

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013, in Conference Room B of the Administration Building, 60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York.

Present: **Board Members:**
 Vice President

Mr. Ciappetta
Mrs. Brieff
Mrs. Carey
Mrs. DeGaetano
Mrs. LaCara
Mr. Nitkewicz

Staff:
Superintendent of Schools
Deputy Superintendent
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 President

Mr. Kaden

Call to Order: Mr. Ciappetta opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

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

Mr. Ciappetta opened the Business Meeting at 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda: Mr. Nitkewicz moved, with a second from Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda, being amended by moving New Business Item K5 to Communications as Item H2, be adopted.
Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants): Motion by Mrs. Carey, 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 meetings held on March 6, 13, 20 and April 3, 2013.

Claims Audit Report: Claims Audit Report, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1127-1130.

Bids: The following bids, as recommended by Administration on schedules made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1131-1134.

Plate Glass Replacement	Schedule 14-48
Plate Glass Replacement Automotive	14-49
Pneumatic Temperature Controls	14-55

Mr. Ciappetta had a question on Schedule 14-48, Plate Glass Replacement, that was answered to his satisfaction by Mr. Light.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 105	\$ 1,413,375.75
	"	106	243,637.10
	"	107	11,666.67
	"	108	2,500.00
	School Lunch	36	12,625.31
	Special Aid	41	72,870.15
	2003 Bond	34	29,024.50

Approved – Board Packet of April 12, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 103	\$27,030.53
"	104	1,537,665.91
School Lunch	35	38,523.25
Special Aid	39	510.00
"	40	126,307.35
Capital Reserve Bond	33	4,559.08

Vote on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants): Mr. Ciappetta asked for any additional comments or questions on the above items, and then called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Change Orders: Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. Brieffer, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District hereby approves the following change orders:

- Change Order No. G1 for Maplewood Interior Renovation, a decrease to WJ Northridge Construction Corp., in the amount of \$6,344, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1135.
- Change Order No. G2 for Oakwood Parking Lot Upgrades and Renovation of Interior Finishes, an increase to Web Construction Corp., in the amount of \$7,500, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1136.
- Change Order No. 2R for Administration Toilet Renovation, a decrease to North Star Concrete Construction Corp., in the amount of \$34,738.75, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1137.

Motion carried unanimously.

Communications:

1. Letter from Ken White and Cheryl Davidson, Long Island STEM Hub Stewards, re selection of Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center as the first Middle School Career Academy
Dr. Bennardo noted that Silas Wood had been named the first Middle School Career Academy on Long Island as part of a New

**Communications:
(Continued)**

York State initiative. Ms. Harris stated that our students would experience rigorous academics, relevancy in curriculum through industry examples and relationships with the employer community.

2. Memo to the Board of Education from SHTA President Dennis Callahan re Resolution on Overreliance of Standardized Tests as a Measure of Student Performance and Principal/Teacher Effectiveness

Mr. Callahan was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. Mr. Callahan stated that NYSUT had asked their membership to approach their Boards of Education about passage of a resolution calling for the Commissioner of Education, the NYS Board of Regents and other policy makers to reduce the use of overreliance on standardized testing and the U.S. Congress and Administration to reduce federal testing mandates and support the role of and focus on multiple measures of student learning and school quality in accountability systems. Mr. Callahan noted that what the students were being tested on was not what the students were being taught. Mr. Callahan stated that the unions were going to their Boards of Education and asking them to support this resolution. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he was indebted to all of our unions for what they did last year. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that he was not an educator and he would need to know what would be considered too much testing. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he would need more information. Mr. Callahan stated that he would get more factual information for the Board. Mr. Ciappetta asked Mr. Callahan if he was aware of what level of support other districts were getting. Mr. Callahan stated that he was not aware of that information. Dr. Bennardo noted that the other Superintendents were aware of this and felt their pain; however, they questioned whether or not this was the role of the Board of Education.

**Vote on Western
Suffolk BOCES
2013-14 Budget:**

Information regarding the proposed 2012-2013 Administrative Budget for Western Suffolk BOCES had been prefiled with board members.

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education approve the 2013-2014 Administrative Budget for the Western Suffolk BOCES, Second Supervisory District of Suffolk County, New York.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Vote on Candidates
to Western Suffolk
BOCES:**

Information regarding candidates for the vacancies on the Western Suffolk BOCES had been prefiled with district Board members. Each component school district of Western Suffolk BOCES may cast one vote for each of the three vacancies for three-year terms on the BOCES Board.

Motion by Mrs. Brief, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the South Huntington Board of Education cast its vote in the annual election of members of the Western Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational

Vote on Candidates to Western Suffolk BOCES: Services, for three-year terms expiring June 30, 2016, as follows: Mildred Browne, Ilene Herz, and Maryann Zumpano.
(Continued) Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officer: Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. DeGaetano, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby appoints John Farago from the New York State Education Department list of approved hearing officers to serve as an Impartial Hearing Officer for Case Number 76941.
 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 to Marching Band Camp to be held on August 12-15, 2013, at Farmingdale University.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Interim Business Administrator: Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby appoints Lawrence Light to the position of Interim Business Administrator commencing on July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, with terms and conditions as set forth in the agreement between the South Huntington Union Free School District and Lawrence Light, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1138.
 Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Board Policy §7521, Concussion Management: Approval of this policy had been tabled during the February 13, 2013, Board meeting. Since that meeting, a change had been made in the policy replacing the word "appropriate" health care professional with the word "approved" health care professional. It was now being brought back to the Board of Education for approval. Mr. Nitkewicz expressed his dismay at this coming before the Board again with this change. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he had concerns about the word "approved" and felt the word "appropriate" was more suitable. Mrs. Brieff stated that she felt using the word "approved" was less ambiguous. After further discussion on the wording of this policy, the Board of Education took the following action:

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that Policy §7521, Concussion Management, be adopted as submitted.
 Motion carried 5-1, with Mr. Nitkewicz opposed.

Note: Please see the Motion to Reconsider this matter below after the Personnel section.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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 February 6, 25, 28, March 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, April 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated

- Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: (Continued)** March 18, 21, April 5, 8, 9, 15, 16 and 18, 2013, and Transition to Committee on Special Education dated March 18, 21 and April 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. 1139-1157.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Request to Remain in South Huntington Schools:** Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, 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 of the request made part of these legal minutes, p. 1158.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Donation by Wildcat Sports Camp:** Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, seconded by Mrs. Breiff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the donation of \$3,000 from the Wildcat Sports Camp for travel and conference expenses for physical education teachers; and
Be it Further Resolved, that the Board of Education hereby approves the 2012-2013 budget increase of \$3,000 to code 2110-13-PED-475-000 to accept the Wildcat Sports Camp donation.
Motion carried unanimously.
- Personnel:** Motion by Mrs. LaCara, 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. 1159-1164, 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)
Schedule 19 – Temporary/Seasonal Appointments (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 22 – Substitute Employee Appointments (Instr./Non-Instr.)
Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to Reconsider Vote on Board Policy §7521, Concussion Management:** With regard to the approval of Board Policy §7521, Concussion Management, Mr. Nitkewicz questioned who would determine who was an "approved" health care professional. Mrs. Brieff noted that there was a list in the state regulations. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he had been happy with the original word "appropriate" and continued to have concerns with the word "approved." Mr. Ciappetta stated that he felt Mr. Nitkewicz had a valid concern and he further stated that the Board would then have to make a determination as to who was "approved." Mrs. Brieff noted that the list in the state regulations was not a list of individuals but rather a listing of the type of qualified health care professional. After further discussion regarding these terms, the Board took the following action:

**Motion to
Reconsider Vote on
Board Policy §7521,
Concussion
Management:
(Continued)**

Mrs. LaCara moved, with a second from Mr. Nitkewicz, to reconsider the vote on the resolution relating to the approval of Board Policy §7521, Concussion Management.

Motion, to reconsider the vote, carried.

Mrs. Brieff stated that she felt the policy should have a lack of ambiguity for the sake of the parents and also because the policy would be on our website. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he felt this was an important policy but he wouldn't want it to keep a child off the field because they didn't have access to an "approved" health care professional. Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he would like to see the list of the health care professionals in the state regulations. Ms. Harris gave a brief history of this policy and noted that our current policy listed a neurologist and the Board had wanted to give families more flexibility. Mrs. Brieff noted that she was not happy with the word "appropriate" and would prefer to see the word "physician." After further discussion regarding the wording of this policy, the Board took the following action:

Mrs. LaCara moved, with a second from Mr. Nitkewicz, that Board Policy §7521, Concussion Management, be amended to strike out the word "approved" on page 2 under paragraph, Identification of Concussion and Removal from Athletic Activities, line six and insert the word "appropriate" and strike out the word "approved" on page 3 under paragraph, Return to School Activities and Athletics, line eight and insert the word "appropriate."

Motion, as amended, carried 5-1, with Mrs. Brieff opposed.

**Information and
Reports:**

1. Confidential Document re a Personnel Matter
2. Letter to Mrs. Hammond from Donna Roche, South Huntington Public Library, re approval of operating budget for 2013-14
3. Letter to Seniors and Senior Parents/Guardians from Ms. Acker re Senior Prom
4. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Acker re New York State Scholarships for Academic Excellence
5. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Acker re Honored Students, together with Dr. Bennardo's congratulatory letter
6. Invitation to the Board of Education from Ms. Robins to Stimson's May and June events
7. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Robins re year-end activities for 8th graders
8. Letter to Parent or Guardian from Ms. Robins re assessment exams
9. Flyer re OSA End-of-Year Party
10. Personnel Postings (2)

In envelopes:

1. Material from The Gift of the Rose Center (Board Members Only)
2. *Spotlight*, March/April 2013

Information and Reports:
(Continued)

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 12, 2013

1. Parent University Schedule of Events, April 18, 2013; workshop registration completed for Board's attendance to Workshop 3A, 6 p.m., Room 316, Community Safety Starts at Home, presented by Deputy Police Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis, SCPD
2. Memorandum from L. Light to D. Bennardo re Facilities Committee Agenda for April 17, 2013 meeting
3. Memorandum from L. Light to D. Bennardo re Nawrocki Smith Internal Audit Report/Business Office Key Controls dated April 5
4. Memorandum from L. Light to D. Bennardo re Request from Wildcat Sports Camp to donate \$3,000 for travel and conference expenses for physical education teachers
5. Personnel Postings (5)
6. Letter from Devitt Spellman Barrett, LLP re motion to dismiss legal matter
7. Letter to Parents/Guardian from F. Robins dated April 10, 2013 re assessment schedule and final examinations
8. SHTA Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, April 8, 2013
9. News articles: *The Long Islander*, 4-11-13

Committee Updates:

None given.

Comments from Board Members and Staff:

Mr. Ciappetta stated that the Board had received additional information from The Gift of the Rose Center. Mr. Ciappetta noted that Mr. Migliore of The Gift of the Rose Center had come before the Board at an earlier Board meeting asking for a letter of support from the Board. Mr. Ciappetta stated that some of the concerns raised by the Board included:

- The location of the facility
- Viable security
- Who would be responsible for the cost of the children's education as The Gift of the Rose had stated that they would be named guardians of the children?

Mr. Ciappetta stated that Mr. Migliore did provide an additional security plan in the information packet received. Mr. Ciappetta noted that Supervisor Frank Petrone had suggested to Mr. Migliore that he ask the South Huntington Board of Education for a letter of support. Dr. Bennardo stated that he did not feel it was the purview of the school district to lend an endorsement to a for-profit business. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the Board had three options:

1. Send a letter of endorsement.
2. Send a letter to Supervisor Petrone objecting to the location of the facility.
3. Send a neutral letter stating that it was not appropriate for the school district to endorse a for-profit business.

Mr. Nitkewicz stated that he did not feel it was the duty or the mandate of the Board of Education to endorse this facility. Mrs. DeGaetano agreed. Mrs. Brieff noted that there may be a time when the Board would like to oppose something and she felt that the Board should leave the option open. Mrs. Brieff stated that she wouldn't want to set a precedent. Mr.

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:
(Continued)**

Ciappetta noted that Mr. Kaden did have some concerns with the location because he felt the area was already vulnerable. Mrs. Brieff stated that she had a concern with the facility's proximity to Stimson Middle School. Mr. Nitkewicz suggested that a letter be sent stating that while the Board of Education supports the mission, the Board did not feel it was their place to support or oppose this application.

Following further discussion, it was the sense of the Board to send a letter stating that the Board of Education felt that this was a land-use matter that fell under the jurisdiction of the Town of Huntington Zoning Board and Department of Planning and Environment. The Board of Education did not feel it was the jurisdiction of the Board to support or oppose this application.

Mr. Nitkewicz congratulated the school district and Ms. Harris for the success of the recent Parent University. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that it was a fantastic day. Ms. Harris stated that it was a team effort and she thanked everyone involved including the dedicated Parent University Committee.

Mr. Ciappetta noted that Wednesday was Administrative Professionals Day. Mr. Ciappetta thanked the entire support staff and gave a special acknowledgement to Judy Hammond, the District Clerk and Board Secretary. Mr. Ciappetta also acknowledged and thanked Laura McLean, the Deputy District Clerk and Secretary to the Superintendent. The Board presented a gift to both Mrs. Hammond and Mrs. McLean. Mrs. Hammond and Mrs. McLean expressed their appreciation and thanked the Board for their thoughtfulness.

Mr. Ciappetta noted that he recently attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Joseph Orelli. Mr. Ciappetta stated that it was a very impressive event and Mr. Orelli did a great job on his project.

**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

A resident expressed her concerns with regard to the state assessments. She stated that she felt it was too much for the students and could have a negative impact on them. She also stated that she had concerns about The Gift of the Rose because of its close proximity to a park and school. She would like to see their security plan. Mr. Ciappetta offered to show her a copy of their security plan.

Debbie Adams-Kaden stated that she had concerns about the location of The Gift of the Rose. She asked if the Board of Education would let residents know when the Huntington Town Board would be considering their application. Mr. Ciappetta stated that the district would notify the PTA so that they could let their members know.

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

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., Vice President



Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1127 through 1164.