

A special meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District, scheduled as a budget work session on the proposed 2013-2014 school budget, was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 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. Ciappetta

Mrs. Brieff

Mrs. Carey

Mrs. DeGaetano

Mrs. LaCara

Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools

Asst. Supt. for Student Services

Asst. Supt. for Personnel & District Services

Interim Business Administrator

Supervisor of Assessment and Technology

District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo

Ms. Harris

Dr. Centamore

Mr. Light

Dr. Bloom

Mrs. Hammond

Call to Order: Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Work Session: Dr. Bennardo stated that tonight's presentation was on the 1000 code which is general support. Dr. Bennardo noted that this code was approximately 9% of the entire budget. For those you were not in attendance last week, Dr. Bennardo stated that there was a \$2.8 million gap between revenues we have and the current budget amount. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district was still hoping to garner money back from the state through a restoration of some of the money cut from our High Tax Aid. Our district lost half of its High Tax Aid money. Dr. Bennardo noted that his hope was that our local lawmakers would help in this area. Dr. Bennardo stated that it was the district's goal to be balanced and fair as we tighten our belt. Dr. Bennardo stated that two positions that were not being filled were the Assistant Facilities Supervisor and one clerical in the Personnel Department. Dr. Bennardo then turned the presentation over the Mr. Light.

Mr. Light began his presentation by reviewing the functions within the 1000 code and then gave highlights of this code:

- Code represents 9.4% of the budget
- Two positions were not filled (Secretary in Personnel Department and Assistant Facilities Supervisor)
- The district's newsletter would now go electronic
- Savings in energy costs due to Energy Performance Contract
 - Heating, Natural Gas (-\$96,750)
 - Electric (-\$221,700)

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Mr. Light reviewed each function code:

- Board of Education code would be decreased by \$3,990, which is a decrease of -10.5%. Mr. Light stated that the reduction was in postage and photocopies.
- District Clerk code would be decreased by \$5,829, which is a decrease of 19.2%. Mr. Light stated that the reduction was in postage, photocopies and advertising.
- District Meeting code would be decreased by \$5,210, which is a decrease of 17.4%.
- Chief School Administrator code would be decreased by \$52,334, which is a decrease of 11.8%.
- Business Administration code would remain the same. Mr. Light noted that there were some reductions in items that were no longer used.
- Auditing code would remain the same. Mr. Light noted that this code contains the external, internal and claims auditors.
- Treasurer code would be decreased by \$7,700, which is a decrease of 6.1%
- Purchasing code would be decreased by \$3,184, which is a decrease of 1.7%
- Legal code would remain the same.
- Personnel code would be decreased by \$78,490, which is a decrease of 13.4%. Mr. Light noted that there was a reduction of one clerical position from this code.
- Public Information code would be decreased by \$54,616, which is a decrease of 24%. Mr. Light noted that the district was eliminating the print version of *Spotlight* and going to an electronic version.
- Plant Operations code would be decreased by \$264,760, which is a decrease of 4.5%.
- Maintenance of Plant code would be increased by \$105,369, which is an increase of 4%.
- Central Storage code would be increased by \$3,044, which is an increase of 4.4%.
- Central Print and Mail would be increased by \$6,878, which is an increase of 4%.
- Data Processing code would be decreased by \$1,301, which is a decrease of .4%.
- Insurance code would be increased by \$38,776, which is an increase of 5.6%. Mr. Light noted that the district was protected very well during Hurricane Sandy.
- School Association Dues code would be increased by \$450, which is an increase of .9%.
- Judgments and Claims code would remain the same.
- BOCES Administrative and Capital code would be decreased by \$22,600, which is a decrease of 4.8%. Mr. Light noted that each district is required to pay a portion of the administrative and capital expenses.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Mr. Light noted that the total reduction amount for code 1000 was \$345,416, which is a decrease of 2.6%. Mr. Light concluded his presentation by reviewing the upcoming budget workshop dates and topics:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
March 13	Code 5000, Transportation, Begin Code 9000, Benefits
March 20	Code 9000, Benefits and Begin Code 2000, Instruction
April 3	Code 2000 Instruction (Continued)
April 10	Budget Adoption
May 14	Public Hearing
May 21	Budget Vote

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

The Board had several comments and/or requests:

1. Mr. Ciappetta asked for the yearly retainer amount for Ingerman Smith, LLP and if they were paid on a monthly or yearly basis.
2. With regard to the decision to eliminate the print version and go with an electronic version of *Spotlight*, both Mr. Nitkewicz and Mrs. LaCara expressed concern for people without Internet access. Mr. Light stated that this item could be put on a list for further discussion.
3. Mr. Ciappetta asked if code 1480-13-BOF-480 for emergency textbooks could be reduced.
4. Mr. Nitkewicz asked if any Board members were going to attend the NSBA conference in San Diego. It was noted that none of our Board members are planning to attend this year because of the location. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that last year's conference was in Boston and most of the Board attended. Mr. Nitkewicz asked if the code was being reduced because the Board was not attending. Mr. Light stated that he would provide that information to the Board after checking that code.
5. Mr. Kaden stated that he would like to see a summary of revenue at the March 20 work session.
6. Mr. Ciappetta stated that he would like to see a summary slide on future presentations showing where the district is with the gap number. Mr. Light stated that he would give a running tally.

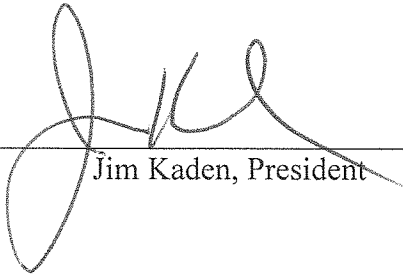
Resident John Macaluso had a question about the Chief School Administration reduction amount. Mr. Macaluso also stated that he would like the district to switch to an electronic version of *Spotlight*. He stated that he felt the savings were worth it and he suggested that the district use an "opt-in" system for people who would like to continue to receive the print version.

Resident Patty Kilewa stated that she knew someone who would be interested in providing contract transportation to the district. She stated that she would send an e-mail with the name of the interested party.

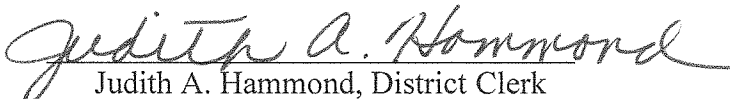
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Adjournment: The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk