

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 20, 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 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Budget Work Session: Dr. Bennardo began the presentation by stating that tonight's focus would be on two codes, Code 9000, Benefits, and part of Code 2000, Instruction. Dr. Bennardo noted that they were saving the other half of Code 2000 in the hopes that they would have true state numbers by the April 3 budget work session. Dr. Bennardo stated that this would prevent the district from having to guess at the numbers and would give the district time for other things to clear and we could get a package together. Dr. Bennardo stated that the Board's directive had been to examine each and every budget line to see where the district could save money for instruction. Dr. Bennardo noted that the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction had not been replaced. Dr. Bennardo stated that Ms. Harris and Dr. Bloom had been doing a great job applying for grants and there were reductions in some of the codes because of these grants. Dr. Bennardo stated that we were stilling waiting for state aid numbers and hoping for restoration of some of the high tax aid.

Dr. Bennardo stated that Mr. Light would begin tonight's presentation with the benefits code. Dr. Bennardo noted that there were certain numbers that we receive from the state and there was nothing we could do about that. New York State picks the numbers. Dr. Bennardo commended all groups involved. He noted that everyone had seen the big picture and asked what they could do.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Dr. Bennardo asked everyone to stay involved with the budget process. He noted that he had been receiving great e-mails and he encouraged everyone to continue to contact the district with ideas and suggestions.

Mr. Light began his presentation by stating that Code 9000, Benefits, amounted to \$38,386,805, which was 26% of the total budget and an increase of \$5,021,045. Mr. Light noted that the tax levy cap increase amounted to \$3,158,207. Items covered under Code 9000 included:

- Retirement Systems: ERS and TRS
- Social Security
- Workers' Compensation
- Life Insurance
- Unemployment Insurance
- Disability Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Medicare Reimbursement

Mr. Light reviewed charts showing the percentages for ERS and TRS from 2008-2009 through 2013-2014. Mr. Light also reviewed a chart showing the cost of health insurance from 2010-2011 through 2013-2014.

Mr. Light then reviewed the functions within the code for 2013-2014:

- Employee Retirement System code would be increased by \$625,717, which is a 16.7% increase.
- Teachers' Retirement System code would be increased by 3,009,824, which is a 47.8% increase.
- Social Security code is being decreased by \$222,159, which is a 2.7% decrease.
- Workers' Compensation code would remain the same.
- Life Insurance code would remain the same.
- Unemployment Insurance code would be increased by \$85,629, which is a 20.7% increase.
- Disability Insurance code would remain the same.
- Health Insurance code would be increased by \$1,398,344, which is a 9.4% increase.
- Dental Insurance code would remain the same.
- Medicare Reimbursement code would be increased by \$123,690, which is a 15.5% increase.

Mr. Light noted that the increase in Code 9000 would be \$5,021,045, which is an increase of 15%. The Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion on Code 9000.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

Mr. Light then reviewed the following items which would be discussed tonight under Code 2000, Instruction:

- Building Administration
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Student Services
- Guidance
- Computer Assisted Instruction
- Extracurricular and Athletics

Mr. Light noted that at the next meeting, he would review the General Classroom Instruction and Special Education codes. Mr. Light then reviewed the functions within the code for 2013-2014:

- Curriculum Development and Supervision code would be decreased by \$126,491, which is a 13.88% decrease. Mr. Light noted that the decrease was due to an administrative position that wouldn't be filled and changing a position to a grant-funded position. Mr. Light also noted the help being received from grants that Ms. Harris and Dr. Bloom were able to obtain.
- Supervision Regular School code would be increased by \$73,186, which is a 1.60% increase.
- Supervision Special School code would be decreased by \$20,500, which is a 34.17% decrease. Mr. Light noted that our adult education program was under this code.
- In-service Training code would be decreased by \$7,700, which is a 30.56% decrease. Mr. Light noted that the district had received grant money for training.
- Tuition BOCES Occupational Education code would be increased by \$16,950, which is a 2.23% increase.
- Teaching Special Schools code would be decreased by \$21,724, which is a 5.33% decrease. Mr. Light noted that part of the decrease was because of a secretarial change. This code also covered summer school and the literacy program.
- School Library/AV code would be increased by \$37,327, which is a 5.26% increase. Mr. Light noted that a software upgrade cost was in this code.
- Computer Assistance Instruction code would be increased by \$105,838, which is a 6.24% increase. Mr. Light noted that repair and maintenance as well as equipment for the testing program were under this code.
- Attendance Regular School code would be increased by \$266, which is a .31% increase.
- Guidance code would be decreased by \$96,007, which is a 6.09% decrease. Mr. Light noted that the decrease was due to recoding.
- Health Services code would be increased by \$50,755, which is a 4.23% increase.
- Psychological Services code would be decreased by \$5,914, which is a 1.03% decrease.

**Budget Work
Session:
(Continued)**

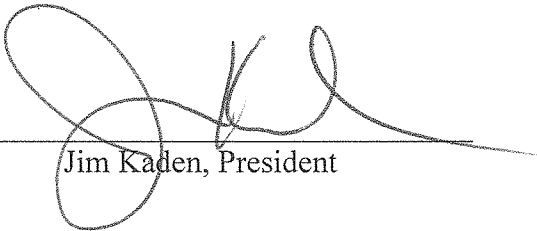
- Social Worker Services code would be increased by \$82,305, which is a 13.94% increase.
- Co-Curricular Activities code would be increased by \$90,300, which is a 14.88% increase.
- Interscholastic code would be increased by \$9,822, which is a .97% increase.

Mr. Light noted that the increase in this part of Code 2000 would be \$190,413, which is an increase of 1.29%. The Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion on Code 2000.


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

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|-------------|---|
| April 3 | Remaining Code 2000, Instruction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Instruction• Special Education• Projected Revenues |
| April 10 | Budget Adoption |
| May 14 | Public Hearing |
| May 21 | Budget Vote |

Adjournment: The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Jim Kaden, President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk