

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2008, in Conference Room B of the Administration Building, 60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York.

**Present:**      **Board Members:**

President  
Vice President

Mr. Kaden  
Mrs. Archer  
Mr. Ciappetta  
Mrs. LaCara  
Mr. Lupinacci  
Mr. Teresky  
Mrs. Vassallo

**Staff:**

Superintendent of Schools  
Asst. Supt. for Personnel & District Services  
Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Curriculum  
Asst. Supt. for Business  
Asst. Supt. for Student Services  
District Clerk

Dr. Shea  
Mr. Romanelli  
Mrs. Rogers  
Mrs. Occhiogrosso  
Ms. Harris  
Mrs. Hammond

**Call to Order:**      Mr. Kaden opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Presentation –  
Project Excel:**

Stimson Principal Faye Robins introduced David Perkins who began his presentation by stating that in order to meet the challenges that our students face, we must view them from a strength based perspective. He stated that educators need to see potential and greatness. He also feels it is important to intervene before students fail. Mr. Perkins stated that the mission statement of Project Excel is to challenge students to accept responsibility that will maximize their potential, which in turn enables them to utilize leadership traits that promote academic success and good citizenship. Mr. Perkins outlined the goals of Project Excel:

1. To build leadership that promotes positive character traits.
2. To raise the level of consciousness among students regarding the importance of achieving academic success.
3. To encourage a spirit of teamwork with students that promote mutual respect and responsibility.
4. To promote role modeling by utilizing mentors that provides students with guidance, goal setting and survival skills.
5. To decrease risky behavior in students by introducing tools that allow for taking ownership and making better healthy choices.
6. To increase parent involvement by encouraging the importance of parents being stake holders in the educational process.

Mr. Perkins then reviewed the themes of past years and the referral and intake process. Mr. Perkins also reviewed the "nuts and bolts" of Project Excel: tutorial, counseling, parent involvement, mentoring, collateral contacts, community resources and employment. Mr. Perkins compared

**Presentation –  
Project Excel:  
(Continued)**

the academic outcomes for 2006-07 and 2007-08. He also reviewed the discipline referral outcomes for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Mr. Perkins concluded his presentation by thanking the community supporters:

- Black & Blue Seafood Chophouse
- Costco, Melville
- Fireside Deli
- Huntington Edible Arrangements
- Long Island Partnership Mentoring Program
- Suffolk County Department of Labor
- SUNY School of Social Welfare

The Board was given an opportunity for questions and discussion. Mr. Kaden thanked Mr. Perkins for his presentation.

**Adoption of  
Agenda:**

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. Vassallo, be it Resolved that the revised tentative agenda be adopted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

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

Motion by Mrs. Archer, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District approve the following items:

**Minutes:**

Minutes of Board meeting held on November 5, 2008.

**Schedule of Bills  
(Warrants):**

General Fund	Warrant 34	\$ 262,628.32
"	35	1,006,965.08
"	36	42.90
School Lunch	20	40,405.40
"	V020	(8,210.77)
Special Aid	21	34,311.58
"	22	4,638.00
2003 Bond	38	20,640.00
"	39	8,098.50

Approved – Board Packet of November 21, 2008

General Fund	Warrant 31	\$ 179,287.50
"	32	232,208.14
"	V030	(461.60)
School Lunch	19	5,287.77
Special Aid	20	4,833.51
Dental Insurance	33	23,333.34
Capital Reserve Budget	36	255,607.79
2003 Bond	35	46,140.332
"	37	13,000.00

**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. Letter from Governor Paterson to School Board Presidents and District Superintendents re School Aid

**Memorandum of Agreement with South Huntington OSA:**

Motion by Mrs. Archer, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the South Huntington Office Staff Association, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 629.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:**

Motion by Mrs. Archer, seconded by Mr. Teresky, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated October 2, 8, 15, 29, November 6, 10, 12, 17 and 24, 2008, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated October 21 and November 17, 2008, 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. 630-637.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel:**

Motion by Mrs. Archer, 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. 638-646, and authorizes implementation thereof:

- Schedule 8 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
- Schedule 9 – Tenure Appointments
- Schedule 10 – Terminations (Instructional)
- Schedule 11 – Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (½ Pay); Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)
- Schedule 14 – Appointment (Non-Instructional)
- Schedule 15 – Terminations (Non-Instructional)
- Schedule 21 – Emergency Conditional Employees (Instr./Non-Instr.)
- Schedule 23 – Substitute Employees (Instructional)
- Schedule 24 – Substitute Employees (Non-Instructional)

Motion carried unanimously.

- Information and Reports:**
1. Letter from Dr. Shea to Mr. Colapinto re praise of coach and WWHS Boys' Varsity Team
  2. Letter to Parent/Guardian from Mrs. Lewis re The Saturday Academy
  3. December 2008, Oakwood Primary Center Calendar

Information Sent to Board Week Ending November 21, 2008

1. Memo to Dr. Shea from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Status – Ultimate Power v. SHUFSD

**Information and Reports:**  
(Continued)

2. Memo to All Staff from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Changes to the (403b) Regulations
3. Memo to Dr. Shea from Mrs. Occhiogrosso re Corrective Action Plan
4. Letter to Community from Dr. Shea re Megan's Law Level III Sex Offender
5. Confidential Memo from Ingerman Smith re Business Matter
6. Confidential Memo from Ingerman Smith re Student Matter
7. Presentation from NYSSBA Conference **Retooling the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade at Glens Falls High School** courtesy Mr. Lupinacci
8. Personnel Posting (1)
9. Minutes of Meeting, South Huntington Teachers' Assn., 11-10-08
10. N-SSBA Flyer re Semi-Annual Dinner, 12-02-08
11. St. Elizabeth Basketball Buddies Program Flyer
12. Minutes of BOCES Meeting, 10-14-08
13. News Article, *The Long Islander*, 11-20-08
14. Western Suffolk Goals – Board Members Only

**Committee Updates:**

**Preliminary Energy Efficiency Survey**

Facilities

Mr. Ciappetta reported that ECG Engineering, LLC performed a preliminary energy survey on our schools. The sole purpose of this survey was to determine if sufficient energy savings could be realized to justify pursuing an Energy Performance Contract. With regard to energy efficiency, the survey found that Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center was rated "Efficient." Countrywood and Oakwood Primary Centers were rated "Less Efficient." The Administration Building, Birchwood and Maplewood Intermediate Schools, Memorial School Building and Stimson Middle School were rated "Inefficient." Walt Whitman High School and the Alternative High School/Teen Center were rated "Very Inefficient." Mr. Ciappetta noted that overall the district was rate "Inefficient." Following a brief discussion, it was the sense of the Board to go forward with a request for proposals to further identify the specific scope and size of the energy project.

**Comments from Board Members and Staff:**

Mrs. Archer stated that she attended a Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association dinner that featured David Little as the speaker. The bad news is that it looks like we won't be able to count on state aid next year. She found the meeting very worthwhile. Mrs. Archer also noted that Assemblyman Conte is having a holiday drive "Caring for Children." Also, "Toys for Tots" will be collecting until December 18. Mrs. Archer also noted that Mr. Kaden had given the Board handouts from Tom Suozzi's interview on the cap on school property tax. She asked about question #8 regarding state aid. Mr. Kaden stated that Mr. Suozzi responded that there are three pieces: state aid, property tax and spending. Mr. Suozzi feels that spending is growing at a far higher rate than we can sustain. The Board and Superintendent held a brief discussion regarding the property tax cap.

Mrs. Vassallo invited everyone to attend the Walt Whitman High School

**Comments from  
Board Members  
and Staff:**

MainStage Drama Production of "A Delightful Quarantine." She noted that the performances would be this weekend and they are listed on the school calendar.

**Voice of the  
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

**Executive Session:**

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. LaCara, 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. Teresky, seconded by Mr. Ciappetta, be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:20 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 629 through 646.