

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, in the cafeteria of Oakwood Primary Center, 264 West 22 Street, Huntington, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**

President
Vice President

Mr. Kaden
Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Brieff
Mrs. DeGaetano
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Lupinacci
Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools
Asst. Supt. for Student Services
Asst. Supt. for Personnel & District Services
Interim Business Administrator
District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo
Ms. Harris
Dr. Centamore
Mr. Light
Mrs. Hammond

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

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

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**School Board
Recognition:**

Dr. Bennardo stated that the district wanted to acknowledge and honor the Board of Education during School Board Recognition Week. Dr. Bennardo thanked the Board for their continued service and introduced the Oakwood Singers and their teacher Mrs. Luella Pinelli. The students gave a wonderful vocal performance to the enjoyment of all in attendance. Mrs. Pinelli and the students were thanked for their enjoyable performance.

Dr. Bennardo then introduced principals Eileen Kerrigan and Barbara Kenney. The principals introduced their students who presented each Board member with a gift and read aloud thank you notes that they had prepared. In addition, each student had done a portrait of their respective Board member and presented it to them at that time. The Board members gave a heartfelt thanks to the students and their principals.

**School Board
Recognition:
(Continued)**

Dr. Bennardo introduced PTA Council President Laura Carey. Mrs. Carey thanked the Board for their service to the community and presented each with a gift. Mr. Kaden and the other Board members sincerely thanked Mrs. Carey and the PTA.

**Audit Report
Review by
Marianne Van
Duyne :**

Marianne Van Duyne of R.S. Abrams & Co. was present at the meeting and thanked the Board for giving her the opportunity to report on the audit findings. Ms. Van Duyne noted that two audits were performed, Extraclassroom Activity Funds and financials. Ms. Van Duyne also noted that a management letter was issued. Ms. Van Duyne stated that all recommendations from last year's audit had been put in place. Ms. Van Duyne thanked Mr. Light, Mrs. Vultaggio and Ms. Rapp for the great job they did in providing all the documents needed for the audit and for working so well with the auditors. Ms. Van Duyne noted that the audit went very smoothly. Ms. Van Duyne stated that the district is in very good shape financially and had an excellent Moody rating. The Board was then given the opportunity for questions. Mr. Ciappetta and Mr. Kaden had several questions that were answered to their satisfaction by Ms. Van Duyne. Mr. Kaden thanked Ms. Van Duyne for her report.

**NWEA/APPR
Presentation:**

Last year the Board had asked for a pilot program using NWEA's MAP so that the results could be examined. School districts are required to choose a method of student assessment from a state-approved list. Dr. Bloom began the presentation by stating that the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) was an assessment system developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association. Dr. Bloom noted that MAP is:

- Computerized assessment designed for students in grades K-2 (MAP for Primary and 3-12 (MAP)
- Designed to measure student growth and instructional level on NWEA's RIT scales for mathematics and reading
- Aligned to the Common Core
- On the list of Approved Student Assessments for Use by School Districts and BOCES in Teacher and Principal Evaluations

Dr. Bloom reviewed the pilot versus the non-pilot program for first grade only. The pilot program had three test administrations; the non-pilot program had two. The Professional Development for the pilot included Introduction to MAP, Stepping Stone to Data and Building Level Meetings; the non-pilot included Introduction to MAP and Building Level Meetings. The pilot program consisted of thirteen classes while the non-pilot had seven.

Dr. Bloom then reviewed the growth in points in math and reading for the thirteen classes in the pilot program. Dr. Bloom reported that students in AIS Reading who were continuously enrolled were monitored using an oral reading fluency measure. Students in the pilot classes improved their accuracy in reading text by 26% while students in the non-pilot classes improved their accuracy in reading text by 18%. Dr. Bloom then reviewed the growth in points in math and reading for the seven classes in the non-pilot program. In math, the pilot classes showed an average

**NWEA/APPR
Presentation:
(Continued)**

growth of 9.29 points on the RIT scale from fall to spring. The non-pilot classes showed an average growth of 8.64 points on the RIT scale from fall to spring. In reading, the pilot classes showed an average growth of 10.27 points on the RIT scale from fall to spring. The non-pilot classes showed an average growth of 11.44 points on the RIT scale from fall to spring.

Following Dr. Bloom's presentation, the Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion. It was the opinion of the Board that the district is spending a good deal of money but not getting an educational benefit. Following this discussion, which included input from Dennis Callahan, it was the Board's decision to continue to monitor this program and investigate a better system.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. Nitkewicz, 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 September 5, 2012.

**Audit Report, 2011-
2012:**

The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, audit reports prepared for the district by the firm of R.S. Abrams & Co., L.L.P., for the fiscal year 2011-2012 and Extra-Classroom Activity Funds for the fiscal year 2011-2012.

**Schedule of
Investment
Accounts:**

Schedule of Investment Accounts, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 413.

**Treasurer's
Report:**

Treasurer's Report, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 414.

**Monthly Trial
Balance and Bank
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 415-428.

**Monthly Collateral
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 429.

**Revenue Status
Report, General
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, General Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 430.

**Revenue Status
Report, School
Lunch Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 431.

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund: Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 432.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 433-437.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 438.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 439.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 440-441.

Budgetary Transfer Report: Budgetary Transfer Report, August 2012, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 442.

Tax Levy Schedule: Tax Levy Schedule, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 443.

Library Tax Levy: Library Tax Levy, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 443.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report: Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, August 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 444-451.

Claims Audit Report: Claims Audit Report, July 2012, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 452-455.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 32	\$171,745.69
	"	33	7,871.60
	School Lunch	8	17,610.41
	"	9	710.37
	Special Aid	10	2,161.00
	Capital Reserve Bond	10	59,742.00

Schedule of Bills (Warrants): (Continued)	<u>Approved – Board Packet of September 28, 2012</u>		
	General Fund	Warrant 30	\$13,675.56
	"	31	1,215,027.89
	Special Aid	9	23,560.16
	Capital Reserve Bond	6	14,506.88
	"	8	1,060,215.13
"	9	314,450.00	

<u>Approved – Board Packet of September 21, 2012</u>		
General Fund	Warrant 26	\$251,181.24
"	27	3,083.56
"	28	232,446.90
"	29	955,000.00
"	V026	(697.08)
School Lunch	7	485.56
Special Aid	8	126,407.91
Capital Reserve Bond	7	83,832.61

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.

Stipulation of Agreement with Department of Motor Vehicles: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Stipulation of Agreement with the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, to be paid within thirty days of execution of said agreement, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 456-457.
Motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Agreement with Paraprofessionals Association: 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 and authorizes the September 19, 2012, Memorandum of Agreement with the South Huntington Paraprofessionals Association.
Be it Further Resolved, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the Memorandum of Agreement.
Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session: Mr. Ciappetta moved, with a second from Mr. Nitkewicz, that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the confidential personnel resolution.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Confidential
Personnel
Resolution:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the confidential personnel resolution, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 458.
Motion carried unanimously.

Donation by SHEF:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of \$5,000 from SHEF for the purchase of a Wii Physical Fitness System for the Oakwood Primary Center, and

Be it Further Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby approves the 2012-2013 budget increase of \$5,000 to code 2110-12-PED-500-000 to accept the SHEF donation.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip Request
Counseling and
Treating People of
Color Conference:**

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 field trip request for two students to attend the Counseling and Treating People of Color conference to be held in San Diego, California on November 7-12, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harris noted that all the costs for the students including airfare, housing and conference fees were being paid for by Stony Brook University.

**Field Trip Request
National Dance
Championship:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request to the NDA National Dance Championships to be held in Orlando, Florida on March 8-11, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip Request
NYS Field Band
Conference
Championships:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request to the New York State Field Band Conference Championships to be held in Syracuse, New York on October 26-28, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

**NYSSBA Annual
Conference:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves attendance at the NYSSBA Annual Conference to be held in Rochester, New York on October 25-27, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

Designation of Voting Delegate and Alternate for the 2012 NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting:

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby designates Jim Kaden to serve as Voting Delegate and Lisa Brieff to serve as Alternate Voting Delegate at the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting to be held on October 27, 2012, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center to Rochester, New York.
Motion carried unanimously.

2012 Proposed Resolutions for NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting:

A discussion was held on the proposed resolutions to be brought before the voting delegates at the NYSSBA's Annual Business Meeting to be held on October 27, 2012. Following the discussion, it was the sense of the Board to support Resolutions 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 19; support Resolution 6, if amended; and oppose Resolutions 5, 14, 15 and 18.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, 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 March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, April 24, May 2, 7, 8, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, June 4, 5, 7, 8, 18, 20, July 25, August 1, 29, September 6, 7, 12, 13, 20, 21, 28, 29 and October 1, 2012 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated July 10, August 14, September 11, 2012, and Transition to Committee on Special Education dated August 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. 459-480.
Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Levy Rate:

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that pursuant to Section 8 of the Suffolk County Tax Act and based upon the assessed valuation of \$44,687,544, which has been certified to the District by the Assessor of the Town wholly within the School District, the following computed tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to be adopted and ordered certified to the Supervisor of the Town, together with the dollar amount to be raised by the President of this Board:

	<u>Amount To Be Levied</u>	<u>Computed Tax Rate</u>
Per \$1,000		
For Regular School Purposes	\$103,995,434	\$2,327.17
For District Public Library	\$5,653,503	\$126.51
School & Library Tax/\$1,000	\$109,648,937	\$2,453.68

Motion carried 5-2, with Mr. Ciappetta and Mr. Lupinacci opposed.

Traffic Issue in Front of Birchwood Intermediate School:

Mr. Kaden stated that there were a numbers of residents who had requested that the Town of Huntington erect a stop sign on Wolf Hill Road by Birchwood Intermediate School as a result of their concern over the number of cars traveling at excessive speeds in front of the school. Mr. Kaden noted that the town commissioned a study that determined that the area did not qualify for a traffic light or stop sign. Mr. Kaden

**Traffic Issue in
Front of Birchwood
Intermediate
School:
(Continued)**

stated that it was the town's suggestion to the residents to have the school district erect speed signs at a cost of \$39,000. Several residents attended the meeting and addressed the Board. They expressed their frustration with their inability to get the town to erect the stop signs and their concern with the safety of the children in the area crossing over Wolf Hill Road. They were looking for support from the Board of Education. A resident who worked for the Department of Public Works suggested that the Board might consider erecting a rapid rectangular flashing beacon system which would cost approximately \$25,000. After further discussion, it was the Board's recommendation that the group get as many supporters as they could and attend a Huntington Town Board meeting. The Board also suggested that the group get signatures on a petition to submit to the Huntington Town Board. Mr. Kaden asked Dr. Bennardo to send a letter to Supervisor Petrone stating that the school district would support a stop sign.

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. 481-491, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 9 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 11 – Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 12 – Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (½ Pay);

Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)

Schedule 15 – Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 19 – Temporary/Seasonal Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 20 – Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22 – Substitute Employee Appointments (Instr./Non-Instr.)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and
Reports:**

1. Letter to Mr. Perkins from Dr. Bennardo re "Making a Difference" award recognition
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Notification of Gift
3. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re School Grade Enrollment Report for the First Attendance Period September 5, 2012, through September 28, 2012
4. Letter to Parents and Students of the Graduating Classes of 2013 and 2014 from Ms. Acker re Military Recruitment "Opt Out" Request
5. Letter to Parent from Mr. Toto re NWEA Measures of Academic Progress tests
6. Letter to Parents or Guardians from Mr. Toto re Homework Help
7. Invitation to Birchwood and Maplewood's Annual Track and Field Day scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2012
8. *Countrywood Chronicle*, October 2012
9. *The Silas Scoop*, October 2012
10. Personnel Postings (4)

**Information and Reports:
(Continued)**

Information Sent to Board Week Ending September 28, 2012

1. Memo to Mr. Kaden from Mr. Light re Audit Committee Agenda
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re Long Island Families Together
3. Memo to Board of Education and Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re Recent Changes to Federal Immigration Rules
4. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Robins re MAP tests
5. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Robins re Homecoming
6. Personnel Posting (1)
7. NYSSBA Proposed Resolutions and Voting Delegates Guide for the 2012 Annual Business Meeting
8. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 9-27-12

Information Sent to Board Week Ending September 21, 2012

1. **Confidential** letter from Ann Bodkin, together with Dr. Centamore's response
2. Letter to Parents from Ms. Robins re Curriculum Night, September 2012
3. Personnel Postings (10)
4. *Legal Liability Reporter*, NYSIR, Fall 2012
5. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 9-20-12

Committee Updates:

None given.

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

None given.

Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

There were several Maplewood Intermediate School parents in the audience and they addressed the Board about their disappointment and concern with the large class sizes. One mother stated that she felt the children's grades would suffer. Another parent suggested that the district use an empty classroom and split the classes. Dr. Bennardo reported that the district had examined the situation and it would cost approximately \$400,000 to hire teachers to reduce the class sizes. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district would like to be able to do this but the reality is that it would be a financial burden. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district would monitor the situation and do the best that they could. A parent asked how this impacted the dual language classes. She was told that dual language classes were at 31-32 students. Mr. Kaden acknowledged that our class sizes are growing and they would continue to grow with the tax cap legislation. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that the district would try to make sure that this would be done incrementally and kept in balance. Mr. Nitkewicz suggested that everyone work together and not tear each other apart. Mr. Kaden stated that the district had looked into providing additional teacher aides. Mr. Kaden also noted that this would become

**Voice of the
Residents:
(Continued)**

the norm in class sizes. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that Albany wanted to take away local control and noted the burden of unfunded mandates. Mr. Kaden warned that it was going to get worse. Mr. Kaden suggested that because of this situation, people might consider piercing the cap. Mr. Kaden noted that recovery would be difficult, if even possible. Mr. Kaden stated that when the economy turns around, we would still be capped at 2%. Mr. Kaden assured the parents that the district would look carefully next year to make sure that high class sizes would be balanced. One class should not have high numbers continuously. Mrs. Brieff noted that the Governor wants consolidation of school districts.

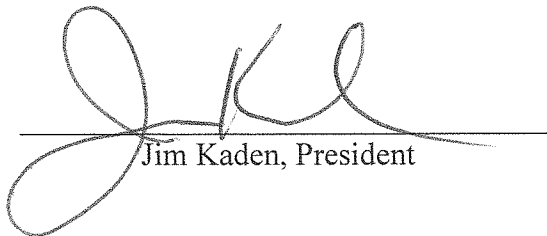
Parent, Michael Villanti, who is a teacher in another school district spoke about the new math program. He noted that the district he worked for used the same program. He stated that the teachers were not properly trained and the program was a huge problem. Dr. Bennardo suggested that Mr. Villanti call his office to make an appointment. Dr. Bennardo stated that he would like to meet with Mr. Villanti, the principals and Dr. Bloom to discuss any pitfalls that could be avoided.

Parent, Diane Hoppe, asked if Item K-3 had anything to do with her situation. She was told it did not. Mrs. Hoppe stated that the situation had been going on for sixteen months and she felt that was unfair and cruel. Mrs. Hoppe noted that she was no longer represented by an attorney and she asked if anyone on the Board would stand up for her and get a decision made. Mrs. Hoppe was told that the Board could not publicly discuss this as it was a legal matter. The Board suggested that Mrs. Hoppe contact the Hearing Officer. Dr. Bennardo would provide Mrs. Hoppe with the contact information. Mrs. Hoppe also stated that she was still waiting to receive the documents she asked for in her FOIL request.

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 9:55 p.m.


Jim Kaden, President


Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 413 through 491.