

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Tuesday, May 21, 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  
Deputy Superintendent  
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 7:35 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SHTA Contest Winners:**      Mr. Callahan expressed his delight in presenting the winners of the SHTA contest winners. The essay was entitled, "School Makes Me Feel Good About Myself Because . . ." and Mr. Callahan explained that first-place winners in each category receive \$100; second- and third-place winners receive a \$25 gift certificate. Mr. Callahan recognized each winner as they came forward for their certificate.

**Student Leadership Awards:**      Dr. Bennardo extended his congratulations to the SHTA contest winners, and thanked everyone in the audience for coming to tonight's special board presentation. He then introduced Mr. Toto, principal of Silas Wood School.

Mr. Toto praised the student officers of Silas Wood, and shared the various activities that took place this past school year from holiday fundraising drives to the contribution of puppets to the pediatric wing at Huntington Hospital. Each student officer received individual recognition.

Dr. Bennardo introduced Mr. Sansotta, assistant principal of Stimson Middle School, for the presentation of the seventh- and eighth-grade student officers. Mr. Sansotta shared that the students worked extremely hard this past year from planning special activities that ranged from spirit week, holiday drives, a letter-writing campaign to the country's military in Afghanistan, to the creation of snowflakes especially prepared and

delivered to the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut. Each student officer received individual recognition.

Dr. Bennardo thanked Mr. Sansotta and Mr. Toto and the student officers for their hard work and dedication, and also gave credit to the students' families for the positive values and sense of responsibility the students possess.

Dr. Bennardo introduced Ms. Acker, principal of Walt Whitman High School, who presided over the high school's leadership awards. Ms. Acker shared that the Whitman spirit was maintained with the hard work and dedication of the student officers. She introduced Mr. Goldman, the freshman class advisor, who spoke of the fine attributes of this particular group of ninth graders—namely, their kindness, caring and friendly nature—that made this past year as enjoyable as it was. Each student officer came forward to be recognized.

Ms. Acker introduced Ms. Papianou, the sophomore class advisor, who shared that the year started early in August with preparations for the homecoming float. Ms. Papianou shared that it was a pleasure to work with this group of students. Each student officer came forward to be recognized.

Ms. Acker introduced Mr. Donlon, the junior class advisor who also articulated the fine work of this group of officers. Each student officer came forward to be recognized.

Ms. Acker introduced Ms. Zamow, the senior class advisor. Ms. Zamow praised the seniors and shared that this particular group contained scholars, athletes and musicians. The group worked together extremely well, despite the challenges presented, such as Hurricane Sandy and the subsequent blizzard. The activities took place thanks to the hard work and dedication of the students' efforts. Each student officer came forward to be recognized.

Ms. Acker introduced Ms. Leogrande, the GSO advisor. Ms. Leogrande shared that this was her first year as the GSO advisor, and no one had told her the amount of work that was involved. Ms. Leogrande acknowledged each of the GSO officers and provided the college that each will attend in the fall. She also gave credit to the GSO assistants, who worked just as hard as the officers in providing whatever needed to be done. Each student officer and assistant came forward to be recognized.

**2013 Principal's  
List:**

Ms. Acker expressed her sincere pleasure in recognizing and honoring this outstanding group of students. She further stated that the students on the Principal's List must attain a 95% or better average. She spoke of their dedication and commitment to excellence and that it was her privilege to share and celebrate this evening with them. Ms. Acker emphasized the significance of being identified on the Principal's List.

Each student was called to the podium to be recognized, as Ms. Acker spoke of their individual high school achievements and accomplishments. Mrs. Acker concluded each student's summary and shared the student's college choice.

**Salutatorian-  
Valedictorian  
Recognition:**

Ms. Acker proudly announced the Walt Whitman High School Class of 2013 Salutatorian, Matthew J. LoCastro. Matthew has been accepted to attend Hunter College in the fall.

Ms. Acker continued and proudly announced the Walt Whitman High School Class of 2013 Valedictorian, Sarah Ann Riordan. Sarah has been accepted to attend Cornell University in the fall.

The audience provided both Sarah and Matthew a resounding applause.

Ms. Acker then unveiled the 2013 Principal's List plaque, to which the audience applauded, and Ms. Acker again shared that the plaque will be proudly hung in the south cafeteria, a long-standing, respected tradition. Credit was provided to the high school's PTA for the funding of the plaque.

**Recess:**

Mr. Kaden called for a short recess.

**The Spirit of  
Huntington Art  
Center  
Presentation:**

Mr. Kaden announced the presentation of the Spirit of Huntington Art Center. Mr. Michael Kitakis introduced himself as the executive director and asked the Board to view a short video regarding the Spirit of Huntington Art Center. The video provided information that spoke of the center as a not-for-profit group that hoped to build a community in support of children with special needs and veterans through creative expression of art. The Spirit of Huntington was founded by local artist Erich Preis in an old garage on 25A and Park Avenue and started with three students; it now has over 75 students. It is their intent to expand and include fine art/sculpture, digital art, music and performing arts to their program. They hope to rent the old South Huntington library and create a large studio to expand classes, gallery opportunities, and become a strategic alliance partner with the district on existing programs (summer camp, etc.). New Media, Inc., is partner to the Spirit of Huntington and wishes to facilitate the digital art and vocational/intern training opportunities for students. They wish to add computer graphics, website design, photography and music. In conclusion, the video spoke of the creation of a community art center to raise the profile as a cultural hub and support the district's expanding arts program. They are prepared to enter into a lease agreement with the terms and conditions identified in the five-year lease proposal dated May 21, 2013.

Mr. Erich Preis asked to speak to the Board; he shared that he is on the autism spectrum and is passionate in his cause to work with students to better express their feelings through art. He gave particular historical accounts to growing up with autism and how that has affected him as an adult. Stressing his passion for this type of work, he also shared his

recent fund-raising event whereby he raised \$20,000. He expressed his vision for the center in working with students with special needs and veterans.

Mr. Nitkewicz asked what was the relationship between New Media, Inc. and the Spirit of Huntington Art Center; Mr. Kitakis responded that New Media, Inc, is his company. He further explained that he recently sold his building in Hauppauge, which is the reason he is looking in South Huntington. Mr. Nitkewicz also asked if the teachers used at the center were certified teachers; Mr. Kitakis responded affirmatively that they are certified teachers. Mr. Kitakis shared that the center also has volunteers that work with the students.

Mr. Ciappetta asked why a five-year lease proposal, to which Mr. Kitakis responded that the district's realtor had expressed the district's desire for same. A two-year lease to start the program could be considered. Mr. Ciappetta also asked how many hours the center operates on a daily basis. Mr. Kitakis responded approximately eight to nine hours each day; there are classes that run from 7 to 10 p.m.

Ms. Brieff asked how many students were enrolled at any given time; Mr. Kitakis responded anywhere from 10 to 12, but it could be as high as 20. He continued in stating that with veterans, it is different in that they are bused in, hence the number could be anywhere from 17 to 20 veterans. He further explained there is one class at a time.

Mr. Ciappetta asked how much square footing of the old library will be utilized? A brief discussion ensued with the question addressed to Mr. Kennedy, who was in the audience. Mr. Kennedy responded that it is approximately 1/3 of the building. Mr. Ciappetta also questioned how much does the district pay for utilities; Mr. Kitakis shared that the realtor had provided that information. Mr. Ciappetta asked Mr. Light to secure the information regarding utility costs and exactly how much of the building is addressed in the lease proposal.

Dr. Bennardo thanked Mr. Kitakis and Mr. Preis and shared that the district would be in touch with a response to their lease proposal shortly.

**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 Mr. Nitkewicz , 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 April 23, 2013

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General Fund	Warrant 117	\$ 311,471.12
	Dental	118	11,666.67
	School Lunch	40	19,054.90
	Special Aid	45	42,417.10
	2003 Bond	35	120,600.00

**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. Invitation from Gretchen Hargis and Sue Kennedy, Girl Scouts of Suffolk County, to the Silver Award Ceremony to be held on June 6, 2013

**ASSET Scholarship:** Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education hereby approves the Association of Suffolk County Supervisors for Education Technologies scholarship in the amount of \$500 to be awarded to two graduating seniors, each in the amount of \$250, who are pursuing a career in the field of technology.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, 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 March 11, 20, 21, April 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 19, 22, 23, May 2, 3, and 7, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 11, April 12, 16, 19, 22, 29, May 3, 7 and 13, 2013, and Transition to the Committee on Special Education dated March 11, April 15 and 19, 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. 1268-1275.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Western Suffolk BOCES Multi-Year Service Agreement:** Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. Brieff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the multi-year service agreement between the District and Western Suffolk BOCES for computer hardware for the 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16; 2016-17 and 2017-2018 school years; copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1276-1278.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Confidential Personnel Resolution** Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Amendment to the Agreement by and between the South Huntington Union Free School District and Mr. Lawrence Light, dated July 10, 2012, a copy of the amendment made part of these legal minutes, p. 1279.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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. 1280-1289, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 6 - Summer School Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 7 - Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 10 - Tenure Appointments

Schedule 11 - Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 19 - Temporary/Seasonal Appointment (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 20 - Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 22 - Substitute Employee Appointments (Inst./Non-Instructional)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Information and Reports:**

1. Confidential Attorney Work Product
2. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Final Internal Audit Reports
3. Congratulatory letter to Stimson Junior Honor Society inductees from Dr. Bennardo
4. Congratulatory letter to Whitman National Honor Society inductees from Dr. Bennardo
5. Confidential letter to Dr. Centamore from Mrs. Miranda re a personnel matter
6. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Mr. Toto re student behavior
7. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Mr. Toto re final exam and bus schedule
8. Personnel Postings (2)
9. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 5-13-13
10. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 5-16-13

In envelopes:

1. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Ms. Harris re Long Island STEM Hub
2. *Spotlight*, May 2013

**Certification of Election Results:**

Motion by Mr. Nitkewicz, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, Whereas, the Annual District Elections of the South Huntington Union Free School District of the Town of Huntington, New York, was duly called to be held on May 21, 2013, and was held on said date within said School District for the purpose of voting on the Proposition and Elections set forth in the notice calling said Annual District Election; now therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby determines that said election was held

in all respects in the manner prescribed by Education Law of the State of New York and accepts the results as declared by Chairperson Alyssa Slansky:

Proposition No. 1 – School Budget      1,583 Yes      633 No

The vote for the Trustees was as follows for two, three-year terms of office:

Cameron Williams	received 680 votes
Nicholas R. Ciappetta	received 1,572 votes
Laura B.Carey	received 1,560 votes
William Dwyer	received 2 write-in votes

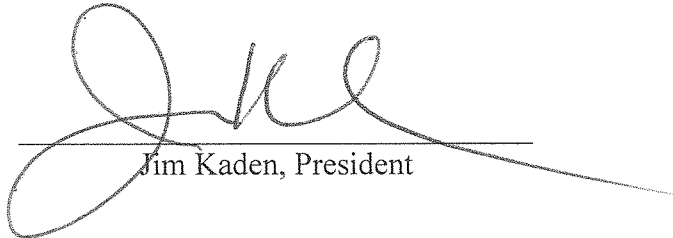
Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:15 p.m.



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Jim Kaden, President



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Laura McLean, Deputy District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 1268 through 1289.