

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 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
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 6:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Kaden opened the Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Wizard of Oz
Production
Number: The students gave a wonderful performance of one of the production numbers from *The Wizard of Oz*. It was enjoyed by all.

Teacher of the Year
Presentation: Mr. Romanelli introduced the building principals who spoke about their respective teacher.

This year's teachers of the year are:
South Huntington Teacher of the Year – Helen Pascucci
Walt Whitman High School – Judy Leopold
Silas Wood 6th Grade Center - Mari Scardapane
Birchwood Intermediate School – Annie Michaelian
Maplewood Intermediate School - Mary Gross

Teacher of the Year Presentation: Oakwood – Rosa Herrera
(Continued) Countrywood Primary Center - Lisbeth Mitchell

The honorees expressed their gratitude to the Board of Education, their administrators, colleagues, families and especially their students. Each teacher was presented with a plaque by Mr. Kaden and Dr. Shea. Closing remarks were made by Joseph Carbone, President of the South Huntington Teachers’ Association, and Superintendent of Schools Thomas Shea.

Recess and Reception: Dr. Shea announced that there would be reception with coffee and cookies in the south cafeteria to honor the teachers of the year. Mr. Kaden called for a recess.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. Archer, 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. Teresky, 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 January 7, 2009.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	General Fund	Warrant 54	\$ 1,118,652.92
	School Lunch	27	3,012.15
	Special Aid	30	13,727.43

Approved – Board Packet of January 23, 2008

General Fund	Warrant 52	\$ 427,109.75
"	V046	(616.68)
School Lunch	26	22,390.32
Special Aid	29	62,680.80
Dental Ins.	53	11,666.67
2003 Bond	48	38,206.04

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. Complimentary letter from Maureen Blesi regarding Oakwood Primary Center staff
 2. **Confidential** letter from George Jackson re a personnel matter
 3. Invitation from Diane Nodell to be a guest reader at celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America Day on March 2, 2009

**SHAA
Memorandum of
Understanding:**

Motion by Mrs. Archer, seconded by Mrs. Vassallo, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the SHAA Memorandum of Understanding, a copy made part of these legal minutes, p. 866.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Field Trip Request
New York State
DECA
Competition:**

Motion by Mrs. Vassallo, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the New York State DECA Competition to be held on March 3-6, 2009, in Rochester, New York.
Motion carried unanimously.

**SHTA Half-Pay
Salary
Continuation
Request:**

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 a SHTA half-pay salary continuation request in accordance with Article 9 of the South Huntington Teachers' Association collective bargaining agreement, a copy of the resolution made part of these legal minutes, p. 867.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Travel Allowance
for Supervisor of
Facilities:**

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. Vassallo, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves a travel allowance for the Supervisor of Facilities, a copy of the resolution made part of these legal minutes, p. 868.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Appointment of
School Purchasing
Agent and Deputy
School Purchasing
Agent:**

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. Vassallo, be it Resolved that Karen Occhiogrosso be appointed the District's Purchasing Agent. In her absence, the approval or denial of pending purchase orders shall be at the discretion of the Deputy Purchasing Agent, Sheila Buhse.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Conference – 2009
State Issues:**

Motion by Mrs. LaCara, seconded by Mrs. Archer, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves attendance at the 2009 State Issues Conference to be held on March 1-3, 2009, in Albany, New York.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Review of Wellness
Policy:**

Mr. Kaden stated that several Board members would like to discuss whether or not the district should continue the policy of not allowing homemade food in classes. Mr. Kaden did note that it this is Suffolk County law. Dr. Shea expressed his concerned about the district's liability if someone became ill from the food. Mrs. Archer stated that she tends to be conservative and if this is the law then she feels the district should continue their policy of not allowing homemade food brought into our buildings. Mr. Teresky asked if there was any data on the number of children who had become sick on home baked goods. Dr. Judd stated that she would like to see this policy rescinded. At the high school level, this affects the International Dinner, fundraising and team pasta parties.

Review of Wellness Policy: (Continued)

Following further Board discussion on this matter, Mr. Kaden requested that this matter be brought back to the committee for consideration with a recommendation that the Board would like to eliminate the paragraph entitled "Foods and Beverages Other Than Those Provided by the School Lunch Program" on page 3 of Board Policy 7516.

Walt Whitman High School North Gym Food Policy:

Mr. Ciappetta noted that there have been questions about food being sold in the north gymnasium. It was noted that some liquids are spilled on the floor under the bleachers. Mrs. Vassallo acknowledged that certain foods, such as salty foods and sticky drinks, would be a problem on the floor. Also, there is always the concern about rodents. It was noted that food sometimes gets in the cracks on the bleachers because they weren't properly installed. Mr. Kaden stated that he would like to see this addressed. Mr. Kaden also suggested that announcements be made asking people to discard all food and garbage in the cans when leaving the stands. He also suggested that soda and drinks only be sold in bottles with caps, not sold in cans. Following further discussion, it was the sense of the Board to leave the policy as it is now but revisit this again.

Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE:

Motion by Mrs. Archer, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Committee on Special Education dated November 3, December 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 2008, January 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 2009, and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated January 6, 13, 20, 2009, 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. 869-881.
Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel:

Motion by Mrs. Archer, seconded by Mr. Lupinacci, 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. 882-894, and authorizes implementation thereof:

Schedule 6 – Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)
 Schedule 7 – Reemployment to Positions (Instructional)
 Schedule 8 – Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
 Schedule 10 – Terminations (Instructional)
 Schedule 11 – Leaves of Absence; Ext. of Sick Leave (½ Pay);
 Sabbatical Leave (Instructional)
 Schedule 15 – Terminations (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 16 – Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)
 Schedule 20 – Re-Appointments (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 to Junior Parents/Guardians from Mr. Polansky re Junior Prom
2. *The Silas Scoop*, February 2009
3. Oakwood Calendar, February 2009
4. Personnel Postings (4)
5. Minutes of Meeting, South Huntington Council of PTAs, 1-5-09
6. Notes from the SCSSA Advocacy Workshop (courtesy of Lisa Brieff)
7. Save the Date, 2nd Annual Youth & Family Conference, 2-16-09 (courtesy of Lisa Brieff)
8. News articles: *The Long-Islander*, 1-29-09

In envelopes:

1. *The Bulletin Board*, February 2009
2. Invitation to Walt Whitman Winter Sports Program on March 2, 2009 (Board Members Only)
3. *The Stimson Source*, February 2009
4. Calendar of Events, February 2009

Information Sent to Board Week Ending January 23, 2009

1. Invitation from Mr. Wright to the Stimson Middle School Athletic Recognition Night to be held on January 29, 2009 (Board Members Only)
2. Minutes of Meeting, Curriculum Committee, 1-20-09
3. Audit Committee Agenda, 1-26-09
4. Letter to Parents/Guardians from Mr. Polansky re Festival of the Arts scheduled for February 10, 2009
5. Personnel Postings (2)
6. Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting, SHTA, 1-12-09
7. News articles, *The Long-Islander*, 1-22-09
8. *American School Board Journal*, January 2009 (Board Members Only)

Committee Updates:

Mrs. Archer reported that the committee met on January 20 and discussed the following:

- Grade 5 NYSSMA – The committee recommends that participation be at the discretion of the Music Department and the emphasis at Grade 5 should be on building skills. It was the sense of the Board to agree with the committee's recommendation.
- Adult Ed Program – The program is now running in the black.
- Curriculum Writing
- ESL Earth Science Curriculum
- Police Smart
- Cyber Smart
- Kindergarten Readiness
- AP Italian – will no longer be offered after this year.
- Turnitin.com

**Comments from
Board Members
and Staff:**

Mr. Ciappetta stated that he received postcard notification about kindergarten registration. He asked if we always send out postcards to all district residents. Ms. Harris noted that last year we also sent out a districtwide postcard.

Mrs. Rogers stated that our district recently received seventeen eBoard Awards of Excellence. She noted that only forty-two awards were given out by the company and we should be very proud of this accomplishment.

Mr. Kaden congratulated all of our teachers of the year.

Mrs. Archer stated that Wednesday, February 11, is a Relay for Life meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Walt Whitman High School.

Mrs. Vassallo encouraged all to attend the performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. She noted that the Saturday matinee at 2:00 is free for all senior citizens.

Dr. Shea noted that he would be going to Albany on Thursday to meet with the Commissioner to discuss economics.

**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Lupinacci, seconded by Mrs. Archer, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Jim Kaden, President

Judith A. Hammond, District Clerk

Attachments made part of these legal minutes, pages 866 through 894.