

A Budget Work Session and regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District were held on Wednesday, March 13, 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
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

Absent: Board Member

Mrs. LaCara

Call to Order: Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 6 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. DeGaetano, 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.

Budget Work Session:

Dr. Bennardo began the presentation by stating that they would be staying with the same format as it had been very well received. Dr. Bennardo noted that the key message they were trying to communicate was that their goal was to be fair and balanced. Dr. Bennardo stated that the Board had charged them with looking at every line, especially management, to see where they could save as much as possible for instruction. Dr. Bennardo noted that they were trying to make cuts but still deliver leadership. Dr. Bennardo noted that he had received several calls about the budget and he welcomed any questions that the public had regarding the budget process. Dr. Bennardo then turned the presentation over to Mr. Light.

Mr. Light stated that tonight's presentation would begin with Code 5000, Transportation. Mr. Light stated that our transportation system was the

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

size of that of a small city transporting 7,500 students safely to and from school each day. Mr. Light noted that putting children on a school bus was the safest way for a child to get to school. Mr. Light stated that the district also transported students to private, parochial, special education schools, interscholastic athletics and field trips. Mr. Light stated that the district used 45 district owned large buses, 23 contracted large buses, 25 district owned vans and 49 contract vans.

Mr. Light then reviewed the district's mileage policy:

- Grades K-2 greater than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from school
- Grades 3-6 greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from school
- Grades 7-12 greater than 1 mile from school
- Private and parochial schools up to fifteen miles

Mr. Light noted that the transportation code represented 5.7% of the overall budget and then reviewed the functions within the code and their proposed amounts for 2013-2014:

- District Transportation Services code would be decreased by \$63,618, which is a decrease of 1.72%. Mr. Light noted that the decrease was a result of a managerial change involving a position not being filled.
- Garage Building code would be decreased by \$27,495, which is a decrease of 8.04%. Mr. Light noted that part of the decrease was a result of more efficient heating and electric in the new building.
- Contract Transportation code would be increased by \$384,768, which is an increase of 9.32%. Mr. Light noted that part of the increase was a result of moving field trips from the instruction code into this code. In addition, there would be a cost of living increase and added flexibility for the Supervisor to allow for movement of fleets.

The Board and audience were then given an opportunity for questions or discussion on the transportation code.

Mr. Light then began his review of part of Code 9000, Principal and Interest. Mr. Light noted that within this code were borrowing costs for:

- Capital Projects: Mr. Light stated that in 2003 the voters approved a bond referendum. Over the past ten years, the district has borrowed \$50,000,000 for construction, repairs and renovations. Mr. Light noted that 54% of the costs were reimbursed as state aid.
- New Copiers: Mr. Light stated that virtually all copiers had been replaced for larger more efficient copiers.
- New Buses
- Tax Anticipation Notes: Mr. Light explained that every year the district must borrow money while it waits for tax revenue which comes in January. The district must cover the period from July through December. Dr. Light noted that this was short-term borrowing and interest rates were very low at this time.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Mr. Light then reviewed the functions within the code and their proposed amounts for 2013-2014:

- Serial Bonds Capital Projects (Principal) code would be decreased by \$74,553, which is a 1.59% decrease. Mr. Light noted that the district borrowed less than anticipated.
- Serial Bonds Capital Projects (Interest) code would be decreased by \$273,825, which is a 9.53% decrease. Mr. Light noted that the district refinanced a lower interest rate.
- Installment Purchases Copiers (Principal) code would be decreased by \$9,632, which is a 6.44% decrease.
- Installment Purchases Copiers (Interest) code would be decreased by \$65,337, which is an 86.73% decrease. Mr. Light explained that the amount put into that code was too high.
- Installment Purchases Buses (Principal) code would be decreased by \$53,159, which is a 34.71% decrease. Mr. Light noted that the district had paid off two vans.
- Installment Purchases Buses (Interest) code would be decreased by \$6,000, which is a 28.57% decrease.
- Tax Anticipation Notes would be increased by \$8,778, which is a 2.5% increase. Mr. Light noted that the increase would cover the possibility of more money needing to be borrowed and possible higher interest rate.

The Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion on Code 9000.

Mr. Light then reviewed information on the tax cap levy:

- Formula prescribed by State Comptroller
- Current year's levy = \$103,995,433
- New year's levy = 107,153,640
- Difference = \$ 3,158,197
- Percent Increase = 3.04%
- Tax rate not yet determined
- Dependent upon total assessed value, which has been declining

Mr. Light concluded his presentation by reviewing the upcoming budget workshop dates and topics:

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

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 Mr. Ciappetta, 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 13, 2013

Single Audit Report, Federal Funds: The Board of Education accepts, as submitted, the single audit report prepared for the District by the firm R. S. Abrams & Co., LLP for federal funds for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

Schedule of Investment Accounts: Schedule of Investment Accounts, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 966.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 967.

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation: Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 968-981.

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation: Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 982.

Revenue Status Report, General Fund: Revenue Status Report, General Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 983-986.

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund: Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 987.

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund: Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 988.

Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund: Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 989.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 990.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 991.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 992.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund: Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 993.

Budgetary Transfer Report: Budgetary Transfer Report, January 2013, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 994.

Tax Levy Schedule: Tax Levy Schedule, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 995.

Library Tax Levy: Library Tax Levy, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 995.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report: Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 996-1000.

Claims Audit Report: Claims Audit Report, January 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1001-1004

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 87	\$ 656,045.04
	"	88	11,666.67
	"	89	185,490.00
	"	90	3,809.00
	"	91	764.00
	School Lunch Fund	30	120,628.51
	Special Aid	33	34,659.82
	2003 Bond	29	53,191.19

Approved – Board Packet of March 1, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 86	\$194,946.95
"	V086	(18,487.60)
School Lunch Fund	29	17,898.13
Special Aid	32	9518.52
Bond Fund	28	115,425.00

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 to Component Board Members from Dr. Michael J. Mensch, Western Suffolk BOCES, re Notice of Annual Meeting

**Donation from
Walt Whitman
Class of 2002:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of \$600 to Walt Whitman High School from the Walt Whitman High School Class of 2002.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Relations &
Marketing Group
Engineering
Environmental
Sciences
Scholarship:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the establishment of the Public Relations and Marketing Group Engineering/Environmental Sciences Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to be awarded to a 2013 graduating senior.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip Request
Hispanic Youth
Leadership
Institute:**

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 the field trip to Albany, New York for the Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute to be held on March 23-25, 2013.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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 9, 17, 22, 31, February 4, 6, 8, 14, 15, 21, 26, 27, 28 and March 4, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated February 26 and March 4, 2013, 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. 1005-1013.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Substitute Speech
Pathologist Rate of
Pay:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves and authorizes the following daily rate of pay for substitute speech pathologists for the time period of March 18, 2013, through June 30, 2013: Per Diem Speech Pathologists - \$275 Maximum per diem.
Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, 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. 1014-1018, and authorizes implementation thereof:
Schedule 9 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 11 – Terminations (Instructional)
Schedule 16 – Terminations (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 17 – Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

Personnel: Schedule 22 – Substitute Employee Appointments (Instr./Non-Instr.)
(Continued) Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta had a question on Schedule 9 that was answered to his satisfaction by Dr. Bloom and Ms. Harris.

Information and Reports:

1. Congratulatory letter from Dr. Bennardo to the February Birchwood Boosters
2. Confidential letter from Dr. Bennardo re a personnel matter
3. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Robins re Meet the Teacher Night
4. Personnel Postings (2)
5. Flyer re Health and Wellness Fair
6. Flyer re St. Francis Hospital Community Outreach Program
7. Flyer re South Huntington Parent University

In envelopes:

1. *The Stimson Source*, March 2013

Information Sent to Board Week Ending March 1, 2013

1. Letter to Mr. Kaden from Legislator William R. Spencer re risks posed by the use of stimulant drinks by children
2. Letter to Dr. Bennardo from Senator Carl L. Marcellino re meeting with Governor Cuomo and local Superintendents
3. Memo to Board Presidents and Board Members from James March, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, Inc., re NYSSBA Advocate of the Year Maryanne Lehrer
4. Legal Counsel Correspondence
5. Information re Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon System and map of Birchwood with location of flashing beacon systems indicated in green (Courtesy of Mrs. Carey)
6. Letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo from Dr. Bennardo re impact of the current Executive Budget proposal on South Huntington Schools
7. Thank you letter to Custodial Staff, Grounds Staff, Central Storage Staff, Memorial Staff, Maintenance Staff and Central Storage Staff from Dr. Bennardo re snow removal
8. Letter to Junior Parents/Guardians from Ms. Acker re Junior Prom
9. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Robins re HIV/AIDS Education
10. Letter to Parents of Present Fifth-Graders from Mr. Toto re Silas Wood Parent Orientation
11. *The Silas Scoop*, March 2013
12. March 2013 Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
13. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 2-25-13
14. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-28-13

Committee Updates:

None given.

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mrs. Brieff reported that she and Mr. Kaden attended the Capital Conference in Albany over the weekend. Mrs. Brieff stated that on the first day there was a seminar on school safety. Among the speakers were two New York State troopers, an FBI agent, a retired Secret Service agent and the former Chief of Police in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Mrs. Brieff remarked that the seminar was very interesting and the Final Report on the Safe School Initiative could be seen on the Secret Service website: www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_final_report.pdf. Mrs. Brieff reported that there was an Advocacy Institute on the second day of the conference to prepare the attendees for Lobby Day by learning how to make the most of their time with their state representatives. Mrs. Brieff and Mr. Kaden met with Senators Marcellino and Flanagan and Assemblyman Lupinacci. They also met with four legislators who were sponsoring or co-sponsoring bills for ads on school buses and other sources of revenue. Mrs. Brieff stated that she felt the bills were very worthwhile and we would have to see where they go. Mrs. Brieff noted that the hope was to have the final budget by March 24. Both Mrs. Brieff and Mr. Kaden noted that our district would benefit if all or part of the High Tax Aid is restored.

Mr. Kaden gave an explanation of "pension cost smoothing" which is the Governor's plan to allow school district to set an employer contribution rate of 12.5% over twenty-five years. Mr. Kaden noted that two legislators advised against this and Senator Marcellino felt that the numbers did not add up. Mr. Kaden noted that there was an option to allow school districts to borrow these extra costs at today's low interest rate. Mr. Kaden stated that he would like to see an analysis of this before the district made a decision.

Mr. Kaden also gave an explanation of the cuts to High Tax Aid which is given to districts in mostly downstate areas that deal with higher costs than regions where expenses are lower. Mr. Kaden also spoke about the state aid cap which is the state's determination to only provide increases that equal the rate of growth in personal income. Mr. Kaden noted that attorney Michael Rebell had filed a lawsuit claiming that the state constitution guarantees that each student receives a sound, basic education. Mr. Kaden noted that Mr. Rebell believed that it was unconstitutional to cap money. Mr. Kaden stated that information could be found on www.equitycampaign.org.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that there was a SHEF meeting last night and reminded everyone that the SHEF Golf Outing was scheduled for July 1 at Crab Meadow Golf Course. Mr. Ciappetta noted that Ray Spataforo was this year's honoree. Tickets for golf and dinner are \$190 and \$90 for dinner only. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the district was looking for an event sponsor for \$5,000 and a dinner sponsor for \$2,500.

Voice of the Residents:

Visitors were invited to participate.

Danielle and James Ecker addressed the Board regarding their concern with the large third grade classes at Maplewood. Mrs. Ecker noted that she and her husband supported the school budget every year. Mrs. Ecker stated that they were both very concerned about the class size in third grade at Maplewood Intermediate School. Mrs. Ecker stated that she had spoken with Mr. D'Elia and Dr. Bennardo about these concerns. Mrs. Ecker stated that she had heard that the Board would open another class to alleviate overcrowding. Mrs. Ecker stated that she was speaking as a parent and educational advocate and noted that thirty-two students in the classroom were too crowded. Mrs. Ecker noted that she and her husband had moved into the district because of the wonderful things they heard about our schools. Mrs. Ecker stated that she felt that her child had not made any progress this year because of the overcrowding. Mrs. Ecker stated that she felt her child's teacher was doing the best job she could under the circumstances. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that school districts were being told they could not raise taxes more than 2% and state aid was being reduced. Mr. Kaden stated that he believed public education was under attack. Mr. Kaden also stated that he believed creativity was being destroyed. Mr. Kaden noted that Dr. King's answer to districts' concerns was that they were doing it wrong. Mrs. Ecker asked the Board to go into the class and see if they would like their child in that class. Mr. Ecker stated the he had been looking at the teacher contract and it stated an average of twenty-five students in the class. His child's class was higher than that at thirty-two. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that the Board had been addressing this for the past twelve months and they were painfully aware of class sizes. Mrs. DeGaetano noted that her child attended Maplewood and she felt their pain. Her child's class was also overcrowded. Mr. Ecker stated that he felt if there had to be cuts, it should be in sports. Mr. Ecker stated that he felt the focus should be on education even though he loved sports. Mr. & Mrs. Ecker thanked the Board for listening to their concerns. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that the Board needs support and he appreciated this kind of discussion.

Karen Rodriguez commented on all the tax reduction letters she received in the mail. Mr. Kaden noted that when one taxpayer gets reassessed, all the other taxpayers pay more. Mr. Kaden noted that if everyone files, everyone pays their fair share.

A district bus driver asked if there were plans to privatize the bus fleet. Dr. Bennardo stated that there were no plans for next year. Dr. Bennardo noted that, at this point, there was money in the budget for next year.

Another bus driver stated that she had to make plans. She wanted to know what this all meant. Would it only be for one more year? Dr. Bennardo stated that as buses were aged out, they would probably not replace them, if it did not make economic sense. Dr. Bennardo noted that the district might lose two, three or four buses each year over the next five years but, at this point, we did not know. Mr. Kaden suggested that

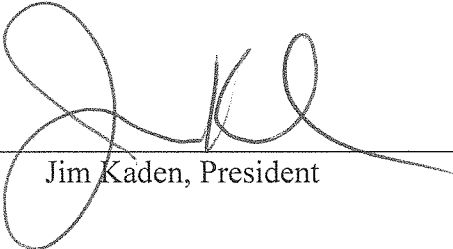
Voice of the Residents:
(Continued)

ads on school buses should be supported. Mr. Kaden explained that there was a Senate bill that would authorize Boards of Education to enter into contracts for the sale of advertising space on the exterior sides of school buses. Mrs. Brieff noted that the bill was not law, yet. Mrs. Brieff stated that the bill was S1587, if anyone wanted to read more about it online.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 966 through 1018.