

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, April 3, 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. 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. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Work Session:**      Dr. Bennardo began the presentation by stating that the district had been going through codes and looking at some of the decisions that had been made. Dr. Bennardo noted that when projections were made in June, the district did not have all the facts and the district was in a different place today.

Dr. Bennardo then gave a summary of budget activity to date. Based upon the tax cap levy, anticipated state aid, and roll forward budget projects, the district had a starting deficit of a little over \$2.8 million dollars. Dr. Bennardo noted that the calculations were based on the assumption of an additional \$500,000 in state aid.

**Budget Work  
Session:  
(Continued)**

Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Reductions:

- Assistant Superintendent \$ 200,000
- District Supervisory Music/Art 175,000
- Assistant Facilities Supervisor 150,000
- Assistant Transportation 100,000
- Supervisor Curricular Services 150,000 (Grant Funded 1 Year)
- Central Office Clerical 75,000
- Superintendent's Office 50,000

Dr. Bennardo noted that Mr. Light had gone into each code and looked at it historically to see what was in each code and where they could be tightened. When asked how the work done by the above positions would be picked up, Dr. Bennardo stated that the employees left would assume the responsibilities of the positions eliminated.

Efficiencies and Grant Application:

- Fuel Oil \$ 96,750
- Electric and Gas 221,700
- Cap Projects Bonds 348,378
- Copier Installment Purchase 74,969
- Bus Installment Purchase 59,159
- Computer Software 32,250 (Grant Funded 1 Year)
- Curriculum Supplies 30,000 (Grant Funded 1 Year)
- Athletic Personnel & Supplies 30,000 (Camp Profit Funded)
- Professional Development/Conference 10,300 (Grant Funded 1 Year)

Dr. Bennardo noted that the last items were grant funded. Dr. Bennardo stated that Ms. Harris and Dr. Bloom had done a great job of finding areas where we could take grant money and pull expenditures out of the budget. Dr. Bennardo stated that the savings from both the administrative and supervisory personnel reductions and efficiencies and grant application amounted to \$1,803,506.

Dr. Bennardo then asked Dr. Centamore to speak about the contributions of the bargaining units. Dr. Centamore stated that the district felt it was important to acknowledge the cooperation and work done over the past several years by our bargaining units. Dr. Centamore stated that the district had looked at what could be done to help our budget situation. Dr. Centamore noted that the employees had answered the call. The bargaining units had agreed to wage freezes and increased health insurance contributions. Dr. Centamore noted that one particular area that was most helpful was major concessions in new hires and future hires with regard to health benefits. Dr. Centamore also noted the contribution of central administration, SHAA and middle management who have had multiple years of a wage freeze and increased contributions to their health benefits. Dr. Centamore thanked and acknowledged all bargaining units.

Mr. Light began his part of the presentation by stating that tonight's presentation would be the conclusion of Code 2000, particularly Codes 2110, General Instruction, and 2250, Special Education, with a combined total of \$65,386,547 in both codes. Dr. Light reviewed the percentage of expenses in both codes.

**Budget Work  
Session:  
(Continued)**

Code 2110, General Instruction, by Object Code:

- Personnel – 95%
- Equipment – Less than 1 %
- Contractual – 4%
- Supplies – 1%

Code 2250, Special Education, by Object Code:

- Personnel – 59%
- Equipment – Less than 1%
- Contractual – 41%
- Supplies – Less than 1%

Dr. Light then reviewed the amounts in Code 2110, General Instruction, for 2013-2014:

- Personnel code would be decreased by \$6,380, which is a .02% decrease.
- Equipment code would be decreased by \$19,570, which is a 48.93% decrease.
- Contractual code would be decreased by \$46,475, which is a 2.48% decrease.
- Supplies code would be increased by \$68,335, which is a 16.45% increase.

Mr. Light noted that there was a total decrease of \$4,090, which was a decrease of .01% in Code 2110, General Instruction.

Dr. Bennardo then reviewed the instructional personnel grant savings and reductions:

Instructional Personnel Grant Savings:

1.0 Chairperson	\$ 100,000
2.3 Elementary Teachers	230,000
1.0 Reading Teacher	100,000

Instructional Personnel Reductions:

3.0 Elementary Teachers	\$ 300,000
.4 Silas Teacher	40,000
2.0 Middle School Teacher	200,000
1.0 High School Teacher	0 *
1.0 District-Wide PE Teacher	100,000

\* Note: Will be needed to cover a special education increase at Silas Wood.

Dr. Bennardo noted that the combined savings in instructional personnel from both grant savings and reductions equaled \$1,070,000. Dr. Bennardo then reviewed the class size projections for the elementary and secondary schools for 2013-2014.

Dr. Light then reviewed the amounts in Code 2250, Special Education, for 2013-2014:

- Personnel code would be increased by \$485,054, which is a 3.68% increase.

**Budget Work  
Session:  
(Continued)**

- Equipment code would be increased by \$900, which is a 19.57% increase.
- Contractual code would be increased by \$390,950, which is a 4.23% increase.
- Supplies code would be decreased by \$1,278, which is a 5.48% decrease.

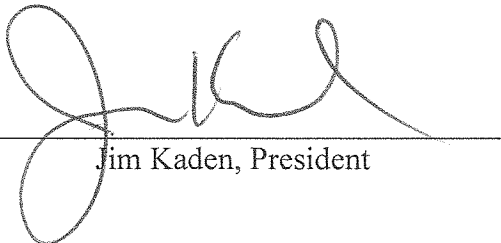
Mr. Light noted that there was a total increase of \$875,626, which was an increase of 3.90% in Code 2550, Special Education. Mr. Light then reviewed revenues and expenditures for 2013-2014. Mr. Light concluded his presentation by stating that the estimated tax levy cap would be \$107,148,095, which was an increase of \$3,152,662 or 3.03%. Mr. Light stated that the estimated tax rate calculation of \$2,424.85/\$1,000 of assessed valuation equaled an increase of \$96.95 or 4.16%. Mr. Light noted that the average assessed valuation for our district was \$3,300 which was an increase of \$319.93 on the average assessed valuation home. Mr. Light noted that many homeowners were putting in tax grievances and there were not enough new building projects to counteract that. Mr. Light noted that Target would be opening a store in our district but that project wouldn't be on the tax rolls in time for the 2013-2014 budget. Mr. Light also noted that the mall expansion wouldn't have much of an impact because there was only 7% of new square footage being added and there was a 50% tax abatement which would gradually decrease over ten years. Following the presentation, the Board and audience were given an opportunity for questions and discussion.

The following requests/comments were made by the Board:

1. Mr. Nitkewicz requested a chart on the history of applied fund balance. He stated that he would like to see what had been put in and taken out.
2. Mr. Ciappetta would like to see the tax levy and tax rate for 2012-2013.
3. Mr. Kaden requested a projection of fund balance going forward.
4. Mr. Ciappetta would also like to see a chart on reserves and applied fund balance.
5. After seeking Board input, Mr. Kaden stated that the Board would decide at the next meeting if these recommendations would stand or if some of the items would be restored. Those decisions would be made at the April 10 meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9 p.m.



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Jim Kaden, President



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Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk