

**SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

February 8, 2011

Held in Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education. On motion by Mr. Carlin, seconded by Mr. Martella, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining with the STA and SSEA, employment and/or appointment of particular persons, potential litigation, and litigation *Stouter v. Smithtown*.

At 8:05 p.m. Mrs. Knox moved, Mr. Liguori seconded, and the Board reconvened the Regular Meeting.

Members present:

Neil S. Carlin	Scott Martella
Theresa Knox	Robert Rossi
Louis Liguori	Joseph T. Saggese

Members absent:

Gladys M. Waldron

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent
Mary Cahill, Asst. Supt.
Joan Niles, Asst. Supt.
Karen Ricigliano, Asst. Supt.
Eugene Barnosky, Board Counsel
Visitors
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

I. OPENING CEREMONY - conducted by Mr. Rossi.

II. MINUTES - of the Regular Meetings held January 11 and 25, 2011 and the Special Meetings January 6 and 31, 2011 were presented for approval.

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the above minutes be approved as presented.

All aye. Motion carried (5-0).

III. RECEIPT OF CLAIMS AUDITOR'S REPORT - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Claims Auditor's Report ending December 31, 2010 in the amount of \$14,624,794.75 be accepted.

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the Claims Auditor's Report be accepted.

All aye. Motion carried (5-0).

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Correspondence - The following correspondence was presented for the Board's review.

1. Letter to Mr. Joseph Saggese from Mr. John Wontrobski regarding athletic program.
2. Letter to Mr. Scott Martella from Laura and Scott Lowy regarding possible elementary school closing

3. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, Board President, from Mrs. Joan Johnson, WS BOCES, regarding WS BOCES elections.

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Martella that the correspondence in Section A, as listed above, be received and the recommendations of the administration (where indicated) be accepted.

All aye. Motion carried (5-0).

B. General Communications – There were no general communications presented for the Board's review.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Scheduling BOE Meetings

Mr. Rossi reminded the Board that when the April calendar is presented the Board needs to discuss changing the date of the second April meeting. The Board should consider making the second April meeting the 28th to coincide with the BOCES vote. Mrs. Knox questioned the date that the Board will be approving the budget. Ms. Niles will get back to the Board on that date.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Housing

Mr. Martella reported that a Housing Committee meeting was held Feb. 3rd. Total projected Governor's budget proposals were presented. There was a shortfall of a little less than \$13 million. During the Housing meeting discussion was held regarding the possibility of closing an elementary school; not only to address the looming economic concerns but also to address our enrollment levels. A specific scenario involving Nesconset El. was gone over. We determined that it might be prudent to convene a Housing Advisory Committee. Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 10th; contingent upon whether or not we adopt a Housing Advisory Committee resolution tonight.

B. Business Affairs

Mr. Carlin shared updates with the community. The proposed state aid number is \$33,941,047; that is a reduction from last year's \$39,292,650. The adjustment is \$500 thousand. The contingent budget number is \$215,307,048. Our current budget is \$211,486,370. Under a contingency budget we would be adding approximately \$4 million to our program. Mr. Carlin shared two PowerPoints with the community – one regarding contingent budget and the other regarding tax levy.

C. Instructional Services

Mrs. Knox reported that a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening – it will address the mandates for Response to Intervention.

D. Negotiations

Mr. Barnosky reported that the STA mediation has been rescheduled for Feb. 15th. SSEA negotiations are scheduled for tomorrow morning.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Updates – The Superintendent brought the Board up-to-date on the following items of interest:

- HS West Senior Angelina Seffens and HS East Senior Erin Purdie have qualified as Finalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. The selection of Achievement Scholarship winners from the Finalist group is now in progress and will be announced in late February.

- Smithtown East Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach Bill Hamilton and Assistant Coach Greg Schepanski were presented with Suffolk County Large School Soccer Coaches of the Year Awards by the Suffolk County Girls' Soccer Coaches Association for the 2010 season.
- Zack Naja, a junior from SHS West, has been selected as a member of the 2010 MSG Varsity National Football Foundation All-Metro Defensive First Team. This is one of the highest awards given to high school football players in the Tri-State area and is truly representative of the best players in the northeast region. Zack now becomes the first player in Smithtown history to receive this prestigious award and to be selected to the Newsday All-Long Island Team for 2010.
- Three SCSD music teachers will be featured when they perform for a Smithtown Friends of Music fundraiser. The performance will be held on Wednesday, February 16th at 7:30 pm at SHS East. Money raised will be used to benefit the students.
- SHS East Sophomore Tristan Bevans broke the SCSD Triple Jump record on January 30th, at the League 2 Championships. Tristan jumped 35 feet 2 inches. The old record was 34 feet 9 inches set in 2003-04.
- The winners of the Smithtown Teachers' Association 2010-11 Long Island Presidents' Council Essay Contest, "**I Feel Creative in School When ...**" are as follows: Kelly Moccia, Grade 2, St. James Elementary in the *K-2 category* – Megan O'Haire, Grade 5, Smithtown Elementary in the *Grade 3, 4, 5 Category* – Shannon-Kate Kelley, Grade 8, Accomsett MS in the *Grade 6, 7, 8 Category* – Elizabeth Rus, Grade 10 SHS West in the *Grade 9-12 Category*.
- SHSW AND SHSE Business students scored high marks on the National Financial Literacy Certification test sponsored by the WISE Foundation (Working in Support of Education). Their knowledge in the areas of money management, banking, credit, insurance, and investing were tested.
- SHS West Freshman Kathleen Heslin's story, "Bite Size," was recognized by the American Scholastic Press Association and received the Outstanding Story Award for 2009-2010. She was among only five students across the country to receive this award. Her work was featured in Scribbles Magazine.

The Superintendent used a PowerPoint presentation in discussing a contingent budget. He advised that we cannot think in one-year terms; we must start thinking in terms of the next two or three years. He reminded all in attendance that the federal stimulus money had a three-year phase to it and we are in year three. The District has received \$1.5 million (the Educational Jobs Fund) to keep teachers employed. This is a grant that goes away June 30, 2011. The District has been applying reserves to keep the tax rate as low as possible, but those reserves do not last forever. If we rolled the budget over we would go out with a 6.2% tax levy increase; I cannot recommend that because with at 2% cap next year the gap in expenditure between this year and next is going to be even that much more significant. The issue comes down to do we make the cut the next year or do we try to float this number and hope for the best and then make the cuts the following year. My recommendation is that we start making the cuts for next year; it will make the next round of cuts a bit smaller but it is inevitable. Using the PowerPoint the Superintendent noted that if we were going to go out with a 4% tax levy increase we would have to close a gap of \$3.4 million between the amount of revenue that was coming in and our expenses. That is if we continue to apply our maximum amount of reserves. How do we close a \$3.4 million gap without excessing dozens and dozens of teachers? My recommendations are going to be to make the cuts in areas that are as far removed from the teacher/student relationship that we can do. One of those areas is transportation. The Superintendent then explained the transportation resolution on tonight's agenda.

The Superintendent then discussed the resolution on tonight's agenda regarding establishing a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing. Last week we discussed should we put the Citizens' Advisory back into play and spend a year analyzing all of the different scenarios. We have Housing Committee meetings scheduled for the next two Thursdays in which we were projected to show you the scenarios for the closing of Branch Brook and Dogwood. We have also been analyzing the closing of Nesaquake so that the sixth graders would return to the elementary schools. The number that is the net reduction in expenses in closing Nesconset is \$635,000. My recommendation is for the Board to move forward with the analysis that we have talked about the last month and a half. My recommendation is that we do not need a Citizens' Advisory to look at this for a year; I believe that we have to close a school. We cannot escape the fact that the number of children coming into this district both now and for the next eight to ten years is going so far down that I cannot sit here and justify nine schools operating with that number of children. I have great confidence in administrators and teachers; I have seen our facilities department work unbelievably hard removing snow, opening buildings, closing buildings. We can open a school in September, we can close a school by September – the children will have no major issues because our teachers will go with them and they will have a very positive experience wherever they go. Some people think it is a fait accompli with Nesconset because we started with Nesconset. I am announcing that we have to close a school. I am not prepared to tell you which one yet; but I will be in three weeks after I hear all of the details with these other scenarios. Tonight there is a resolution here; if the Board feels differently than what I am saying, I respect that, and if it feels that a Citizens' Advisory is something that they would like to put in place, then it is here. But I am not stating tonight that I would recommend that. Do the math, \$800,000, \$600,000 that is \$1.4 million to start closing this gap. We still have to make

reductions in our expenses and that is what we are going to do when we have our Business Affairs meeting on the 16th. I am going to present a budget to the committee in which we reduce the overall budget number to shrink this gap. I don't see us going out with a tax levy any higher than 4%. We can go out with 6.2 or higher; pass all of these state reductions and all of these expenses that are on the increase side – we can pass it right on over to you, the taxpayers. That is the plan from Albany, pass it on through. I don't believe that this community will support those numbers. I would love to pass them on to you. I would love to say we aren't changing a thing; but if this were a one-year blip I would do that. This is not a one-year blip. We have some very difficult decisions to make. My recommendation is that we move forward with the analysis as we committed to the community. We have the meetings and we show the scenarios of closing these elementaries. We then move forward and I will make a recommendation and obviously the Board will vote its conscience.

At 8:45 p.m. Mr. Saggese joined the meeting.

B. Committee on Special Education

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori approving Committee on Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 306876, 309523, 310521, 310522, 161420, 310486, 308761, 310622, 310327, 302494, 185159, 161960, 310828, 311903, 307586, 309537, 200461, 307383, 307983, 307504, 308626, 309353, 305145, 309581, 302240, 305614, 189029, 302682 and 309406 be approved.
2. Sub-Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 300698, 309704, 301426, 200062, 201017, 200262, 150820, 150980, 309494, 307268, 306111, 306948, 306006, 305877, 303901, 300691, 200826, 200372, 308643, 304186, 308613, 310471, 310820, 302238, 300931, 308565, 300370, 302770, 179335, 305751, 308021, 310613, 305301, 305299, 304115, 184909, 184949, 200509, 301909, 301102, 303274, 300770, 302774, 300518, 303037, 157590, 153630, 308025, 306794, 176527, 305823, 304020, 305545 and 309412 be approved.

C. Committee on Preschool Special Education

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Liguori approving Preschool Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Initial Placement for Preschool Special Education Program/Services – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Initial Placement – Program/Services for cases P311671, P311922, P311940, P311948, P311933, P311931 and P311611 be approved.
2. Special Education Preschool Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP for cases P310565, P309669, P311369, P311626, P311583, P311458, P311460, P310865, P310836 and P310570 be approved.

D. Calendar for February and March 2011 - The calendars were reviewed and amended by the Board. Mrs. Knox asked if there will be separate budget meetings. The Superintendent stated that on Feb. 16th it will be announced whether there will be separate budget review committee meetings for the community or whether we are going to do the budget building under Business Affairs. On the 16th I will give you a budget report. The presentation will then determine the frequency of meetings that you believe we need to settle the budget. The Business Affairs co-chairs agreed to change the start time of the Feb. 16th meeting to 7:30 p.m. for that one meeting.

E. Adoption of 2011-2012 School Year Calendar

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Saggese that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the attached 2011-2012 school district calendar be adopted.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

F. Litigation - was discussed during the earlier Executive Session.

G. Recommendation to Form a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing

MOTION by Mr. Martella, seconded by Mrs. Knox that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing be established to investigate the appropriate long-range housing patterns needed to support a quality instructional program, based on long range enrollment projections and future educational needs and requirements, as well as an analysis of the cost factors, and that the recommendations thereof to be submitted to the Board of Education within one year.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee on Instruction and Housing will be chaired by Dr. Meryl Ain, Assistant to the Superintendent for General Administration and Planning, and will provide an addendum to the Citizens' Advisory Report of October 2008. The composition of the committee will include: a PTA representative from each school, representatives from the community at large, a representative from each of the bargaining units, and representatives from administration and Board of Education.

The needs assessment will:

- Analyze enrollment projections to determine the housing patterns that are required in a challenging economic climate to effectively provide the K-12 educational program in a uniform and equitable manner.
- Study the impact of *Race To The Top* (RTTT) and *Response to Intervention* (RTI).
- Analyze special education needs.
- Explore special area needs.
- Analyze the costs of maintaining the status quo vs. changes in housing patterns.
- Study feasibility of changing housing patterns, including but not limited to: closing an elementary school, closing a middle school, and redistricting all schools to balance enrollment.
- Assist the Board and administration in developing and maintaining a long-range plan.

The recommendations of the Committee will address the instructional and housing needs of the Smithtown Central School District for the next ten years.

Discussion

The Superintendent clarified that he is recommending that the Board not put this committee in place but is putting it forward for discussion.

Mr. Saggese commended the co-chairs of the Housing Committee for their work; stating that it was enlightening. These committees really do due diligence in looking at the functioning of the District. Just like the way we did last year with the busing we were able to extract \$1 million in savings without changing anything; we found underutilized buses, short runs. Now, looking at the Housing and the work you are doing, I see that you have brought under discussion that we have underutilized classrooms. And fifty percent of all of the sections are twenty students or less. By working more efficiently we are going to save probably ten to twelve teachers or a million dollars there at no detriment to the education program. If the Superintendent is not interested in seeing a committee formed, Mr. Saggese said he is with him.

Mr. Rossi clarified that the Superintendent said that he would not recommend this now. The Superintendent and his administration have done a lot of work and the feeling is that he does not feel that there is going to be anything uncovered that you have not already looked at. The Superintendent agreed with Mr. Rossi's clarification.

Mr. Saggese continued that as the current Housing Committee goes forward he would like to see the work that comes out of that and the results before making any kind of determination one way or the other. He said that the time for this resolution's time is not here yet, but maybe at the end of our three or four meetings, when we are done, we can look at revisiting this and saying okay we have all of the information now we can go forward.

Mrs. Knox stated that she was stunned. We had a very open discussion the other night. We had asked questions regarding the small instructional spaces and children in St. James that were brought back from BOCES...I am seriously concerned that this move could wind up costing us money because it has not been investigated thoroughly. We are also potentially being penny wise and pound foolish in terms of looking at the most efficient way of addressing the problem. We are looking for speed and ease and not thoroughness. We asked questions; they haven't been answered to my satisfaction; I have stated that publically. I don't doubt that after the Citizens' Advisory Committee had done a thorough job it may still be the right move to close a building; but you do it precipitously and you are going to make major, costly mistakes. This is beyond shortsighted. Mrs. Knox also questioned that the resolution states "upon the recommendation of the Superintendent..." and yet he says he does not recommend it. The Superintendent responded that he is putting out the resolution for this conversation under the discussion section because I was asked to put this together. The reason why I prefaced this resolution with my remarks is to have you understand that I am honoring the request that was made – if the pleasure of the Board is to create this, so be it. But if people are looking to me and asking my recommendation, I am saying I do not feel we need to put this Housing Committee in place and study this for another year. I respectfully disagree with what you are saying. I think we have the ability to analyze. Mrs. Knox then asked why she hasn't seen anything more than the PowerPoint that has been presented. Mrs. Knox said that she heard the Superintendent state that a school should be closed this year. The Superintendent responded saying that a school should be closed and he feels we can close one by September if we analyze the situation and a year from now we are going to end up in the place where we are right now with a recommendation to close a school. I feel we can make that recommendation this year; that's my feeling. But I am also publicly stating that we have to change our housing configuration because I don't think that we can afford the operation of these buildings with the number of children that we have. We've addressed many of the situations that you have described tonight – you see the numbers. If you want to see a walk through of where the people are designated to go, then that will come out too. Mrs. Knox responded that she does expect to see an analysis that the receiving schools have the small instructional spaces that will address the RtI issues; that will address our special education students who are in classes other than the standalone special ed. classes. I have not seen any of that. Mr. Saggese added that he is uncomfortable with voting on something that was not in the Board's original packet and just given to them this evening.

Mr. Liguori stated that a couple of months ago we started this process in the Housing Committee to analyze the feasibility of closing an elementary school. We have been progressing down that line. This is the pace of what we do in this District. It is a slow process where we have been gathering and gaining information as we go. The information that we haven seen is leaning towards the dropping off of enrollment and there is that potential for closing somewhere down the line. I would like to proceed with the process that we have in place at hand; I don't see a reason for a special committee to spend more time belaboring this – that's not to say that I have all of the information at hand to make a decision whether to open or to close a school. For that matter we may spend another month or two having committee meetings and make a decision not to do anything; maybe to close a school, maybe not to close a school next year, maybe the year after. There are going to be a lot more questions going down this line through the process that we have at hand. Personally, I am comfortable with that process; I am not for forming a Citizens' Advisory Committee now.

Mr. Martella stated that he respects the Superintendent's position and wholeheartedly agrees that no matter what direction we go, our staff, our teachers, our administration will be able to adapt. We have proven that we have been through that countless times. However, after reviewing the Citizens' Advisory Committee's 2008 suggestions the analysis itself was a very comprehensive analysis that goes well beyond the scope of anything that we have discussed in our Housing

Committees. This is also something that deserves the attention of a highly defined, very distinct committee that is a consortium of our community members, at-large community members, also PTA members, administrative input. Meryl Ain is well versed on this but Mary Cahill and other administrators definitely have the institutional knowledge to be able to really put forth that insight that we need to make a decision of this magnitude. Also, Board Members, as well as the Superintendent, should work in tandem with some representatives from our contractual units to ultimately make a choice as to whether or not this is a prudent strategy. We had about thirty-five people on that 2008 committee including Board Members. Twenty-one were a combination of PTA members and at-large community members. They represented the committee itself. We were there for support and to study their findings. This is not a decision to reconvene this committee that I take lightly. I believe that their recommendation, which was put in print, was to reconvene the committee in two years. The two years are up; we're here. I don't believe they would have delineated it in a document if they didn't believe that there was some value to it. I also think that this isn't a decision to curry favor; it is merely a decision to invite community insight and careful study. I think we, as a Board, are neglecting to pursue something as drastic as this in such a short timeframe when the budget is coming so closely. It's not to say that this might not be a good strategy in terms of closing a school, but to do it in such a short timeframe I think is ill advised. It goes against the better judgment of this administration and the Board. We have shown restraint in the past in making tough decisions like this even in the face of economic woes that are staggering. We should take that same restraint and move forward whether it means setting a deadline for this committee to submit their study shorter than a year, accelerated in an expedited process – then so be it. If they have to condense their meetings so it's several meetings a month, we'll make sure that the community members...have a schedule that accommodates what we put out there. We have a great deal of talent in our administration but we also have a great deal of talent in our community and I welcome the discussion and I hope we do form the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Mr. Rossi asked what stops the community members from bringing their questions or bringing suggestions to the current committee. Mr. Martella responded that we only give people about three minutes to speak in the audience forum and they also submit a lot of questions afterwards through e-mail and telephone. We are not privy to these discussions, the questions are usually truncated – they become FAQ formats; it's not an exchange – it's more of a here's the question; here's the answer kind of a format that you see on a webpage. Inviting discussion and making it more of discourse than something printed on a piece of paper really lets people voice their opinions and helps develop a more comprehensive analysis and not a one dimensional review.

Mrs. Knox stated that she would also suggest that the way this is structured that we would not only be looking at three scenarios. The point is we are limiting ourselves, because of time, to three possible scenarios that look easy (which it never is). The other night discussion covered the likelihood that we increase our class size regardless of whether or not we close Nesconset. And we will, as a result of that, be saving more than several FTE's. Laudable, but when you do that your use of space district-wide changes again. We have also brought these children back from BOCES who use the buildings differently, the space is different. I have not been satisfied that we KNOW how that is playing out as we move children from Mills Pond over to St. James. I am not convinced that we know that next September if we close any one of these buildings, that we know that the receiving buildings Mills Pond, Tackan, St. James have the appropriate space for all of the tutorial that is going to occur. If you folks believe that, please give me the information so that I can believe it too. I haven't seen it and I don't expect to see it by the time that you are asking me to vote on this. If you did a Citizens' Advisory for six to seven months with a requirement that recommendations for efficient use of our space be made it would have to be district-wide; at least the community and I, as a Board member, would know that we had looked for the most efficient use of our space that would hold us for a long time – not because we have to save a half million dollars this year – not good planning. Mrs. Knox said since December she has been raising these issues ...

Mr. Carlin noted that the Superintendent has told the Board that over time the configuration changes, not necessarily because we open or close a school, but just the way the program is delivered to some of our special ed. children. Sometimes they get moved; not having anything to do with the opening or closing of a school. There could be children changing a location as a result of this, but he believes that within the District the space exists – they might not be in the same place they were the prior year. But as we've said if we close a building – they are not leaving the District – they are having the same teachers, the same program, the same everything. They are just taking a bus to a different location. We will find the space for the delivery of the

program. I am convinced that we have to hear more but not sure that we need to know where each and every child will be housed. We need to know that we have the physical space to house the program anywhere within the District. Mrs. Knox responded that she would like to know the children that are leaving any of three schools that the receiving schools...Mr. Carlin said that each principal has confirmed that they have the space to take on this number of sections. The Superintendent stated that the special programs in St. James take a number of rooms and there are enough rooms to accommodate people arithmetically – but programmatically is what we are going to look at and we may have to move one program to another school to keep a block together. Mr. Carlin pressed, your feeling is that there is room in another school – Mr. Ehmann agreed, there is room and there will be more room as the sections decline over the next five years.

VOTE ON MOTION YES Mr. Martella, Mrs. Knox
 NO Mr. Carlin, Mr. Liguori, Mr. Saggese, Mr. Rossi

Motion did NOT carry (2-4).

H. Stipulation of Settlement and General Release

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Saggese that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that a Stipulation of Settlement and General Release in the matter of Stouter v. Smithtown CSD is hereby ratified and approved.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

I. Student Transportation Guidelines

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Saggese BE IT REOLVED that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District hereby adopts the following propositions for consideration by the voters of the District at a Special District meeting to be held on April 12, 2011.

PROPOSITION NO. 1 (STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

SHALL the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limit in K-Grade 5 from unlimited transportation of ½ mile. The present total estimated cost of transportation is \$15,702,408.00. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$200,250.00.

PROPOSITION NO 2. (STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limit in Grades 6-12 from 1 mile to 1 and ½ miles. The present total estimated cost of transportation is \$15,702,408.00. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$333,720.00.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 (STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

SHALL the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to decrease the eligibility for transportation to private schools to 15 miles. The

present total estimated cost of transportation is \$15,702,408.00. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by decreasing eligibility is approximately \$333,947.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk shall give notice to the public of the Special District meeting as required by law.

Discussion

Mrs. Knox asked if this was by choice, not by law, that this was broken out into three separate propositions. The Superintendent clarified that it was by choice. Mrs. Knox asked for the wisdom of breaking this up in this fashion. Mr. Barnosky explained that this was the most clear way to draft it; the will of the voters on each one of the propositions could be ascertained. That was the direction Mr. Barnosky had received from the Superintendent. The Superintendent advised that it was his belief that the community should see the dollars associated with each proposition and it gives them the ability to vote specifically as to what works for them. Mr. Liguori asked how the word will be given to the community regarding this vote. Mr. Barnosky answered that there must be a legal publication in two newspapers of the District. It must be published four times in the seven weeks preceding the election; the first of which must be at least forty-five days prior to the vote. In addition, the District is free to put it on the website and any other notifications that you wish to make. Mr. Carlin suggested that the ballot be clarified that voters can vote on all three propositions. Mr. Saggese questioned whether this proposition is to be voted upon at the May vote. He was told that this would be voted upon April 12th. Mr. Saggese questioned why we would not entertain putting it on with the May vote. Mr. Ehmann responded that he wanted to put this into the budget. Mr. Saggese said that the Board had really not had time to look at this and he would like to see it placed on the May ballot where you get the most amount of people turning out to vote – where it is more representative of the District. If you have a vote with these three resolutions you are only going to get people who are interested in them turning out to vote. He also suggested putting propositions 1 and 2 together because they both deal with District students. He again reiterated that he would be more in favor of putting this on with the regular election where eight thousand people show up. Mr. Saggese also noted that the numbers don't add up with previous numbers the Board has received. The Superintendent responded that the Transportation Director has reviewed these numbers with the administration. Mr. Saggese stated that previously the BOE had received an amount of \$934,500. Now we are getting a revised number of \$871,000. Mr. Martella read from information previously provided to the BOE that there would be a savings of fourteen buses, \$934,500, if elementary distance was half a mile and secondary was one and a half miles – this did not include private and parochial students. He added that the numbers we see here tonight do not tabulate. Ms. Niles stated that we have reduced some of the transportation with the buses so those reductions – when you see 14 buses, we have already reduced 4 – so that brings it down to ten buses that we could reduce. We plan another two reductions by combining some more runs. So what you see here is what is left. Mr. Saggese responded that not more than a month ago during discussion about safety zones the current chart for this year showed the \$934,500 amount. Mr. Rossi asked what this does to the transportation contract; Ms. Niles responded nothing. In response to the Superintendent's statement about having these numbers to build the budget Mr. Saggese stated that these numbers here are not going to be determinative of what budget we have or not. This is not a determinative factor; if it passes you have that extra money and you don't have to lay off that many employees and if you don't have that money you are back to plan A. I don't see it being a deciding factor in the budget – I would rather have it in the general election where you have the most amount of people coming out. Otherwise you are going to get isolated, concerted representation which may or may not be indicative of what the whole community wants. Mr. Rossi asked the Superintendent his thoughts on Mr. Saggese's statements. The Superintendent responded the reason we are trying to do it in April is so that we can get the results to see how we move forward with projected reductions; that's the only reason that we are looking to do it in this timeframe. Mr. Rossi stated that if you build a budget with an \$871,000 reduction and this does not pass in the May vote you would have to go back into your budget, because you would still have that number reduced by this amount, and figure some way to come up with this money in savings. Mr. Ehmann agreed and stated that he started the evening with a slide showing a \$3.4 million difference between the rollover budget and the revenue that we would get if we went out with a 4% tax levy. In trying to close that gap without impacting teachers we are looking at other ways of delivering services, etc. The two issues were housing where I recommend we close a school and save money there and transportation. We cannot move transportation without the referendum so I was putting it out tonight so we have the forty-five days which leads to the April vote which leads to the outcome which goes into the budget

analysis; because if we don't do it then, we have to plan for the expenditure and make the cuts in other areas. Mr. Rossi asked what the cost is of an additional vote. Mr. Rossi was given an estimate of \$18,254 by the District Clerk. Mr. Ehmann stated that they had budgeted \$17,000. Mr. Rossi added that this is an eighteen thousand dollar cost. Mr. Saggese noted that we have these fluctuations every year in the budget; this is not like a make or break...last year the Town short paid us \$1.3 million which was not in the budget. The year before we had to absorb a million dollars – we have these fluctuations. You could budget it in there and if it fails, well then you have to go back in there and find it somewhere else or you can not plan it in there and then...In a \$220-215 million budget it is really not a significant amount of money. To spend \$18,000 to push it through very quickly; I am more impressed with having it in the general election.

Mr. Ehmann stated that we must adopt a budget around April 23-24th ...Mr. Saggese stated that he does not think this amount of money is indicative of a make-or-break budget. Mr. Martella stated that he found it a little fascinating that it is an exercise in haste when we are trying to save \$934,000 for transportation ...Mr. Saggese said that voting on this proposition tonight is a done deal – voting on the Housing Committee is not a done deal. We can do this committee next week, next month, a year from now, two years from now – that's an open discussion. This is a done deal – we vote tonight and it is there and it's in stone. The numbers don't add up, the timing doesn't add up, the way it is broken up. I won't do anything in haste that doesn't make sense.

Mr. Carlin stated that he is always in favor of letting the community tell him what to do. A referendum is the ultimate in democracy. What I am doing here in voting to offer the referendum is not supporting; nor is it going against it – it is allowing the community to come out and vote. With respect to should it be done before or after; the mitigating fact, I'm not thrilled that it costs \$18,000 to do it; but this notion that I will be able to pull out another \$600,000 or \$800,000 from some other place unknown later on I'm not convinced of that. If we budget it out we will have to diminish program by that amount. I will vote to put the referendum to the public.

Mr. Saggese questioned when the vote would be and what is the most practical use of the time, the money and the facts. I was interested in all of the facts; how many children are being moved around and the safety zones and all of the issues we had and now we are presented with a different number. I would like to look at it again. If you want to budget, you just budget with this money out and if it comes in it's added money. You budget without that money in there so that you are going to make those cuts and if they vote to make this change then you have added money.

Mr. Martella agreed that referendums are a great apparatus for letting people voice their opinions; it is democracy in action. However, we are faced with a lot of options today. You don't necessarily have to agree with an administrator; you respect and recognize the fact that he is trying to be innovative with preserving program. However, this is a matter of convenience for a lot of people and you also have to recognize that. We are faced with a menu of unappetizing options every day on this Board. Eventually you have to look at it and say what's going to be best for the students. If you asked a student whether he would want to walk a half a mile or be able to take a business class or keep acting in school plays – these are choices that kids don't have the opportunity to vote on. With the changing of limits 1,900 students are impacted out of a little less than 11,000. Two hundred and seventy-eight of those students are in dangerous zones. The state has not designated any Child Safety Zones in Smithtown; so crossing 347 – not a safety concern for anybody in Albany. These are things that I know the administration had in consideration. They are going to draft a proposal where there would be crossing guards. Two hundred and seventy-eight students is nothing to scoff at. In these times you have to let the people voice their opinions anyway possible. I would support this in terms of private/parochial schools – everybody is still getting service, just in a different way. Our split schools are St. Anthony's, St. John the Baptist and the Long Island School for the Gifted. You cannot deny anybody above the 15 miles if the school is split; if the people fall below the 15 miles. These schools get service regardless. The definition of a split school is if some of the students are within the 15 mile limit and some are over it. State law says that we would need to provide transportation to those students outside the 15 mile limit with a central pick up point. It is an efficient way of doing it within our own school district. In terms of a matter of convenience you might be looking at slightly longer bus times for these parents and kids. It's not ideal, but what are we supposed to do when we are talking about gutting everything that currently exists for the students within the District. If the service is still provided, but provided differently, I am at least

discussion. She expressed displeasure with the thought of having a closed school in her neighborhood.

4. Jonathan Goohs stated that the community does not want their children impacted due to the budget difficulties. He questioned whether the bus runs would be longer if a school was closed. He suggested selling property, cutting some extracurricular activities, cut one to two teachers per school.
5. Sally Seiberg stated that the west side of town has many more children per class than the east side.
6. Kelly Lambrix questioned the Board's decision not to form a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Housing. She asked what criteria would be used to choose the school to be closed.
7. Matt Funaro asked how the students would be dispersed if a middle school is closed and added that closing a school does impact the students.
8. Pam Farino questioned the EIT and benefits funds in the STA contract. Ms. Farino noted the amount of money spent on athletics and suggested it be reduced. She also discussed AIS and Response to Intervention.
9. Mary J. Herrle identified herself as the parent of special education students. She stated that it makes quite a difference where the special education students will be housed, noting that her child had been taught in inappropriate spaces. Ms. Herrle cautioned about future litigation regarding state guidelines.
10. Anita Goldman identified herself as the parent of special needs children. She complimented Dr. Clark on the work she and her staff do.
11. Stan Meyers discussed teachers' salary increases; stating that the private sector has not kept up with the public sector. He expressed his opposition to eliminating the busing for elementary students because of safety.
12. Mary Rose Rafferty said that the administration and Board have not done proper planning; stating that we did not have tax increases for three years. She has dealt with quite a number of special education teachers who cannot implement IEP's. She is concerned that if a school is closed there will be more lack of implementation of the IEP's.
13. Kim Lanflisi complained about flip-flopping on decisions and the vote not to create a Citizens' Advisory Committee on Housing.
14. Eileen Cook questioned why the Board hasn't used the community's suggestions; we want to be part of the solution. She asked what the savings would be if class size was raised.
15. Stacy Berner stated that she does not want any school closed. She will pay taxes to have a good school and she wants to know where her child will go to school in September.

X. BUSINESS AFFAIRS

A. Finance

MOTION by Mr. Liguori, seconded by Mr. Saggese to **TABLE Item #3, Bid #11-07**.

VOTE to **TABLE Item #3, Bid #11-07** carried (6-0).

Discussion

Item #3 – Mr. Liguori questioned why the bid recommendation was not to purchase the “like new” trailer? It was agreed to table that one bid.

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Saggese approving Finance Items 1 – 7, with the exception of Item #3, Bid #11-07, on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

1. Financial Reports - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following financial reports for the month(s) indicated are accepted:

- 1 – Revenue Status Report
12/31/10
- 2 – Trial Balance Report
12/31/10
- 3– Summary of Treasurer’s Report
12/31/10
- 4 – Treasurer’s Monthly Report
12/31/10
- 5 – Schedule of Investments
12/31/10
- 6 – Collateralization of Bank Balances
12/31/10
- 7 – Budgetary Transfer Report
12/31/10
- 8 – Budget Status Report
12/31/10
- 9 – Cash Flow Report
12/31/10
- 10 – Report of Claims Auditor
12/31/10
- 11 – Smithtown High School East Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 12 – Smithtown High School West Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 13 – Accomsett Middle School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 14 – Great Hollow Middle School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 15 – Nesaquake Middle School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 16– Branch Brook Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 17– Dogwood Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 18 – Mills Pond Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 19 – Mt. Pleasant Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 20 – Nesconset Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 21 – St. James Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 22 – Smithtown Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10
- 23 – Tackan Elementary School Extra Classroom Activity Account
12/31/10”

2. Budget Transfers – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfers of funds be approved for the 2010-11 school year:

FROM:	See Attached	\$873,335.90	
TO:	See Attached		\$873,335.90
FROM:	See Attached	\$1,030,819.60	
TO:	See Attached		\$1,030,819.60

3. Bid Recommendations – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following bid recommendations are approved as submitted herein:

11-01	Athletic Supply Items – Spring 2011
11-04	Boiler Repairs *
11-07	Storage Containers (TABLED)

* Bid results will be handed out at Board meeting

4. Agreement with the Suffolk County Board of Elections - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute an agreement between the Smithtown Central School District and the Suffolk County Board of Elections for their use of the following District's facilities as a polling place for primary and general elections, September 13, 2011, November 8, 2011, September 2012, and November 6, 2012, in compliance with Section 8-102 of the New York State Election Law:

Accompsett Elementary School
 Branch Brook Elementary School
 Dogwood Elementary School
 Joseph M. Barton Building
 Mills Pond Elementary School
 Mt. Pleasant Elementary School
 Nesconset Elementary School
 Smithtown Elementary School
 St. James Elementary School
 Smithtown High School East
 Smithtown High School West
 Tackan Elementary School

5. Contract for Special Education Public School Placement - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a contract for the 2010-11 school year with the public school listed below for the placement of students with handicapping conditions, as approved by the Committee on Special Education:

South Huntington Union Free School District
 60 Weston Street
 Huntington Station, NY 11746

6. Hospital Educational Instruction Services - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a contract with the following organization to provide educational instruction with hospital setting, for the 2010-2011 school year, at the rate of \$30.00 per hour, for a total amount of \$765.00:

Riverside Support Center
 188 Route 209

Pt. Jervis, NY 12771

- 7. Contract for Health and Health-Related Services - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a contract for the 2010-11 school year with the school district listed below to provide health and health-related services for Smithtown students attending private and parochial schools in the school district indicated, pursuant to Section 912 of the New York State Education Law:

Hicksville Public Schools

B. Operations

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Saggese approving Operations Items 1-2.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

- 1. Acceptance of Gifts – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of the following gifts:

Donated By

\$40.00 to fund field trips for the 2010-2011 school year	Accompsett Elementary School parents
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\$500.00 to fund field trips for the	Branch Brook Elementary School parents
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\$11.65 to fund field trips for the 2010-2011 school year	Nesconset Elementary School parents
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Donation of wood for use in building the set of the school play at Branch Brook Elementary School	Sider Lumber 45 Southern Blvd. Nesconset, NY 11767
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<u>AMENDMENT</u> \$12,483.00 previously approved on the December 14, 2010 agenda for the purchase and installation of 2 Nexo Speakers, Nexo Speaker Processor, Yamaha PC9501N Amplifier to improve the sound system at High School West auditorium from the Class of 2010 Smithtown HS West	Theater Production High School West
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- 2. Additions to List of Organizations Approved to Use School Facilities, 2010-2011 School Year - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following organizations, having made formal application, are hereby approved to use school facilities at the Smithtown Central School District during the 2010-2011 school year, subject to all School District policies, rules and regulations, Standard Uniform Practices, and contract provisions:

Cornell University Men’s Lacrosse
 Long Island Falcons
 Suffolk County Department of Civil Service

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Martella approving the Classified Personnel Items 1-6, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

C. Nursing - The following Nursing Personnel Items were presented for the Board's approval:

1. Change of Status

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Martella approving the Nursing Personnel Item 1, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (6-0).

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consolidation

Mr. Liguori asked the administration to research the availability of receiving incentives from the state for consolidating some functions.

B. 10% Budget Reduction

Mr. Saggese asked the administration to provide, at the next Business Affairs meeting, a projected budget based on an overall staff reduction of approximately 10% across all five years, across all lines, teaching, non-certified, guards, nurses, administration. The reason for that is if we are not successful in some of the things you are trying to do (the school closing, the busing and some of these other items) that is what we are going to have to do. I would like the Board and the community to see that now instead of later. A ten percent personnel cut would cut about \$11 million and that would help us close the gap. Mr. Carlin clarified that such a cut would be without using reserves. Mr. Saggese stated that it would not have to be a ten percent cut in every unit, but a ten percent overall reduction. We need to see that soon, rather than later.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Carlin, seconded by Mr. Liguori that the meeting be adjourned at 11:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson
District Clerk