Weston Street, 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. Ciappetta, 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 Mrs. Brieff, 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.

SHTA President Statement: Mr. Kaden invited SHTA President Dennis Callahan to read a statement that he had prepared. Mr. Callahan stated that he wanted to take the opportunity to dispel rumors and correct misinformation. Mr. Callahan stated that the teachers association was currently engaged in negotiations. Mr. Callahan noted that negotiations had been civil and no harsh words had been spoken. Mr. Callahan noted that he didn't have the authority to announce a wage freeze and it was for that reason that he approached the administration with several concepts to address. One of the concepts featured a salary freeze and retirement incentive. Mr. Callahan stated that the new teacher evaluation system had been submitted to the district for approval. Mr. Callahan suggested a freeze on replacements for administration. Mr. Callahan noted that he had travelled to Albany to speak with our legislators. He suggested that the increased state aid that

**SHTA President
Statement:
(Continued)**

the district would receive should be used to restore programs. Mr. Callahan stated that he was not attacking or criticizing the Board of Education or administration. He noted that the Board and administration were working tirelessly on these important decisions. Mr. Callahan stated that to say that the members of the Board did not care about children could not be further from the truth. Mr. Callahan noted that people have every right to disagree with the Board but to accuse them of not caring about children crossed the line. Mr. Kaden agreed that no harsh words had been spoken during the negotiations process. He noted that it is a slow process. Mr. Kaden stated that the Board would continue to look at the retirement proposal. Mr. Kaden noted that the Board would welcome a freeze but they would need to know that tonight before the budget adoption.

**Budget Adoption
Presentation:**

Mr. Kaden stated that the Board had been listening to the public during the budget work sessions. He noted that the Board had received a lot of input and now it was time for the Board to make their decision. Mr. Kaden stated that the Board would not seek public comments during the presentation but would still receive any comments requesting clarification.

Dr. Shea began the presentation by reviewing the debt service numbers:

• Original Bond Amount	\$10,000,000
• Bond Borrow Reduction	<u>-3,250,000</u>
• Revised Bond Amount	6,750,000
• Original Bond Payment	1,250,000
• Payment Reduction	<u>-640,000</u>
• Proposed Bond Payment	\$610,000

Mr. Ciappetta gave a brief review of the bond process and the projects that had been done and were scheduled to be done. The district would like to finish some of the projects and would need to borrow an additional \$6.75 million. Mr. Ciappetta also reviewed some of the projects that had been cut.

Dr. Shea stated that the "working" budget for tonight is \$146,104,492, which is a 4.17% budget increase and an 8.29% tax rate increase. Dr. Shea then reviewed the state aid projections. The total aid change as of March 2012 would be an increase of \$222,703.

Dr. Shea reviewed the reserve and fund balance amounts from 2010-11 through 2014-15. Dr. Shea then reviewed the tax cap law resolution required for an override of the 2% tax cap. Dr. Shea concluded his presentation with the remaining budget dates.

**Budget Adoption
Presentation:
(Continued)**

Mr. Kaden noted that Mr. Ciappetta had tried very hard to save the full day kindergarten program but they couldn't reach the number needed without impacting so many other programs. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that he was uncomfortable with the new transportation schedule. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that the Board should take a more prudent course with transportation and suggested that it be kept as it is for next year. Mr. Nitkewicz suggested that the money be taken out of reserves. Mr. Teresky agreed that it is too short a time period to make these changes in transportation. Mr. Kaden stated that he had mixed feelings about using reserves. Mrs. LaCara stated that she also felt that the transportation schedule should remain the same as it was this year. Mrs. LaCara also stressed the importance of middle school sports. Mrs. LaCara would like to use the additional state aid for middle school sports. Mrs. Brieff stated that she did not want to make this Kindergarten vs. middle school sports. Mrs. Brieff also stressed the importance of middle school sports and supported keeping them for next year. With regard to transportation, Mrs. Brieff felt there were too many pieces and too short a time period to make this change. She suggested an early focus on this next year. Mr. Lupinacci stated that he would support keeping transportation as it is but he also was reluctant to dip into reserves. Mr. Lupinacci stated that he would support cutting middle school sports as the district would now be looking into setting up a good intramural program at Stimson in place of the current sports program. Mr. Ciappetta agreed with keeping transportation the same for next year. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the district needed time to do a study on outsourcing for next year. With regard to the other cuts, Mr. Teresky stated that he would go along with all the cuts recommended by administration. Mr. Teresky stated that this was now the new reality school districts had to deal with. Mr. Teresky noted that he was hesitant to dip into reserves. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the Board had always tried to achieve proportionality and noted that cuts recently had been evenly spaced. Mr. Ciappetta stated that he agreed with the "bang for the buck" theory that Mr. Kaden often spoke about and he would support Dr. Shea's recommendation for cuts. Mr. Ciappetta noted that over the past two years the Board had made cuts in academics including the elimination of the ninth period day at Walt Whitman High School and left the sports program virtually intact. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that these were horrible decisions that had to be made and he was struggling with the cuts needed. He noted that he played sports and he appreciated athletics. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that there would be a real commitment to the intramural program and he was happy about that. Mrs. Brieff stated that she never played sports but was very involved in the arts. Mrs. Brieff stated that a parent had suggested the elimination of JV instead of middle school sports but it was felt that the JV played a big part on the students' résumés and, therefore, it should be maintained. With regard to the half day Kindergarten, Mrs. Brieff noted that the district would be looking into getting an enrichment program in place. Mrs. Brieff noted that these cuts were very difficult and she sat there with a very heavy heart. Mr. Lupinacci stated that he would agree with leaving transportation as it is this year. Mr. Lupinacci further stated that

**Budget Adoption
Presentation:
(Continued)**

he would support all administrative recommendations. Mr. Lupinacci noted that he was on the Curriculum Committee that added so many of the clubs that had been cut. Mr. Lupinacci stated that in addition to the children being affected by these cuts, there was also the human side. Mr. Lupinacci noted that many South Huntington neighbors would be laid off. Mr. Lupinacci also stated that he felt that dipping into reserves was not a good idea.

Mr. Kaden stated that due to the change in the Kindergarten program, he felt, to be fair, the deadline for requesting transportation should be extended. There might be parents who now want to send their children to a private full-day Kindergarten program. It was the sense of the Board to extend the deadline for requesting transportation to June 1. Mr. Kaden also stated that an RFP should be sent out for an after school care or enrichment program.

Many parents and students addressed the Board in support of the middle school sports program and asked the Board to reconsider their decision to eliminate the sports program. Other concerns expressed included:

1. A resident stated that parents would need information regarding the half day Kindergarten program in a reasonable time in order to make a decision on whether or not to send their child to a private full day program.
2. The children that would be affected by the elimination of the sports program are the same children that were affected by the elimination of Maplewood clubs.
3. Can the district set up a "Pay to Play" program? Mr. Kaden noted that "Pay to Play" was illegal in New York State.
4. If legislation changed, would the Board consider "Pay to Play?" Mr. Kaden stated that the Board would.
5. A parent asked if children in the half day Kindergarten program would be bused to day care centers after school. Dr. Shea stated that if the day care center was in the same attendance area, the children would be bused to the day care center. Dr. Shea noted that buses would not go across attendance areas.
6. A resident stated that she wanted the district to pierce the cap. Mr. Kaden noted that in the first year of the cap, people had an expectation that the tax cap would be upheld. Mr. Kaden suggested the possibility of piercing the cap in future years.
7. A resident asked why the reserves had to be kept.
8. Would the district consider tuition based full day Kindergarten?
9. Would the teams be able to fundraise?
10. Would the district look at utilizing Memorial and Silas Wood?
11. Would the dual language classes be offered? Would this impact Title I?
12. Would teachers receive training for the new grades they would be teaching?
13. Is the old library building for sale?

**Budget Adoption
Presentation:
(Continued)**

14. A resident asked for an explanation of the proposed intramural sports program.

Mrs. LaCara stated that she felt that an intramural program would not be the same as the middle school sports program. Mrs. LaCara stated that she would like to save middle school sports and suggested that the district go into the reserves to save the program. Mrs. Brieff agreed and asked that reserves be used to save the middle school sports program. Both Mrs. LaCara and Mrs. Brieff felt the sum of \$120,000 was relatively low and should be taken from reserves for the benefit of all the children in the sports program.

**Adoption of the
2012-13 School
Budget:**

Mr. Ciappetta moved, with a second from Mr. Nitkewicz, to amend the agenda to move the adoption of the 2012-13 school budget so that the Board could cast their vote at this time.
Motion, to amend, carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the budget of \$142,943,982 be adopted and the amount thereof, less state aid and other income, be raised by tax upon taxable property of South Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, County of Suffolk, New York, for the school year 2012-2013.
Motion carried 5-2, with Mrs. Brieff and Mrs. LaCara opposed.

Mrs. LaCara moved, with a second from Mrs. Brieff, to amend the motion to include the sum of \$120,000 from reserves to keep the middle school sports program intact.
Motion defeated 2-5, with Mr. Ciappetta, Mr. Kaden, Mr. Lupinacci, Mr. Nitkewicz and Mr. Teresky opposed.

Recess:

Mr. Kaden called for a brief recess.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

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

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

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 March 14 and 21, 2012.

**Schedule of
Investment
Accounts:**

Schedule of Investment Accounts, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1087.

**Treasurer's
Report:**

Treasurer's Report, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1088.

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1089-1102.
Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1103.
Revenue Status Report, General Fund:	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1104.
Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1105.
Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1106.
Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund:	Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1107.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1108-1111.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1112.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1113.
Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1114-1115.
Budgetary Transfer Report:	Budgetary Transfer Report, February 2012, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 1116.
Tax Levy Schedule:	Tax Levy Schedule, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1117.

Library Tax Levy: Library Tax Levy, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1117.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report: Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, February 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1118-1121.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 91	\$ 1,450,992.52
	"	92	35,000.01
	"	V000	(30.00)
	Special Aid	37	21,447.46
	Capital Reserve Bond	38	330.01

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. Correspondence regarding proposed budget cuts (14)
 2. Correspondence in support of a full day Kindergarten (15)
 3. Correspondence in support of middle school sports (79)
 4. Petition from Desiree Bellamy regarding proposed program cuts at Walt Whitman High School

Updated Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Plan: Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Updated Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Plan.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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 26, February 8, 28, March 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21 and 23, 2012, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 9, 12, 13, 15, 19, 23 and 28, 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. 1122-1137.
Motion carried unanimously.

Wildcat Booster Club Donation: Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby accepts the donation of a new sound system for the North Gymnasium at Walt Whitman High School by the Wildcat Booster Club.
Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1138-1141, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 8 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11 – Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (½ Pay);

Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)

Schedule 23 – Substitute Employees (Instructional)

Schedule 24 – Substitute Employees (Non-Instructional)

Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Petition submitted by Eve Metzger at March 28 Board Meeting
2. Memo to Dr. Shea from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Meeting Minutes of Architect Meetings of March 14 and March 21
3. Invitation to Karen Siegel's Retirement Party
4. Memo to Dr. Shea from Ms. Harris re Vein Care of New York
5. Letter to Dr. Shea from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dispenzieri re March 21, 2012, Budget Work Session
6. Letter to Dr. Shea from Mr. O'Shaughnessy re responsibilities of the Grounds Department
7. Memo to the Long Island New York State Senate and Assembly Delegations from James S. March and Brian Sales, N-SSBA, re New York State Budget – What's at Stake for Long Island?
8. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 3-26-12
9. April 2012 Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
10. Personnel Posting (3)
11. Flyer re SHEF Fundraiser to be held on April 25, 2012
12. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 3-22-12 and 3-29-12

In envelopes:

1. *Spotlight*, March 2012

Committee Updates:

None given.

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mr. Kaden stated all middle school sports teams would have the opportunity to try to fundraise through the Booster Club to reinstate their sport.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that he had an empty feeling. Mr. Ciappetta noted that he thought he could help the district and he took pride in the great things that had been accomplished. Mr. Ciappetta noted that he felt terrible about these necessary cuts.

Mr. Nitkewicz noted that this was the first year of the tax cap. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that for the past four years he had gone to Albany to

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:
(Continued)**

bring attention to our community. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he felt the legislators had done nothing. Mr. Nitkewicz expressed his feelings of disappointment to have members of the community say that what the Board had done was disgusting. Mr. Nitkewicz encouraged community members to be sure to vote and to speak with their legislators. Mr. Ciappetta stated that he hoped it would make a difference. Mr. Kaden noted that voting in November for local legislators was important as it would have an impact on the school district budget. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that the tax cap was something that hadn't started this year. The Board knew it was coming. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that it was an awful night and for anyone to suggest that the Board was happy to take something away from the children was terrible.

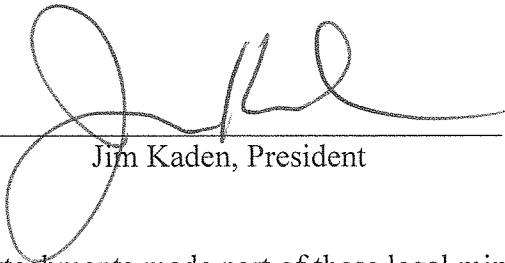
**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:15 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1087 through 1141.