

January 25, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Education of South Huntington Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, in the Performing Arts Center of Walt Whitman High School, 301 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, New York.

Present:

Board Members:

President

Mr. Ciappetta
Mr. Biangasso
Mr. Bronson
Mr. Joyner
Mrs. Meijer
Mr. Scragg

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools
Deputy Superintendent
Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction
Asst. Supt. for Student Services
Asst. to the Supt. for Elementary Education
Executive Director for Personnel
District Clerk

Dr. D'Elia
Dr. Centamore
Dr. Murphy
Mrs. Poprilo
Dr. Steele
Mr. Smith
Mrs. Caliendo

Not Present: Mrs. LaCara, Dr. Fulton

Executive Session:

Motion by Mrs. Meijer, seconded by Mr. Bronson, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education go into Executive Session for discussion of student and personnel matters.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Meijer, seconded by Mr. Scragg, Be it Resolved that the Executive Session be adjourned.

Call to Order:

Mr. Ciappetta opened the meeting at 7:48 p.m. and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Ciappetta welcomed all and invited those who wish to speak on armed security to please see our District Clerk, Mrs. Caliendo, before the start of the business meeting.

**Presentation -
Teacher of the Year**

The National Anthem was performed by Stimson students Sophia Canales, Abigail Liclican, Emma Castellanos Hernandez and Fiza Choudhry. Anthony Maraboli performed 'Fantaisie Impromptu' by Chopin and Ex-Officio Student Board Member Samantha Regalado performed 'What A Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong. Tom Donnelly was in attendance to honor each teacher with a proclamation, which was presented to each. Mr. Callahan,

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President of the South Huntington Teachers Union, spoke of the diversity of work done in the schools of South Huntington. Mr. Ciappetta, on behalf of the Board of Education, expressed appreciation and heartfelt congratulations to our seven teachers being honored. Presentations were given by each respective building principal.

- Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Be it Resolved that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion on Minutes through Schedule of Bills (Warrants):** Motion by Mrs. Meijer, seconded by Mr. Scragg, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approve the following items:
- Minutes:** Minutes of Board meeting held on November 16, 2022
- Schedule of Investment Accounts:** None provided for this meeting.
- Treasurer's Report:** None provided for this meeting.
- Monthly Trial Balance and Bank Reconciliation:** None provided for this meeting.
- Monthly Collateral Testing:** None provided for this meeting.
- Revenue Status Report, A Fund:** None provided for this meeting.
- Revenue Status Report, C Fund:** None provided for this meeting.
- Revenue Status Report, CM Fund:** None provided for this meeting.
- Revenue Status Report, F Fund:** None provided for this meeting.
- Revenue Status Report, H Fund:** None provided for this meeting.

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Budget Status Report (Expenditures) A Fund: None provided for this meeting.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) C Fund: None provided for this meeting.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) CM Fund: None provided for this meeting.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) F Fund: None provided for this meeting.

Budget Status Report (Expenditures) H Fund: None provided for this meeting.

Budgetary Transfer Report: None provided for this meeting.

Tax Levy Schedule: None provided for this meeting.

Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report: None provided for this meeting.

Schedule of Bills (Warrants):	<u>Schedule of Bills (Warrants)</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 121	\$1,517,688.00
		122	\$3,061.90
		123	\$220,674.52
		124	\$1,251,681.57
		125	\$2,348.88
		126	\$482.28
		V104	(\$3,353.31)
	School Lunch (C)	Warrant 36	\$29,037.69
		V025	(\$494.00)
	Special Aid (F)	Warrant 34	\$24,692.64
	Capital Fund (H)	Warrant 13	\$55,821.85
	<u>Approved - Weekly Packet of January 6, 2023</u>		
	General (A)	Warrant 119	\$412,457.03
		120	\$3,616,521.14
	School Lunch (C)	Warrant 35	\$20,542.74

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	V033	(\$29.98)
Special Aid (F)	Warrant 33	\$18,140.00
Special Aid(F)	Warrant 6	\$1,739.14
	7	\$3,000.00
	8	\$180,817.58
	9	\$6,923.00
	10	\$6,923.00

**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.

Communications:

1. Memo to Board of Education and Superintendent from N-SSBA President Michael Kelly announcing Distinguished Service Award Nominations
2. *Email to Board of Education from Sarah Zepeda regarding Armed Security
3. *Email to Board of Education from Shari Mohan regarding Armed Security
4. *Email to Board of Education from Brian and Jodi Greco regarding Armed Security
5. *Email to Board of Education from Rebecca L. regarding Armed Security
6. *Email to Board of Education from Amy Kaufmann regarding Armed Security
7. *Email to Board of Education from Holly Bobker regarding Armed Security
8. *Email to Board of Education from Betsy O'Phelan regarding Armed Security
9. *Email to Board of Education from Denise Montague regarding Armed Security
10. *Email to Board of Education from Gaye Borgo regarding Armed Security
11. *Email to Board of Education from Dana Calvet regarding Armed Security

Mr. Ciappetta read aloud each communication as listed above and invited those community members to speak. Mr. David Bobker of Bennett Avenue addressed the Board. He stated that he felt facts were missing from the January 11, 2023 presentation on armed security. He stated that this decision will have a lasting legacy in our community. He cited multiple studies that found no shooting was stopped by armed guards and it was not a proactive deterrent. Mr. Bobker stated he hoped that a governing body would base

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such a decision not on feelings but on facts, figures and analysis before making such a huge decision. He believed the decision was already made and urged caution as it will have a long lasting and tremendous impact on our community. He thanked everyone for their time and stated he hoped the decision was not already made and that resources can be directed in other areas. Mr. Ciappetta thanked Mr. Bobker for his correspondence and stated the board has reviewed it. He stated they respect his opinions and those of all correspondence received. Mr. Ciappetta asked if anyone else whose name was mentioned would like to speak at this time. Mr. Ciappetta stated there would be another opportunity to speak during the new business portion of the agenda.

Adoption of revised Board Policy §3411, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon Upon School Grounds:

Motion by Mr. Scragg, seconded by Mr. Bronson, Mr. Joyner, Mr. Biangasso, Mrs. Meijer, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the adoption of revised Board Policy §3411, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon Upon School Grounds. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ciappetta stated that the policy has been revised to align with NY State penal law. The policy allows the Board of Education to contract out for armed security, which was first mentioned at our September 28, 2022 meeting. Contracting for outside armed security does not impact current security teams. Armed security will not be district employees and will be stationed outside at all times. A guard will be at every building with students and select weekend and night time events, to be determined by our Director of Security in accordance with his knowledge and expertise. With the recommendation of Dr. D'Elia, the district hired a Director of Safety and Security who has extensive experience in law enforcement including active shooter training. Other security initiatives include the construction of security vestibules at all buildings, updating security cameras, and a grant funded security booth outside of Walt Whitman High School. This year the district entered into a partnership with Northwell Health for students with mental health issues to receive services that can not be handled in house.

Mr. Brian Shupek of Todd Court addressed the Board. He stated he just found out about the vote this morning. When reviewing minutes of past meetings he was looking for research, science and studies and found nothing listed in minutes. Mr. Shupek cited studies of armed security in schools and that it is not necessary to keep schools safe. He stated that on the night we are celebrating

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teachers and social workers, it is hypocritical to celebrate social workers such as Shaka Williams and put money towards armed guards instead of more money to hire more resources like Shaka Williams. He asked the Board that if voting to approve to please know that you are voting for a proposal not grounded in research or science that could have unintended consequences. It seems it is only grounded in what feels safe. Please reconsider and take more time. Mr. Ciappetta stated that we have robust social workers and psychologists and a partnership with Northwell Health, only one of six districts. It could be someone we could not reach through our social services. Mr. Ciappetta stated comments are appreciated and part of the process.

Mr. Dennis Callahan, President of the South Huntington Teachers Union stated he had a question, one that was previously asked privately to Mr. Ciappetta and Dr. D'Elia and he is hoping he can get a satisfactory answer. There was an armed guard at Columbine. There was an armed guard at Parkland. In Uvalde there was an entire police force. What is going to make South Huntington different? Dr. D'Elia said we would have an expectation. Mr. Callahan asked is that the same expectations they had in Columbine and Parkland? He is still left with the question, what is going to make our situation different? Mr. Ciappetta believes what makes it different is leadership. We have selected Richard Carlstrom who has relevant experience in these areas. Mr. Ciappetta stated there is a huge difference in the pool and expertise of security guards we would be getting. They would be former NYPD, Nassau and Suffolk County police departments, and they are the best in the country. Dr. D'Elia stated that when we look at what happened in Texas and in speaking with our Director of Security, Mr. Carlstrom, the number one piece in Texas was the absence of leadership. Part of the vetting process when the bid went was to meet with the company, to have Mr. Carlstrom have confidence in the company and work with Suffolk County law enforcement. Mr. Ciappetta stated there is not a minute to wait. Each moment can save a life. Mr. Ciappetta asked if anyone else would like to address the Board of Education. Kathleen Thomann asked the question of who gives the final say to enter the school, and do they have to call someone. Dr. D'Elia stated it is a situation where we don't have time to make phone calls and would act if they felt a student's life was in jeopardy. Mr. Ciappetta stated that if there is an active shooter threat the armed security guard has the authority to respond. Question was posed about how this company was selected. A bid ad was placed in local newspapers. Credentials were evaluated and they were interviewed by the Board, Cabinet and Director of Security. Ms. Thomann asked how much will it cost

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taxpayers. Mr. Ciappetta stated the district is budgeting \$750,000, not including select night and weekend events. Mr. Joyner stated that there has to be an understanding that the process was not made overnight. It is an issue that they have been discussing for over a year. He is a father of two children in the district. No board members looked at this as easy to take. There were collective discussions and deliberations. It comes with great consternation and great empathy. It was a collective effort and was not an easy decision, a decision such as this can never be easy. Mr. Joyner stated he appreciated the voices that came out in opposition. We need to continue to have a robust discussion, it is part of what the school board does, and thanked all for their time.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Armed
Guard Services
contract pursuant to
Bid No. 23-02:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Mr. Scragg, Mr. Biangasso, Mrs. Meijer, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Armed Guard Services contract pursuant to Bid No. 23-02. Mr. Ciappetta introduced Upfront Security, who was awarded the armed security contract. Ms. Meijer echoed what Mr. Joyner shared, adding that there has been much time and deliberation put into this decision, one she wished did not have to be on our radar. Although the official vote is taking place this evening, there has been much time and deliberation put into this decision. Many reports shared have been seen and reviewed. Assured that the Board wants what is best for all members of our learning community. Mr. Ciappetta stated that is why we hired Richard Carlstrom, to rely on his expertise. The Board has given Mr. Carlstrom latitude to make adjustments and has relied on his wisdom and recommendations to reach a decision today. His recommendation was very important in the decision.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adoption of revised
Board Policy §3220,
Public Participation
at Board Meetings:**

Motion by Mrs. Meijer, seconded by Mr. Bronson, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the revised Board Policy §3220, Public Participation at Board Meetings. Policy updates include an imposed time limit of three minutes, if necessary, as well as allowing all taxpayers within the district to speak at Board of Education meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

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**Resolution for
Memorandum of
Agreement for South
Huntington School
Safety Officer's Unit:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement made between the South Huntington Union Free School District and the South Huntington Safety Officers' Unit on January 6, 2023. Be it Further Resolved that the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign a formal agreement in the future.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Budget
Transfer:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Biangasso, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby authorizes a budget transfer in the amount of \$498,000 in order to cover the TAN (Tax Anticipation Notes) interest increase.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Impartial
Hearing Officer:**

Motion by Mr. Scragg, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the request for an impartial hearing officer.
Motion carried unanimously.

**Request for New
Course Approval:**

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves 29 new courses, reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Council:

AP 2D Design Photography
Senior Experience
Sports Literature & Culture
Small Engine Repair I
Everyone Can Dance
Future Teachers
Music Production
Music Theory
The History of the Earth
Organic Chemistry
History at the Movies
Thinking and Learning Strategies
Ethics and Philosophy of Education
International Relations

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Social Media and Digital Citizenship
Wall Street Investment
Mobile Apps
Web Design
Video Game Design
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
Long Island History
Patient Zero
Advanced Fashion 2&3
Museum Studies in Fine Arts
Video Production
American Sign Language I
Design and Drawing for Production
History through Music

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval for Board and Cabinet members to attend N'SSBA sponsored School Board and Superintendent Association Conference on the State of New York's Economy:

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Scragg, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the attendance of Vito D'Elia, Joseph Centamore, Nicholas Ciappetta, Sidney Joyner, Erin Meijer and Frederick Scragg to attend the N'SSBA sponsored School Board and Superintendent Association Conference on the State of New York's Economy.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of NSBA National Conference in Orlando:

Motion by Mr. Bronson, seconded by Mr. Biangasso, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the attendance of Board Trustee Frederick Scragg to attend the NSBA National Conference in Orlando on March 31, 2023-April 3, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Overnight Field Trip:

Motion by Mr. Scragg, seconded by Mr. Biangasso, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves DECA to attend the Annual State Career Conference in Rochester from March 7, 2023 through March 10, 2023.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Recommendations for Placement by CSE/CPSE: Motion by Mr. Scragg, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington School District, having reviewed minutes of the Recommendations for placement of students by the Committee on Special Education dated October 21, December 6, 7, 9, 14, 19, 20, 2022, January 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 2023 and the Committee on Preschool Special Education dated December 20, 2022, January 3, 5, 12, 2023 is satisfied that the procedures of Chapter 853 of the Education Law were followed and accepts the recommendations for placement set forth.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval to attend Longwood's 19th Annual Regional Legislative Breakfast: Motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Bronson, Be it Resolved that the Board of Education of the South Huntington Union Free School District hereby approves the attendance of Vito D'Elia, Joseph Centamore, Nicholas Ciappetta, John Murphy, Sidney Joyner and Frederick Scragg to attend the Longwood Annual Regional Legislative Breakfast.
Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Motion by Mr. Scragg, seconded by Mr. Bronson and Ms. Meijer, 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, and authorizes implementation thereof:
Schedule 7: Temporary Replacement Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 9: Coaching/Extracurricular Appointments (Instructional)
Schedule 11: Terminations (Instructional)
Schedule 13: Salary Change (Instructional)
Schedule 15: Appointments (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 16: Terminations (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 17: Leaves of Absence (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 20: Re-Appointments (Non-Instructional)
Schedule 22: Substitute Employee appointments (Inst./Non-Inst.)
Motion carried unanimously.

Information and Reports:

1. Personnel Postings
2. Article in the Long Islander on Wildcat Food Pantry Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
3. Invitation to N-SSBA Workshop "Financial Literacy Beyond the Mandate"

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**Administrative
Reports & Committee
Updates:**

Facilities Committee Agenda from meeting held on 1/17/2023
Mr. Ciappetta reported that per NYS law the committee is moving forward with lactation rooms for nursing mothers. Construction on the Art Gallery at Walt Whitman High has been temporarily stalled due to weather issues. Completion of vestibules and construction of vestibule at the James Kaden Administrative Offices, and previously approved comfort station were discussed. Comfort station would consist of four single bathrooms outside near athletic fields. Redesigning the fitness room at Walt Whitman High School was discussed

**Comments from
Board Members and
Staff:**

Mr. Scragg congratulated Birchwood and Maplewood students on a wonderful play. He thanked Dr. D'Elia, Mr. Carlstrom and the Board of Education for their decision on armed security, a decision that was not made lightly. As a parent of two children he wished this decision did not have to be made, but believes it is a step in the right direction in conjunction with all other initiatives to keep our students safe. Mr. Ciappetta thanked all students who performed during our Teacher of the Year ceremony.

**Comments by
Superintendent of
Schools:**

Dr. D'Elia congratulated Walt Whitman High School on Niche.com ranking of moving up from number 6 to number 5, moving ahead of Cold Spring Harbor.


**Voice of the
Residents:**

Visitors were invited to participate.


Adjournment:

Motion by Ms. Meijer, seconded by Mr. Joyner, be it Resolved that the meeting be adjourned.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:05 p.m.



Nicholas R. Ciappetta, J.D., President



Regina Galindo, District Clerk