

The Public Hearing of the 2013-2014 School Budget and a regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District were held on Tuesday, May 14, 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  
District Clerk

Dr. Bennardo  
Ms. Harris  
Dr. Centamore  
Mr. Light  
Mrs. Hammond

**Absent:**        Supervisor of Assessment and Technology

Dr. Bloom

**Call to Order:**        Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Executive Session:**        Motion by Mrs. DeGaetano, 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. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:45 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing of  
the 2013-2014  
School Budget:**

Dr. Bennardo noted that the budget journey began in June with a conservative estimate that resulted in a gap of over \$8 million. Dr. Bennardo stated that during the months of July through January budget codes were rebuilt to reflect historical spending and anticipated needs. Dr. Bennardo also stated that effective July 1, 2012, a "spending diet" was initiated that left positions unfilled, bonds refinanced, purchases scrutinized, grants prepared and leases examined. Dr. Bennardo noted that by February it looked as though the preliminary tax levy cap would be approximately 3%, and state aid would actually experience a slight reduction. The district could also factor in a \$3,635,541 increase in pension costs and a \$1,398,344 increase in health insurance. Dr. Bennardo stated that the district entered the February budget season with a \$2.8 million gap between working budget needs and anticipated revenue. Dr. Bennardo noted that the budget workshop meetings focused

**Public Hearing of  
the 2013-2014  
School Budget:  
(Continued)**

largely on reductions and efficiencies aimed at closing the multi-million dollar budget-to-revenue gap. In the time between the last budget workshop and the April 10 budget adoption meeting, the final New York State aid numbers were released. Dr. Bennardo expressed his gratitude to our local legislators for the additional \$906,236 that became available to our district. Dr. Bennardo stated that Mr. Light had further aligned the benefit codes to match the reductions in personnel, pension costs and grant applications, resulting in an additional \$444,725 in savings which brought the district into the budget adoption meeting with an additional \$1,350,961. Dr. Bennardo stated that the Board of Education and district administration entered the April 10 budget adoption meeting with an eye on addressing three considerations:

- addressing class size
- preserving fund balance for future budgets
- keeping the tax rate increase at a manageable level

Dr. Bennardo stated that the Board of Education agreed that half of the money (\$675,480) would be used to reduce the fund balance application and the remaining (\$675,481) would be reserved for class size reduction and instructional application, as the administration deemed appropriate. In addition, the Board made a commitment to taxpayers to attempt to keep the tax rate below the 4% mark. Dr. Bennardo noted that this resulted in the adoption of a \$147,663,875 budget, which carried a 3.02% tax levy and an estimated 3.98% tax rate increase. Dr. Bennardo then turned the presentation over to Mr. Light to further review the budget numbers.

Mr. Light began his portion of the presentation by comparing the current budget to the proposed budget:

Total Budget:	
2012-2013	\$142,943,982
2013-2014	\$147,663,875

School Tax-Rate Increase:	
2012-2013	4.92%
2013-2014	3.98% (Estimated)

Mr. Light then reviewed the dollar amount and percentages for our revenue and spending. Mr. Light reviewed the estimated tax-rate implications:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • budget-to-budget increase              | 3.30%   |
| • tax levy increase                      | 3.02%   |
| • tax rate estimated increase            | 3.98%   |
| • increase for \$1,000 of assessed value | \$92.56 |

Mr. Light also reviewed the estimated tax increase on the assessed value of a home in South Huntington.

**Public Hearing of  
the 2013-2014  
School Budget:**

Mr. Light explained that the district had three options if the budget did not pass on May 21. The district's options would be:

1. Put up the same budget for a revote.
2. Reduce the budget and put the reduced budget up for a vote.
3. Go to a contingency budget rather than having another vote.

Mr. Light then reviewed the 2013-2014 contingency budget:

	2012/2013 <u>Budget</u>	2013/2014 <u>Budget</u>	2013/2014 <u>Contingency</u>
Budget	\$142,943,982	\$147,663,875	\$144,519,598
Other Revenue	38,948,548	40,524,164	40,524,164
Tax Levy	103,995,434	107,139,711	103,995,434
Assessed Value	44,764,488	44,277,544	44,277,544
Tax Rate	2,327.17	2,419.73	2,348.80

Mr. Light noted that the budget-to-budget change under the contingency budget would be 1.11% and the tax rate increase would be .93%. Mr. Light reviewed the mandatory cuts which would be equipment, student supplies and administrative cap. Additional cuts would impact programs, personnel and activities. Mr. Light concluded the presentation with the details of the time, location and date of the budget vote. The audience was then given an opportunity for any questions.

Eleanora Ferrante asked if the district knew what impact to revenue the opening of Target would have. Mr. Light explained that at this time we do not know what the amount would be but it would be beneficial to the district.

Joseph Aiello addressed the Board to express his frustration with the increase in school taxes every year. He suggested that the Board try to keep the budget steady for a couple of years to give some relieve to the taxpayers who struggle to make ends meet. Mr. Nitkewicz thanked Mr. Aiello for his comments and agreed that it was frustrating. Mr. Nitkewicz noted that there were many unfunded mandates and a tax cap from the state but the Board had been working hard to keep the tax rate down. Mr. Ciappetta noted that there could be another unfunded mandate coming that involved an ignition interlocking device on school buses to prevent school bus drivers from driving while intoxicated.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that he did not like the chart in the presentation that showed the estimated daily cost of the tax increase on the assessed value of a home in South Huntington. He would prefer not to have that chart in the presentations.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Ciappetta, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

<b>Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District approve the following items:
<b>Minutes:</b>	Minutes of Board meeting held on April 10, 2013.
<b>Schedule of Investment Accounts:</b>	Schedule of Investment Accounts, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1175.
<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	Treasurer's Report, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1176.
<b>Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1177-1190.
<b>Monthly Collateral Reconciliation:</b>	Monthly Collateral Reconciliation, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1191.
<b>Revenue Status Report, General Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, General Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1192.
<b>Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, School Lunch Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1193.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Special Aid:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Special Aid Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1194.
<b>Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund:</b>	Revenue Status Report, Capital Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1195.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) General Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), General Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1196-1199.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) School Lunch:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), School Lunch Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1200.
<b>Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Special Aid Fund:</b>	Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Special Aid Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1201.

**Budget Status Report (Expenditures) Capital Fund:** Budget Status Report (Expenditures), Capital Fund, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1202.

**Budgetary Transfer Report:** Budgetary Transfer Report, March 2013, copies made part of these legal minutes, p. 1203.

**Tax Levy Schedule:** Tax Levy Schedule, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1204.

**Library Tax Levy:** Library Tax Levy, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 1204.

**Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report:** Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report, March 2013, copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1205-1209.

<b>Schedule of Bills (Warrants):</b>	General Fund	Warrant 115	\$ 70,571.86
	"	116	426,371.71
	School Lunch	39	20,209.29
	Special Aid	44	6,908.36

Approved – Board Packet of May 3, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 111	\$ 18,375.00
"	112	3,143.33
"	113	600.00
"	V113	(400.00)
"	114	1,018,310.82
School Lunch	38	14,593.93
Special Aid	43	26,399.97

Approved – Board Packet of April 26, 2013

General Fund	Warrant 109	\$1,344,240.76
"	110	94,349.91
School Lunch	37	15,471.91
Special Aid	42	26,426.07

**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. Letter from Bridget Berbrick re Middle School Principal Position
2. Letter from Susan Hucke re Middle School Principal Position
3. Letter from Pat Dell re Middle School Principal Position

Mrs. Dell was present at the meeting and addressed the Board. She noted that neither Ms. Berbrick nor Ms. Hucke were able to attend the meeting. Mrs. Dell stated that she knew the Board had the opportunity to read her letter and she would appreciate their giving it consideration.

**Establishment of the Faye E. Robins "Future Educator" Scholarship:**

Motion by Mrs. Brieff, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the establishment of the Faye E. Robins "Future Educator" Scholarship in the amount of \$250 to be awarded to a graduating senior of the Class of 2013.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaden asked that a thank you letter be sent to Ms. Robins.

**Field Trip Request:**

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the field trip request to Adelphi University in Garden City on August 2-4, 2013, for the NDA Summer Dance Camp.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Memorandum of Agreement with Local 424/UPSEU:**

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 and authorizes the April 11, 2013, Memorandum of Agreement with The United Public Service Employees Union, and  
Be it Further Resolved, that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign a more formal agreement in conformity with the Memorandum of Agreement.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**TANS 2013-2014:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved by the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Tax Anticipation Notes (herein called "Notes") of South Huntington Union Free School District, in the County of Suffolk, New York (herein called "District"), in the principal amount of not to exceed \$32,000,000, and any notes in renewal thereof, are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 24.00 and 39.00 of the Local Finance Law, constituting Chapter 33-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York (herein called "Law").

Section 2. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) The Notes shall be issued in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes to be levied for school purposes for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014, and the proceeds of the Notes shall be used only for the purposes for which said taxes are levied.

(b) The Notes shall mature within the period of one year from the date of their issuance.

(c) The Notes are not issued in renewal of other notes.

(d) The total amount of such taxes remains uncollected at the date of adoption of this resolution.

Section 3. The Notes hereby authorized shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Law and shall be general obligations of the District, and the faith and credit of the District are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and unless the Notes are otherwise paid or payment

**TANS 2013-2014:  
(Continued)**

provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget of the District and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of this resolution and the Law, and pursuant to Sections 50.00, 56.00, 60.00 and 61.00 of the Law, the power to sell and issue the Notes authorized pursuant hereto, or any renewals thereof, and to determine the terms, form and contents, including the manner of execution, of such Notes, and to execute arbitrage certifications relative thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the District.

Section 5. The Notes shall be executed in the name of the District by the manual signature of the President of the Board of Education, the Vice President of the Board of Education, the District Treasurer, the District Clerk, or such other officer of the District as shall be designated by the chief fiscal officer of the District, and shall have the corporate seal of the District impressed or imprinted thereon which corporate seal may be attested by the manual signature of the District Clerk.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

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 approves the requests to remain in South Huntington Schools, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1210-1212.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Donation to Project  
Excel:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Carey, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$1,000 from the Bethpage Federal Credit Union and a donation in the amount of \$500 from Astoria Bank to Project Excel.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Greiner-Maltz  
Agreement  
Extension:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the current agreement with Greiner-Maltz for exclusive real estate services with regard to 2 Melville Road, be extended for a one year period, terminating on March 6, 2014.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Letter of  
Engagement with  
BookSmart  
Accounting  
Solutions:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Briefff, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the letter of engagement with BookSmart Account Solutions to conduct the fiscal year end closeout for the 2012-2013 school year for a fee of \$17,850.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**N-SSBA Annual  
Dinner Meeting:**

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 Board of Education and Cabinet attendance at the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association Annual Dinner Meeting to be held on May 29, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of  
Contract  
Extensions:**

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 following contract extensions, a copy made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1213-1220a.

Towing Services	Schedule No. 14-23
Fire Alarm Inspection/Maintenance	14-24
DOT Inspection/Maintenance Bus	14-28
Driver Education	14-29
SmartBoard Installation/Service Extension	14-42
Printing Brochures	14-44
PA Clock Service/Repair	14-45
Cesspool Pumping Service	14-46
Miscellaneous Roofing Repairs	14-51
Miscellaneous Asphalt/Concrete Work	14-52
NYS Inspection Repairs – Non Bus	14-54
100% Cotton Treated Mops	14-57
Sheet Music (Band, Orchestra, Chorus)	14-59
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	14-61
Security Alarm Repairs/Maintenance	14-63
Clay Mix/Top Soil	14-64
Pupil Transportation	14-68

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta had several questions on the contract extensions that were answered to his satisfaction by Mr. Light.

**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 February 28, March 4, 7, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, April 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 25 and 30, 2013, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated March 21, April 5, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, 23, 26, May 2, 6, 2013, and Transition to the Committee on Special Education dated April 5, 8, 12 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. 1221-1245.

Motion carried unanimously.



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

Motion by Mrs. Carey, seconded by Mr. Nitkewicz, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the requests to remain in South Huntington Schools, copies made part of these legal minutes, pp. 1246-1248. 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. 1249-1260, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 6 - Summer School Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 9 - Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)

Schedule 10 - Tenure Appointments

Schedule 11 - Terminations (Instructional)

Schedule 12 - Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave

Schedule 16 - Terminations (Non-Instructional)

Schedule 17 - Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)

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

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta had questions on Schedules 6 and 9 that were answered to his satisfaction.

**Information and  
Reports:**

Information and Reports

1. Invitation to SHTA Retirement Party
2. Invitation to Preschool Graduations and Moving Up Ceremonies, Family Service League
3. Letter to Rick Migliore from Dr. Bennardo re The Gift of the Rose
4. Personnel Postings (5)
5. *The Silas Scoop*, May 2013
6. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 5-9-13

Information Sent to Board Week Ending May 3, 2013

1. Confidential document from legal counsel
2. Thank you letter to Mr. Kaden from Dr. Michael Mensch, Western Suffolk BOCES, re support of 2013-2014 budget
3. Letter to Colleague from Deborah Coates and Dr. Robert Dillon, R.E.F.I.T., re 2013-2014 membership
4. Memo to Mr. Kaden from Mr. Light re Audit Committee Agenda, May 9, 2013
5. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Ms. Acker re June's examination schedule
6. Personnel Posting (12)
7. Invitation to Countrywood's production of *Alice in Wonderland*
8. *The Stimson Source*, May and June 2013

**Information and Reports:  
(Continued)**

- 9. May 2013 Calendar, Oakwood Primary Center
- 10. Save the Date Flyer re SCOPE's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual School District Awards Dinner to be held on March 24, 2014

Information Sent to Board Week Ending April 26, 2013

- 1. Invitation to Stephen Edward Dybus Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- 2. Invitation to Zachary Steven Cammer Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- 3. Letter to Ms. Harris from Dr. Bennardo re Parent University
- 4. Thank you letter to Ms. Donna Grennan from Dr. Bennardo re donation of bowling team shirts
- 5. Congratulatory letter to Kelly Eng from Dr. Bennardo re selection as Athlete of the Month for Softball
- 6. Congratulatory letter to Patrick Farrell from Dr. Bennardo re section as Athlete of the Month for Boys' Lacrosse
- 7. Congratulatory letters to recipients of the New York State Scholarship for Academic Excellence from Dr. Bennardo
- 8. Memo to Dr. Bennardo from Mr. Light re Minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting of April 17, 2013
- 9. Personnel Posting (1)
- 10. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 4-22-13
- 11. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 4-18-13 and 4-25-13

**Committee Updates:**

None given.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mrs. Brieff stated that she had made a mistake at an earlier Board meeting attributing a comment made by Mr. Kaden to Mr. Nitkewicz during a discussion of the Concussion Management Policy. Mr. Kaden had not been present at that meeting and let Mrs. Brieff know earlier that he had made the comment, not Mr. Nitkewicz. Mrs. Brieff apologized to Mr. Nitkewicz for her mistake. Mr. Nitkewicz thanked Mrs. Brieff very much and told her he appreciated her apology.


**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 8:40 p.m.




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Jim Kaden, President




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Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk