

A Budget Adoption and regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, April 10, 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
Deputy District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo
Ms. Harris
Dr. Centamore
Mr. Light
Dr. Bloom
Mrs. McLean

Absent: District Clerk

Mrs. Hammond

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 Business Meeting at 7:45 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Budget Adoption
Presentation**

Dr. Bennardo addressed the audience and stated that tonight’s presentation and discussion would lead to the budget adoption for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Bennardo stated that the February 27th working budget was \$149,861,900, which was approximately 2.8 million dollars more than the expected revenues. He continued and stated that with administrative cuts and efficiencies, the working budget was trimmed to \$148,058,394, which was still too high. Dr. Bennardo articulated that extensive grant writing garnered significant savings for the district, which was demonstrated from the PowerPoint slides that displayed grant funding for computer software, various supplies, professional development, a district-wide administrative position, an instructional supervisory position and 3.8 FTE instructional positions.

Dr. Bennardo continued and stated that additional staff cuts were considered by administration totaling \$1,070,000, which resulted in a working budget of \$146,988,394. Dr. Bennardo also shared that additional state aid was received in the amount of \$906,236. He further stated that it was important to understand that original budget discussions relied on using another one million dollars of the fund balance, and his team was not comfortable with having to do this. At this point Dr. Bennardo turned the presentation over to Mr. Light. Mr. Light reviewed the following numbers from the PowerPoint presentation:

Non-Tax Revenue/Taxation	\$107,148,095
State Aid	\$ 27,942,795
Reserves	\$ 316,472
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 4,200,000
Other	<u>\$ 8,731,993</u>
Total Revenues	\$148,339,355
Expenditures/working budget 4/3/13	\$148,058,394
Less Potential Additional Cuts	<u>\$ 1,070,000</u>
Today's Working Budget	\$146,988,394
<u>POSITIVE GAP:</u>	<u>\$ 1,350,961</u>

Mr. Light further explained that monies contained in "Other" were interest from investments, money from other districts whose students attend our schools or receive services from our district, foster care/social services and an additional \$210,000 to \$220,000 of state aid from the 2005/06 school year. Mr. Light explained that the State Education Department conducted an audit which resulted in the district receiving this extra money. With consideration of the \$1,070,000 potential cuts, there was now a positive gap of \$1,350,961. Mr. Light turned the presentation back to Dr. Bennardo who reiterated the fact that there was now a 1.3 million dollar positive gap, and as such, the question before the Board was how to best utilize this additional revenue. Dr. Bennardo stated that this was a far better position than last year, as last year there were big ticket items on the cutting board. He emphasized that every bargaining unit had cooperated and spending was contained. However, there were two wildcards to address next year, one was pension costs that could be 3.6 million dollars more, and the second was health care that continues to rise each year by approximately 1 to 1.2 million dollars. Dr. Bennardo shared that the district needed to be prudent and pay careful attention to savings as this money would most likely be required to offset these wildcards down the line.

Dr. Bennardo asked the Board for their input at this time.

Dr. Kaden stated that our current position was not so much a nice place to be, but certainly better than last year. His recommendation was to put half of the positive gap into fund balance for possible use next year, and

the balance to be used at administration's discretion for restoration purposes. Discussion ensued regarding this discretionary factor; Mr. Nitkewicz asked if it could be used as a contingency to control class-size increases. Ms. DeGaetano shared that she preferred to see the money used to reduce class sizes, and further stated that this money could be used to offset numbers late in the summer when the class-size numbers would be best represented. Dr. Bennardo responded to this and stated that personnel would review the numbers weekly to address spikes and concluded that placing resources in the right places was the goal. Ms. Brieff agreed with Ms. DeGaetano and further stated that the fund balance was important and shared that she was in favor of being conservative in that regard. Ms. LaCara agreed that half the monies should be used for fund balance and the other half as discretionary for administration.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that he would like to use the money to lower the tax rate for taxpayers; the audience applauded Mr. Ciappetta for his remark. He continued and stated that this year we increased the tax rate. Mr. Ciappetta noted that we cannot guarantee the tax rate; this year it was high, and we plan on taking money from fund balance. Mr. Ciappetta further stated that this was the first year the district did not give taxpayers the tax rate as published at budget time. Dr. Bennardo asked Mr. Light to comment. Mr. Light shared that the overall assessed valuation in the town plus the tax levy cap provided the tax rate. Mr. Light stated that the tax rate was set by the Board in the month of October after the assessed value was determined by the Town. Last year the projected tax rate increased from 4.74% to 4.92%; with this budget, the tax rate increase was at 3.99%.

Mr. Kaden also addressed this issue and stated that the choice was to increase the tax rate or use fund balance to reduce it. He recommended making a commitment to use the fund balance to maintain the tax rate to below the four percent mark. All Board members were in agreement.

Mr. Nitkewicz stated that it was important to recognize that we were living in a difficult world for the next several years. Last year it was extremely difficult, but the budget was approved with the tax cap. Additionally, Mr. Nitkewicz expressed that all in all, a great job was completed by everyone who participated in this process.

An opportunity was provided for community members to pose questions; several questions were addressed and responses provided accordingly.

Mr. Kaden addressed the audience and stated that the actions taken by the superintendent and his team had assisted tremendously. Mr. Kaden summarized that \$675,480 would be used to reduce the fund balance and the remaining \$675,481 would be used as a reserve/contingency for class-size reduction and instructional application at administration's discretion. Mr. Kaden calculated that the budget presented for adoption

amounted to \$147,663,875 and requested that the Board adopt the resolution accordingly for this amount.

**Adoption of
2013/2014 Budget:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the budget of \$147,663,875 be adopted and the amount thereof, less state aid and other income, be raised by tax upon taxable property of South Huntington Union Free School District, Town of Huntington, County of Suffolk, New York, for the school year 2013-2014.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of
Agenda:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the revised agenda be adopted.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion on Minutes
through Schedule
of Bills (Warrants):**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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 27, 2013.

**Treasurer's
Report:**

Treasurer's Report, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1036.

**Monthly Trial
Balance and Bank
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1037-1050.

**Monthly Collateral
Reconciliation:**

Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, as of February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1051.

**Revenue Status
Report, General
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, General Fund, for February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1052.

**Revenue Status
Report, School
Lunch Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1053.

**Revenue Status
Report, Special Aid
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1054.

**Revenue Status
Report, Capital
Fund:**

Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1055.

Budget Status

Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, for February, 2013,

- Report (Expenditures) General Fund: Budget Status Report** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, for February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1060.
- Report (Expenditures) School Lunch Fund: Budget Status Report** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, for February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1061.
- Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund: Budget Status Report** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, for February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1062.
- Report: Budgetary Transfer Report:** Budgetary Transfer Report, for February, 2013, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 1063.
- Tax Levy Schedule:** Tax Levy Schedule, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1064.
- Library Tax Levy:** Library Tax Levy, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1064.
- Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:** Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1065-1069.
- Claims Audit Report:** Claims Audit Report, February, 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1070-1073.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 101	\$ 1,420,734.65
	”	102	2,997.87
	School Lunch	34	27,064.23
	Special Aid	38	56,853.36
	2003 Bond	32	428.12
	<u>Approved – Board Packet of March 22, 2013</u>		
	General Fund	Warrant V087	(\$50.00)
	“	96	146,918.75
	“	97	250,000.00
	“	98	450,132.01
“	V099	(3,627.00)	
“	99	9,668.21	
“	100	7,581.36	
School Lunch	33	12,681.19	
Special Aid	35	129,611.86	
“	36	800.00	

“	37	1,350.00
2003 Bond	31	191,880.50
<u>Approved – Board Packet of March 15, 2013</u>		
General Fund	Warrant 92	\$ 977,560.38
“	V092	(754.85)
“	93	60,066.80
“	94	46,881.00
“	95	751.47
School Lunch	31	351.11
“	V031	(1,983.77)
“	32	3,783.12
Special Aid	34	26,743.64
2003 Bond	30	12,083.48

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: Invitation to Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Thomas C. Ciravolo.

Approval of 2013-2014 Board of Education Meeting Dates, Revised: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the 2013-2014 Board of Education Meeting Dates; a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1074.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Short-Term Lease Agreement with Huntington Historical Society: Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the short-term lease agreement with the Huntington Historical Society; a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1075.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Donation of Sixteen Bowling Team Uniform Shirts by the Wildcat Booster Club: Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of sixteen bowling team uniform shirts to the South Huntington Union Free School District by the Wildcat Booster Club.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools: Motion by Mrs. Brieff, 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. 1076.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Joint Municipal Cooperative 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 adoption of the Joint Municipal Cooperative

Bidding Program with Eastern Suffolk BOCES:

Bidding Program with Eastern Suffolk BOCES; a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1077-1078.
Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Election Officials:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the appointment of the election officials, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1079.
Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 23, 31, February 8, 14, 21, 26, 27, 28, March 1, 4 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 25, 2013; and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 26, 2013; and Transition to the Committee on Special Education dated March 5, 8, 11, 14, 15, 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. 1080-1103.
Motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding for Chairpersons' Association:

Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Agreement made on April 4, 2013, with the South Huntington Chairpersons' Association with regard to modifications to part 4, Appendix A and Appendix C of the collective bargaining agreement to address the re-organization of Chairpersons' titles and responsibilities; a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1104.
Motion carried unanimously.

Field Trip Request:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request for the DECA State Competition on April 24-28, 2013, in Anaheim, California.
Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. 1105-1117 and authorizes implementation thereof:
Schedule 1 - Abolition of Positions (Instructional)
Schedule 2 - Probationary Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 3 - Administrative/Supervisory Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 4 - Coordinator/Department Chairperson Assignment (Instructional)
 Schedule 7 - Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)
 Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
 Schedule 11 - Terminations (Instructional)
 Schedule 12 - Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (1/2 Pay); Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)
 Schedule 15 - Appointments (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 18 - Re-Employment to Positions (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 20 - Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22 - Substitute Employee Appointments (Instr./Non-Instr.)
 Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Confidential letter to Dr. Bennardo from Dr. Weiss re a personnel matter
2. Memo to School Superintendents, School Board Members and Interested Parties from Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci re School Aid Figures from the Enacted 2013-2014 New York State Budget
3. Principal's List, Class of 2013, together with Dr. Bennardo's congratulatory letters
4. Memo to Dr. Bennardo and the Board of Education from Ms. Harris re Attendance Summary Update
5. Thank you letters to Mrs. Samuels and Mrs. Raspantini from Dr. Bennardo re Health and Wellness Fair
6. Letter to Parent or Guardian from Ms. Robins re ELA and Math Assessments
7. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Robins re End of Year and Review of Code of Conduct
8. Letter to Parent or Guardian from Mr. Toto re Important Testing Information
9. Personnel Postings (16)
10. *The Silas Scoop*, April 2013
11. Brochure re an Educational Workshop by Eastern Suffolk BOCES entitled, "Flip the Switch"
12. News articles; *The Long-Islander*, 3-28-13

**Information and Reports:
(Continued)**

Information Sent to Board Week Ending March 22, 2013

1. Memo to the Board of Education from Dr. Bennardo re Proposed Board of Education Meeting Dates 2013-2014
2. E-Mail from Dennis Callahan re standardized tests resolution for adoption
3. Thank you letter to Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone and Council Members from Dr. Bennardo re involvement as a field-sign sponsor
4. Parent University Brochure
5. Information on Energy Automation Systems, Inc.
6. Letter to Dr. Bennardo from Rick Migliore, The Gift of the Rose Center, re Questions from Board of Education members and

- Preliminary Security Plan
- 7. Personnel Postings (5)
- 8. *Year 2013 Legislative Priorities for Public Education*, Nassau Suffolk School Board Association
- 9. Flyer re Silas Wood Family Reflection Night
- 10. Materials from The STEM Diversity Summit held on March 19, 2013 (Board Members Only)
- 11. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 3-21-13

**Information and Reports:
(Continued)**

Information Sent to Board Week Ending March 15, 2013

- 1. Thank you letter to Mr. Kaden from Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci re use of Walt Whitman High School facilities for press conference
- 2. Letter to Mr. Kaden and Board Members from Jeannette Santos and Dr. Michael J. Mensch, Western Suffolk BOCES, re BOCES Administrative Budget (Board Members Only)
- 3. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Acker re February Students of the Month, together with Dr. Bennardo's congratulatory letter
- 4. *Countrywood Chronicle*, March/April 2013
- 5. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 3-11-13
- 6. News article: *The Long-Islander*, 3-7-13 and 3-14-13

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

None given.

Voice of the Residents:

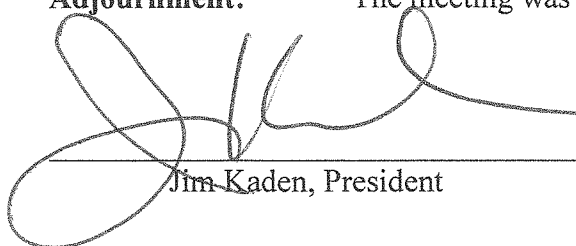
None given.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education 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.

Adjournment:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:30 p.m.



 Jim Kaden, President



 Laura McLean, Deputy District Clerk