

**SOUTH COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**189 No. Dunton Avenue, East Patchogue, New York 11772**  
**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER (6:10 p.m.)**

Call to Order

Board President Victor Correa called a Business Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:10 p.m. The meeting took place at the Bellport Middle School Auditorium, 35 Kreamer St, Bellport, NY.

**Board of Education Members Present:**

Roll Call

Victor Correa	Marian McKenna
Owen Durney	Julio Morales
Lisa Di Santo Grossman	Jeannette Mistler (arrived 6:11 pm)
Kevin Kirk	Rob Powell
	Barbara Schatzman (arrived 8:04 pm)

**Others Present:** Superintendent of Schools, Joseph L. Cipp Jr., Asst Superintendent for HR, Nelson Briggs, Asst Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, Linda Rozzi, Asst Superintendent for Business, Alan Phillips, Business Administrator, Charles Delargy, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, Theresa McGuire, Building Services Administrator, Gregory C. Miglino, Jr., Principals Bernie Soete, Stefanie Rucinski, Travis Davey, Kathleen Munisteri, School Attorneys Christopher Guercio, Douglas Spencer, BTA President Wayne White, other guests and members of the community.

Pledge

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Assistant Superintendent for Business, Alan Phillips leads all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Convene to Executive Session

**A motion (Kirk / Durney) to convene to Executive Session at 6:11 pm to discuss a confidential personnel matter:**

**VOTE:** *Motion carries.* 8-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Schatzman)..

Meeting reconvened.

**The meeting reconvened at 8:04 pm.**

**2. COMMENDATIONS**

Commendations

The following teachers were selected by their Building Principals to receive the "South Country's Finest Teacher Award":

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>School</b>
Janet Cardinale	Kathleen Munisteri	Verne W Critz School
Marianne McCann	Sean Clark	Kreamer Street Elementary
Kevin Glynn	Travis Davey	Brookhaven Elementary
Danielle Gulotta	Stefanie Rucinski	Frank P. Long School
Craig Surrusco	Brian Ginty	Bellport Middle School
Heather Giacomini	Bernie Soete	Bellport High School

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

Budget Presentation

Business Administrator, Charles Delargy, gave a Power Point presentation on the 2012-2013 budget, focusing on Building Services and capital projects. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period with the Board.

**D. INFORMATION**

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Linda Rozzi, presented the following report to the Board:

Curriculum,  
Instruction &  
Technology  
Report

**Curricular & Instructional Updates**

**Advocacy Workshop:** On February 11<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Kirk and Mrs. Rozzi attended the SCSSA annual Longwood legislators' Breakfast which gave district representatives the opportunities to speak directly with local and state lawmakers on the current financial state of the NY, its impact on districts regarding tax cap, as well as future implications that will ultimately affect education. It's always a well-attended event and Mrs. Rozzi encouraged interested BOE members to consider attending yearly.

**Staff Development Day:** Mrs. Rozzi mentioned that the winter Staff Development Day throughout the district was a great day of professional conversation and rigorous reflection! It focused conversation on non-negotiables, such as:

- Using content-based, non-fiction text choices meant for whole group instruction;
- The importance of the teacher being that "model reader" to promote clearer comprehension of text;
- The importance of having kids explore for "evidence" to answer higher order/inference questions, and
- The importance of the teacher being the artist of higher-order questions (inferential ones)... supported by "indirect" textual clues that help a student make a conclusion.

Mrs. Rozzi applauded the instructional staff for asking terrific questions, making great comments and being truly engaged professionals as we together uncovered the core. As with anything, she mentioned that this is ongoing work. However, Mrs. Rozzi felt they all left being at least able to speak to the new standards quite well, realizing the shifts the state has made regardless of content taught. She had the opportunity to stay behind with the 6-12 staff and they were really engaged in creating excellent, inferential questions culled from non-fictional text. They all did a great job. Special thanks to the PK-5 literacy coaches and principals/AP's for the break-out work done in their buildings. Feedback there was also very good.

In the coming spring weeks, principals and chairs will be engaging teachers further on design, using Common Core exemplars as some models. In the last few months, teachers have also jumped onto "EngageNY" to see some other common core exemplar units.

**APPR Lead Evaluator Training:** The district's work with training principals, AP's and chairs on objective observational practices has been completed by consultant Dr. Richard Bernato, who spent a total of 4 days from October through February training on data-driven procedures to heighten instruction & learning. Overall the sessions were highly rigorous and enlightening as we had the opportunity to define non-negotiables for promoting excellence in the classrooms. Priorities defined were:

- Linking clear instructional aims to assessment that differentiates;
- Teacher demonstration/modeling of strategies/concepts prior to student practice;
- Lessons that promote higher- order/inference applications to content-based text and
- The benefits of using assessment to not only help the teacher assess if a session's objectives were achieved but also to aid in future lesson design that is Common-Core based.

All mandated APPR trainings count towards certifying these district lead evaluators now under the new regulation. On 3/14 the BOE will have to officially certify these members as lead evaluators through way of formal resolution.

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**Writing Workshop Progress:** The district's residency staff developer for writing workshop spent her third session at the FPL School where grade 6 teachers were now able to join in the discussion and model lessons of writing workshop; they also took part in the coaching sessions with the staff developer, Ms. Pecorale. Mr. Ginty also participated in the session.

**Guidance Updates:** This month Mrs. Rozzi continues to work closely with Dr. Anthony DeLuca as guidance begins student scheduling for the 2012/2013 school year. High School counselors are now conducting graduation audits after January testing has been completed. Additionally, the new Scientific Research in the HS course has recently been NCAA approved. School-to-career efforts are also moving along nicely. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> BHS held a Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Counselor Jenna Fischer successfully placed 25 students (juniors and seniors) for the day within 16 different local organizations. These students went to their Job Shadow Placement site for anywhere between 4-8 hours and followed their mentor to learn about their career field. They also attended an after school meeting where Jenna discussed the program and the placements. After the Job Shadow Day they have been instructed to write a thank you note, thanking their job mentor for their day-long experience.

**January Regents:** The district almost doubled the number of students who came in this January to take January Regents examinations compared to last year. Much of the effort is thanks to the HS administration and counselors who made personal phone calls to students & parents as well as notes sent directly to the homes. Currently, administration is putting together a summative review of all tests taken and success rates. One celebration Mrs. Rozzi discussed was that 88% of all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students passed the English/ELA Regents (up by 6% from last year). More importantly, 45% of those kids earned a "mastery score" and 86% of the ESL students who took the English/ELA Regents passed. This is great news for our district, since the Regents in ELA is a mandatory assessment for graduation. In addition, this past January we offered Regents that the district never ran before. With that opportunity, we were able to capture more passing results at the mid-year point!

**Grades 3-8 After School Coursework:** These sessions continue to run with strong attendance as the kids prepare for spring assessments in ELA and Math, grades 3-8.

**School Quality Review (SQR) Process:** Mrs. Rozzi spent much of the fall months continuously meeting with BOCES reps., building administrators, teacher data teams and the SESIS (Special Education School Improvement Specialists) to get a snapshot of the teaching and learning happening in buildings. The SESIS reps. have conducted walk-throughs and have provided buildings with notable commendations as well as suggestions on addressing the needs of students who receive special services. This feedback was then weaved it into the School Quality Reviews (SQR) and Comprehensive Educational Plans (CEP). These draft plans were officially submitted to the BOE for review and acceptance and then submitted to the state in timely fashion.

### Committee Updates:

**District-Wide Principals' Meeting for February:** Principals and Mrs. Rozzi meet regularly and recently discussed the 2/8/12 staff development day as well as the status of each school's data team meetings, the need for all teachers to continue writing spring Common Core units, updates on the teacher observation process and aligning instructional focuses across the district.

**Elementary Science Pilot and Elementary Math Pilot Teams:** Both teams continue their pilot work in classrooms and have had opportunities to sit with company reps regarding Q&A's. All pilot curriculums are Common Core-aligned. Also the district science team has scheduled all PK-8 buildings to conduct science fairs this spring. The middle school will be displaying an evening of projects at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level, with 1<sup>st</sup> place winners getting recognized at an upcoming April BOE meeting, tentatively.

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**Literacy Coaches' Team:** Coaching initiatives continue in all K-5 buildings, particular work to note is the coaching on the writing workshop model, the coaching going on with teachers on the guided reading framework as a way to differentiate, as well as collegial circles taking place on the writing workshop model. Additionally, through funding, Mrs. Rozzi was able to secure a prestigious spot for one of our coaches, Kimberly Gosselin, who is the coach at Brookhaven. Kim spent a week at Columbia University in the coaches' program working alongside Lucy Calkins on the reading workshop model! Kim was selected to attend among hundreds of applicants. She has begun to turn-key her staff and has met with the literacy coaches throughout the rest of the district about this opportunity. Our other literacy coach, Danielle Flaumenhaft also attended this a number of years back. We are fortunate to have their expertise in our schools.

**Librarians' Meeting:** The library/media specialists and Mrs. Rozzi recently discussed visiting author programs around the district as a priority for next year (not just at the elementary schools), a technology upgrade to the current management system that promotes online versions of texts and novels for kids to access, as well as promoting Scholastic Book Fairs for the high school and middle school next year (2012/2013 school year). Mrs. Rozzi brought this up with PTA council and they seem to be on-board with this endeavor. Overall, the librarians feel the kids would enjoy the fairs as they do promote reading in our schools. The nice thing is that these older kids can even get involved in the "running" of the fairs and scholastic often gives free library materials back to the sponsor school at its conclusion.

**RTI (Response to Intervention) Team:** The RTI team met in February and began to explore behavioral interventions at the district level. At our next meeting, the team will have a consultant in to discuss culturally-responsive classrooms and appropriate interventions for success. We are on a good path for creating a district plan, ready for July implementation.

### **Technology Updates:**

**ENO Issues:** The vast majority of minor ENO issues have been resolved thanks to the numerous people within the technology dept.

**TIS Updates:** Our Technology Integration Specialists have been doing some outstanding work in our PK-12 classrooms: For example, Deb Gerkin has collaborated with both Middle School Honors Living Environment classes engaging them in World Water Monitoring Day project, an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging kids to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. Students tested for Ph, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and temperature. Along with traditional testing tools, students made use of a digital microscope. Flip camera technology and movie editing software to report data. Plans are now being made to support astronomy curriculum through participation in the Faulkes Telescope Project. Faulkes' technologies make it possible for students to gain remote access to 2 meter research telescopes located in Siding Springs Australia or Maui, Hawaii. Additionally, students will make use of local resources that include Brookhaven National Lab as well as the Custer Institute. The Custer Institute which is located in Southold is the oldest public observatory on Long Island. A collaborative English Language Arts Project between Kim Harjes at the High School and Christine Harjes at the Intermediate School is being planned and a Skype test-connect was conducted. These are some of the projects we may be highlighting to be on display representing our district at the Brookhaven National Lab's Annual Technology Conference this spring.

### **Correspondence:**

Correspondence was received from the NYS Education Department regarding the proposed June Regents and RCT Examination schedule as well as the proposed 3-8 testing schedule for school year 2012/2013.

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**Calendar Draft:** The calendar draft for the 2012/2013 school year is ready to be BOE approved. Mrs. Rozzi will have a resolution on the 3/7/12 agenda for approval.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Public  
Participation.**

*John Kugel(resident):* Commented on traffic safety issues on Cedar St by Kreamer St Elementary School.

*Michelle Romano (resident):* Questioned the status on the grading allegations.

*Rocco DeVito( resident):* Expressed concerns regarding Boards actions on allegations and recent Supreme Court ruling on a personnel matter..

*Joanne Long Merrill (resident):* Commented on Board of Education members and responsibility to community.

*James Merrill(resident):* Stated he agrees with the sentiments of Joanne Long Merrill.

*Richard Boes (former SCCSD Teacher):* Expressed his opinion on the Board's responsibility concerning the grading allegations.

*Anne Hayes (resident):* Requested action from the Board regarding recent legal matters.

*Mary Mojallali (resident):* Requested the Board take action.

*Lynn Leistman (resident):* Commented on grading allegations and District reputation.

*Sheryl Moodt (resident):* Spoke of her concerns with the public's actions regarding the allegations.

*Regina Seltzer (resident):* Commented on court decision regarding Building Services position.

*Michael Bilecki (resident):* Commented on the Building Services position and the court decision.

*Leslie O'Connor (resident):* Questioned Board's actions regarding Building Services Administrator and court decision.

*Claudia Van Florcke (resident):* Commented on grade changing allegations.

*Madeline Serpe (resident):* Requested the Board take appropriate action on grade allegations.

*Mr. Hoff:* Requested Board address grading allegations.

*Peter Maddalone (CSEA President):* Requested the Board conduct an official investigation into the leaking of confidential information relating to the grading investigation and protection for CSEA members..

*Wayne White (BTA President):* Spoke regarding allegations and protection for the BTA membership.

Board President Correa and School Attorney Christopher Guercio addressed the audience at various times during public participation, responding to the comments and clarifying the Board's position with regard to the investigation and the court decision on the Building Services position.

Board President Correa called for a recess at 10:21 pm.

The meeting resumed at 11:03 pm.

**Recess**

**A motion (Durney / Kirk ) to approve the following:**

- A. Approval of Minutes – Workshop meeting of February 1, 2012.

**Approval of  
minutes**

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously.* 9-Yes, 0-No.

**4. SUPERINTENDENT CONSENT AGENDA**

**An omnibus motion (Kirk / Durney ) to approve the following Items A to I:**

**A. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Treasurer's Report for January, 2012

**Approval of  
Items A to I of  
Agenda.**

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**B. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following proposed Tax Levy Limit, Plus Exclusions for the 2012-2013 school year:

Tax Levy Limit

- Current Tax Levy.....\$53,353,439
- Tax Levy Limit Before Exclusions..... \$54,642,240
- Exclusions:
  - Tort orders/judgments over 5% .....\$ 0
  - Capital Tax Levy less building aid (cannot be less than zero dollars).....\$ 0
  - Increase in state mandated pension systems that exceed 2 percentage points...\$ 38,006
- Tax Levy Limit, Plus Exclusions.....\$54,680,246

**C. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts and awards a contract extension for the 2011-2012 school year to HTP Mechanical Corporation as the lowest responsible bidder for oil & gas burner maintenance and fuel oil tank monitoring at the hourly rate of:

Contract Extension HTP Mechanical Corp

- \$85.00-Mechanic
- \$22.00- Helper/Apprentice

**D. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the health and welfare services agreement for the 2011-2012 school year with Central Islip Union Free School District at the rate of \$911.80 per student.

Agreement Clisip Schools

**E. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves change order #1 with Condos Brothers Construction for Bellport High School in the credit amount of (\$3,436.06).

Change Order – Condos Bros BHS

**F. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves change order #1 with ARA Plumbing for Bellport High School in the amount of \$31,276.23.

Change Order ARA Plumbing BHS

**G. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the consultant services contract with Developmental Disabilities Institute for the 2011-2012 school year at the rate of \$47,066 per student.

Contract Developmental Disabilities

**H. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the service provider contract with Consulting That Makes a Difference, Inc. for the 2011-2012 school year at the rate of \$750 per day for coaching for a total of \$2,250.

Contract Consulting Makes a Difference Inc.

**I. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) Sub-Committee on Special Education (SCSE) & Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE).

Approves CSE, SCSE & CPSE recommend.

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously.* 9-Yes, 0-No.

**A motion (Kirk / Durney) to approve the following, removing Personnel Agenda Item# 952:**

**PERSONNEL**

**J. RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the resignations, terminations, leaves of absence, position abolitions, employment appointments, tenure appointments, and salary changes in accordance with applicable provisions of Education Law and Civil Service Law, as cited in the Personnel Changes attachment.

Approves Personnel Agenda – removing Item #952

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously.* 9-Yes, 0-No.

**BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Changing time of Executive Session.
- Importance of having all facts before coming to judgement on grading issue.
- Having a separate Teacher Award for South Haven School.
- Thanks for all involved in High School Musical.
- Question re full page ad published in South Shore Press.
- High School newspaper.

Board / Supt  
Discussion  
Items.

**A motion (Durney / Morales ) to convene to Executive Session at 11:31 pm for personnel matters:**

Executive  
Session

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously.* 9-Yes, 0-No.

**Meeting reconvened at 12:12 am.**

Reconvene  
Public Session

(Trustees Grossman, McKenna and Mistler were not present when public session reconvened.)

**A motion (Schatzman / Morales ) to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 am:**

Meeting  
Adjourned

**VOTE:** *Motion carries unanimously.* 6-Yes, 0-No, Absent (Grossman, McKenna, Mistler.)

Respectfully,  
*Nancy Poulos*  
District Clerk  
Attachments