

The Budget Overview and a regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District were held on Wednesday, February 27, 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

\* Mr. Ciappetta arrived at 7:48 p.m.

**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 6 p.m.

**Executive Session:**      Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7: 38 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Overview:**      Dr. Bennardo began the Budget Overview with a general discussion of where we are with the budget since the June 2012 presentation. Dr. Bennardo noted that there were several factors contributing to the nearly \$8 million budget to revenue deficit predicted in June 2012:

- Conservative revenue and cost estimates in June 2012
  - Tax cap estimate of 1.96%; present tax cap reality 3.19% (plus approximately 1.3 million)
  - Health care estimate of 15.2% increase; present health care reality around 8% (plus approximately 1 million)
  - CPI estimated at 3.2%; CPI reality 2.1%

**Budget Overview:  
(Continued)**

Dr. Bennardo noted that the district is starting to see the benefits of the energy efficiency program. To date, the program has resulted in nearly \$500,000 in savings. Dr. Bennardo also reported that the district had saved nearly \$1,000,000 in vacated positions that had been left unfilled. In addition, Mr. Light and his team have rebuilt every budget code from zero, comparing allocations against historical spending trends. Dr. Bennardo noted that all bonds had been examined and refinanced where possible. Dr. Bennardo also noted that the district had been working to create corporate sponsorships. Dr. Bennardo then turned the presentation over to Mr. Light who would give the "big picture." Dr. Bennardo stressed that the budget would be trimmed with a scalpel, not a hatchet.

Mr. Light began his portion of the presentation by reviewing the tax levy cap's second year:

- Tax levy increase limited to previous year's levy multiplied by a growth factor (1.0015) and a 2% addition.
- Added to the calculated levy are the following:
  - Increased pension costs exceeding 2% of the previous rate (for 2013-14 only TRS increase qualified)
  - The cost of borrowing to fund capital projects (previously approved by voters), minus state aid
  - The costs of borrowing for items such as bus purchases, minus state aid

Mr. Light stated that the tentative tax levy cap for 2013-14 was \$107,311,330, which is an increase of 3.19% over the levy for 2012-13. Mr. Light noted that the tax rate cannot be calculated at this time as total assessed value is not known.

Mr. Light reported that the amount of state aid in the Governor's proposal for South Huntington was reduced by at least \$314,000 and the high tax aid was cut in half from \$2.8 million to 1.4 million. Mr. Light then stated that the projected estimated budget for 2013-14 was \$149,861,900, which is an increase of \$6,917,918 or 4.84%. Mr. Light stated that the estimated gap would be \$2,843,211.

Mr. Light stated that there would be no changes to transportation for 2013-14. Mr. Light noted that the new supervisor would review current procedures and routes to improve efficiencies. Mr. Light then gave a brief review of the recently completed transportation study:

- Blend of in-district and contract service has worked well
- Suggests move to increase large bus contract usage
- Suggests an examination of start times
- Use Transfinder more efficiently
- Consider change in mileage eligibility (voter approval needed)

Mr. Light stated that except for "fine tuning" in the current school year and in 2013-14, changes stated above might be considered for 2014-15. Mr. Light stated that the district had also recently had a study done on the

**Budget Overview:  
(Continued)**

closing of a building. Mr. Light noted that several options were not feasible at this time but in 2015 some of the options might be possible. Mr. Light stated that it would require an in-depth analysis of educational, social and financial effects as well as SED approval.

Mr. Light outlined some of the potential revenue increases that would result in gap reductions: increased state aid, sponsorships and donations.

Mr. Light also outlined some of the potential budget reductions:

- Governor has proposed pension reform
  - Level 12% and 12.5% payroll payments
  - Versus 20.9% and 16.25% for 2013-14
- Continued staffing reductions

Mr. Light reviewed the staff reductions/modifications for 2011-2013:

• Teachers		31
• Department Chairs		5
• Administration/Middle Management		1
• Paraprofessionals	F/T	16
	P/T	13
• Custodians		12
• Maintenance		1
• Grounds		1
• Office Staff	F/T	4
	P/T	2
	Total	86

Mr. Light reviewed staffing reductions being considered for 2013-14:

- Not filling open positions
- Budget reductions through grants
- Staff reductions through schedule analysis
- Continued review of all job functions and job descriptions – consolidation/restructuring
- Continued class size analysis

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
March 6	Revenue Reviews/Tax Levy Cap and Code 1000, General Support
March 13	Code 9000, Benefits
March 20	Code 5000, Transportation 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.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):** Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 January 23, 2013.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General Fund	Warrant 84	\$ 1,497,184.71
	"	85	3,042.20
	"	V078	(400.00)
	"	V084	(3,042.20)
	School Lunch	28	24,052.23
	Special Aid	31	12,817.95
	2003 Bond	27	5,512.50

Approved – Board Packet of February 15, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 82	\$894,218.01
"	83	2,910.56
School Lunch	26	24,623.36
"	V026	(7,529.03)
"	27	7,050.45
Special Aid	30	5,836.19

**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. Thank you note from Laura Van Tassell re Teacher of the Year ceremony

**Establishment of the Nicholas A. Tarantelli Memorial Scholarship:** 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 approves the establishment of the Nicholas A. Tarantelli Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$500 for a graduating senior of the Class of 2013.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that this scholarship was in honor of his grandfather who passed away last year at the age of ninety-nine. He hoped to be able to offer this scholarship every year. Mr. Ciappetta noted that the criteria would be an essay on service in general with an emphasis on military or veteran service. Dr. Bennardo thanked Mr. Ciappetta for providing this scholarship to South Huntington students.

**SHEF Donation to the District's Parent University:**

Motion by Mr. Brieff, 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 \$2,000 from the South Huntington Educational Foundation to the district's Parent University.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: (Continued)**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 November 30, December 4, 12, 19, 2012, January 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30, February 5, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 15, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated February 5 and June 22, 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. 937-943.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of Special Compliance Officer:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby appoints Dr. Kathy Weiss to act and serve as Special Compliance Officer to investigate a certain matter at the rate of \$200 per hour, effective immediately. The District agrees to protect and indemnify Dr. Weiss in the event of adverse litigation against Dr. Weiss arising out of the performance of her duties as Special Compliance Officer.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools:**

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 request to remain in South Huntington Schools, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 944.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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. 945-951 and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 7 – Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)  
Schedule 9 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)  
Schedule 12 – Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (½ Pay);  
Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)  
Schedule 14 – Abolition of Positions (Non-Instructional)  
Schedule 16 – Terminations (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 Dr. Bennardo from Supervisor Frank Petrone re invitation to join the Hurricane Sandy Emergency Review Task Force
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Acker re Honored Students, together with Dr. Bennardo's congratulatory letter
3. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-21-13

**Information and Reports:  
(Continued)**In envelopes:

1. Memo to Board of Education from Ms. Harris re Concussion Management
2. Postcard from Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci re Petition for Long Island's Share of School Aid
3. Adult and Continuing Education Brochure, Spring 2013

Information Sent to Board Week Ending February 15, 2013

1. Memo to Mr. Kaden from Mr. Light re Audit Committee Agenda, February 20, 2013
2. Letter to Colleague from Mary Jo O'Hagan, Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, re 2013 Distinguished Service Award and Silver Bullet Award
3. Letter to Mr. Kaden from Ilene Herz, Western Suffolk BOCES, re her candidacy for another term on the BOCES Board of Education
4. Letter to Mr. Kaden from Maryann Zumpano, Western Suffolk BOCES, re her candidacy for another term on the BOCES Board of Education
5. Letter to Mr. Kaden from Mildred Browne, Western Suffolk BOCES, re her candidacy for another term on the BOCES Board of Education
6. Letter to Parent from Dr. Bennardo regarding a student matter
7. Personnel Posting (1)
8. Invitation to Project Excel Breakfast to be held on February 28, 2013
9. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 2-14-13
10. *Spotlight*, January 2013

**Committee Updates:**

None given.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mrs. Carey stated that she and Dr. Bennardo met with Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone to discuss the traffic situation at Birchwood Intermediate School. Mr. Petrone agreed to install two rectangular rapid flashing beacons in the spring.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that the date and location for SHEF's Golf Outing had been changed. The new date is July 1 and the new location is Crab Meadow Golf Course. This year's honoree is Ray Spatafora.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mr. Kaden thanked the Booster Club, Athletic Department and custodians for the very good job done with the culmination of the winter sports season. Mr. Kaden noted that they received many complimentary comments from spectators during the events.

Mr. Nitkewicz stated that registration was beginning for the St. Elizabeth's CYO Special Needs Soccer Program. This program is held on Saturday mornings in the spring. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that during the summer, the program was run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. If you are interested and have a child with special needs, you can register your child online.

Mrs. Brieff noted that the newly established Arts in Education Foundation would be holding a fundraiser on April 24, 2013, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Crest Hollow Country Club. Mrs. Brieff noted that there would be student performances and art displays. Mrs. Brieff stated that registration forms could be downloaded from the district's website.

Mrs. Carey stated that the Yankee Doodle Circus would be held this Saturday at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Walt Whitman High School. Mrs. Carey suggested that tickets be purchased online as they cost \$17 for adult tickets and you receive two free tickets for children. If you purchase the tickets at the event, they cost \$22 for adults and \$15 for children. Mrs. Carey encouraged all to attend this great event.


**Voice of the Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

**Adjournment:**

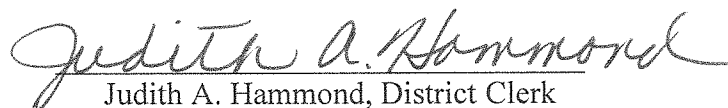
Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



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Jim Kaden, President



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Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 937 through 951.