

**SHELTER ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**BUDGET / REGULAR MEETING**  
March 11, 2024

Members Present: Kathleen Lynch, Tracy McCarthy, Katherine Rossi-Snook, Dawn Hedberg, Karina Montalvo, and Anthony Rando

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer/District Clerk Pro Tem; Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; 11 faculty/staff/student and 5 community residents

Absent: Margaret Colligan and Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Lynch, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Anthony Rando read the following Shelter Island School Mission Statement – Engage, Explore, Empower:

We want our students to cherish our small Island community while applying and expanding their learning about, understanding of, and engagement with the wider world. To do this, they must be: ethical and moral individuals; respectful and responsible communicators; creative and analytical thinkers; knowledgeable and literate readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists; participants in and audiences for art, drama, music, athletics, and other artistic, cultural, and social activities; skilled and successful workers and consumers; and committed and active citizens.

**Oath of Office - Student Liaison**

President Lynch administered the Oath of Office to Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison

**Budget Presentation**

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the 2024-2025 school budget. Dr. Doelger's presentation included the following topics.

- Accomplishments
- Budget Formation Process
- District Administration Budget Goals
- Budget in Summary
- Revenue Budget
- Appropriated Fund Balance
- What Could Be Cut
- What Should Be Cut at This Time
- Newsday Article: Governor Hochul May Drop Aid Plan (this plan would drastically decrease State Aid)
- Next Time

Dr. Doelger explained that the budget is currently proposed at \$13,087,022 and would have to be cut by \$214,418 to stay under the tax cap. He noted that if Governor Hochul's aid plan is dropped, the restored State Aid would cover more than half of what needs to be cut. In closing, Dr. Doelger stated that tonight, the Board of Education is going to discuss moving the next Board Meeting and Adoption to one week later, April 15, 2024, to allow for more time for the Governor's budget to be finalized.

At this time, Dr. Doelger opened the floor to questions.

President Lynch asked Dr. Doelger if we have had to move our April meeting in the past due to the Governor's budget not being finalized in time. Dr. Doelger responded that yes, there have been years when the April meeting had to be moved for this reason.

**Visitor Questions (Specific to the agenda) - None**

**Correspondence - None**

**Student Liaison Report**

Harrison Weslek reported that the Student Council is hoping to host a different event every month this year. Mr. Weslek mentioned events that have already taken place – Anything Goes, Thanksgiving Games, Reindeer Games, and stated that there will be an upcoming Karaoke night.

## **Presentations**

### March 2024 Employee of the Month

Mr. Todd Gulluscio announced that Mr. Sean Brennan was named the March 2024 Employee of the Month. Mr. Gulluscio noted that there has been an increase in nominations for Employee of the Month and this month in particular had many students participating. The students who nominated Mr. Brennan noted that he makes their education an amazing experience. At this time, Mr. Gulluscio presented Mr. Brennan with an Employee of the Month certificate.

Mr. Sean Brennan accepted the certificate and stated that he appreciated the honor. Mr. Brennan shared that he has been with the district for nine (9) years and it is the best place to work.

Dr. Doelger stated that Mr. Brennan is a great teacher and an all around great guy, and he went on to say that the kids love Mr. Brennan.

President Lynch stated that she was on the hiring committee when Mr. Brennan was hired and she had the opportunity to see him interact with students in the classroom during his demo lesson. She knew then that he was the right person for the job and she noted that we are very lucky to have him at our school.

Mrs. Jennifer Rylott added that her children have had Mr. Brennan as a teacher and he has even met up with them outside of school to attend a movie that they had as a common interest. His dedication to students has no bounds.

### Strongpoint Theinert Ranch Externship Project

Mr. James Theinert and several members of the Externship class presented their recent Strongpoint Theinert Ranch Externship Project. Mr. Theinert explained that the objective of this project was to bring together a group of military, civilian and student volunteers to construct a 31' x 44' wellness deck off the west side of the current barracks. Mr. Theinert showed a slideshow of the progress of the build and then the students who attended each spoke about what this experience meant to them. The common comment from all students was how this experience taught them so much about themselves. In closing, Mr. Theinert thanked teacher, Mr. Christopher Conrardy and community member Francesca Frasco for chaperoning the trip.

One by one, each Board Member commended the students on a job well done and for their maturity and their ability to reflect on their own personal growth.

### Musical Instrument Refurbishment Project

Ms. Lois Morris of Shelter Island Friends of Music shared that the organization had received a generous endowment from community member Forrest Compton after he passed away. The executive board of Shelter Island Friends of Music decided that they wanted to use this money to help the Shelter Island School support their music program. Ms. Morris met with Dr. Doelger to find out how best to use the money and they decided that refurbishing the district's instruments would be very beneficial.

Dr. Doelger and President Lynch both thanked Ms. Morris and Shelter Island Friends of Music for their generosity.

## **Personnel**

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Personnel actions: 9.1

### 9.1 Extra Teaching Periods

- a. Approve Bryan Knipfing, ENL Secondary Teacher, to teach an additional 5 periods, on a bi-weekly basis, retroactive to February 26, 2024 through June 14, 2024, at a rate of \$3,892.00.
- b. Approve Erin Mulrain, ENL Secondary Teacher, to teach an additional 5 periods, on a bi-weekly basis, retroactive to February 26, 2024 through June 14, 2024, at a rate of \$2,448.80.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Program - None

### Finance

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Anthony Rando, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Finance actions: 11.1 – 12.3

#### 11.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer’s Report – January 2024
- b. Extra Class Report – January 2024
- c. Appropriations Status Report
- d. Revenue Status Report
- e. Claims Audit Report – February 2024
- f. Payroll Audit Report – February 2024

#### 11.2 Budget Transfers

- a. Accept and approve Budget Transfers for the period of February 9, 2024 through March 4, 2024, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved and additionally require specific Board approval.

#### 11.3 Donations & Budgetary Increases

- a. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$100.00 from the Pridwin Hotel for bird perches; and authorize an increase to the budget line of Technology Program Materials & Supplies, A2110.450.00.0016 in the same amount.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Business

A motion was made by Dawn Hedberg, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Business actions: 12.1 - 12.2

#### 12.1 Contracts

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and CBIZ Valuation Group for a NYSIR paid property valuation to address both insurance and GASB-34 property cost accounting requirements for the 2024 program year; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.
- b. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Elegant Limousine, in the amount of \$2,225.00, for transportation to the music department’s field trip to Adventureland, on May 31, 2024; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.
- c. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island School District and The Nature Conservancy of Arlington, VA, for a mutual collaboration summer course. The period of said agreement is July 15, 2024 through July 26, 2024; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

#### 12.2 Joint Bidding

- a. WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and WHEREAS, the Shelter Island Union Free School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the “Program”) in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and  
WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, evaluating bids, awarding via Eastern Suffolk BOCES Board approval, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Facility**

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Anthony Rando, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Facility actions: 13.1

13.1 Items to Excess

- a. Ipad (Obsolete) – Serial #L4HD9DL2RT

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Items for Consideration**

##### New York State School Board Association Annual Conference

President Lynch asked if any members of the Board of Education would be interested in attending the 2024 New York State School Board Association Annual Conference, October 20 - 22, 2024, in New York City. Members showed some interest, but couldn't commit this far in advance. President Lynch shared that it's great to attend in person, but the workshops are recorded and can instead be watched after the conference. President Lynch stated that as the date gets closer, the Board of Education can revisit the interest in attending.

##### Moving the April 8, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting & Budget Adoption to April 15, 2024

President Lynch stated that the Board of Education has to move it's April 8, 2024 Regular Meeting & Budget Adoption to April 15, 2024 to allow more time for Governor Hochul to finalize the New York State Budget. This will give the district the time they need to finalize the 2024-2025 proposed budget. District Clerk Jacqueline Dunning had already cleared the new date with all the Board Members.

#### **Old Business - None**

#### **Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel Report**

Mr. Todd Gulluscio reported that today was the start of the High School spring season and the Junior High spring season starts on Monday, March 25, 2024. Mr. Gulluscio then reported that the members of the Wellness Committee have been busy; noting that the committee's Summer Activity Fair was successful. Mr. Gulluscio thanked Nurse Mary Kanarvogel, Ms. Ana Campos and Mrs. Kristin Sweeney for helping run the event. In closing, Mr. Gulluscio noted that

a food service consultant is scheduled to be in the district the first week of April and everyone is excited to get the process for a new food program started.

### **Assistant Superintendent Report**

Mrs. Jennifer Rylott proudly reported that the Special Education Survey was sent to parents and they received nineteen (19) responses back with 100% positive feedback. (Last time they received 94% positive feedback.)

Dr. Doelger stated that the results were phenomenal and pointed out that the Special Education Department has done a lot of great work over the years.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Brian Doelger reported about the following.

- Next week is PTSA's Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) Event and they have a great lineup set.
  - Monday: Read with a High Schooler - Elementary classes will be paired with high school classes during the school day to read together.
  - Tuesday: Tech Break Tuesday - Students are encouraged to take a full-day break from technology and rock-n-read instead with any book of their choice.
  - Wednesday: Library Wednesday - Students will take a walking field trip to the Shelter Island Public Library for some fun activities.
  - Thursday: Graphic Novel Thursday - Read a graphic novel or book.
  - Friday: Rockstar Reader Friday - Read a book about your favorite "literary" rockstar, hero or someone you admire, and dress up like your favorite character.
- Reminder that there are no classes for students on Friday, March 15, 2024 as it is a Teacher Workshop day; a professional development day run by the teachers union.
- Congratulations to Sean Brennan on being a great guy and great teacher. He is a consummate professional who is loved by all of his kids and does a great job teaching our students. He is always so positive to everyone in the building.
- Thanks again to the Shelter Island Friends of Music. They have been so generous with their time and finances. The refurbishment of instruments is going to make such a difference in the lives of our children.
- Just reflecting on the Suffolk District Attorney's talk from the February 28, 2024 meeting. We are trying to have them come back to speak with our upper high school students.

### **Board Member Reports**

Ms. Karina Montalvo commented on what a great job Mrs. Jennifer Rylott and her department does and she thanked Mrs. Rylott for everything she does; stating that it truly comes from the heart.

Mr. Anthony Rando seconded Karina Montalvo's comments and stated that Mrs. Rylott does an awesome job. Mr. Rando also reported that he got to attend the Suffolk County Music Educator (SCMEA) concert this past weekend and it was incredible. In closing, Mr. Rando thanked the music department for giving our students the opportunity to participate in such events.

Ms. Dawn Hedberg stated that the results of the Special Education Survey are amazing and those results speak well of the program and our teachers.

Ms. Tracy McCarthy reported about the Summer Activities Fair and stated that it was a good mix of activities. Ms. McCarthy noted that it was brilliant having Ms. Ana Campos there for our Spanish-speaking families. In closing, Ms. McCarthy announced that this year's PTSA Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024.

President Lynch stated that she would like the Board of Education to keep talking about the Externship Program and the Strongpoint Theinert field trip.

**Visitor Comments**

Julie Lane of The Reporter commended our students on the way they presented their Strongpoint Theinert experience. Ms. Lane noted that our students are remarkable and no other students express themselves the way ours do.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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Deborah Vecchio  
District Clerk Pro Tem

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room.