

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

**BUDGET / REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2023**

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

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness and Personnel; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; News 12 Reporter (arrived at 6:14 pm); News 12 Cameraman (arrived at 6:23 pm) 15 faculty/staff/student and 19 community residents

Absent: Robert Strauss

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by President Colligan.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby voted to go into an executive session at 5:03 pm to discuss the employment of particular individuals in the District.

The members of the Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 6:01 pm. President Colligan led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kathleen Lynch read the following Shelter Island School Mission Statement – Engage, Explore, Empower:

We want our students to cherish our small Island community while applying 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.

Before starting his budget presentation, Dr. Brian Doelger informed the large group of parents in the audience that they will not have to wait until the end of the meeting to speak, but instead will have the opportunity shortly after the budget presentation.

2023-2024 Budget Presentation: Administration

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the first presentation to be held in preparation of the 2023-2024 school budget. The theme for this year’s budget is “Systemic Advancement & Fiscal Responsibility.” To begin, Dr. Doelger shared some of the many accomplishments of the 2022-2023 school year. These accomplishments included, but are not limited to the following.

- US News & World Best High School – 2 years in a row (soon to be 3)
- NYSPHSAA School of Distinction – 7 years in a row
- Continued Significant Improvement of participation, performance, and growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics State Exams
- Very high percentage of college acceptances with scholarship offers
- Successful moving from a Pandemic Educational Environment to a Post-Pandemic Environment
- Continued focus on the social and emotional needs of our students
- Continued Professional Development Plan
- New Strategic Plan for the District
- New intramurals for our elementary students
- New clubs for our elementary students
- Introduction of new classes for next year

The topics presented at this meeting were as follows.

- Budget Formation Process

Call to Order

Executive Session

Pledge of Allegiance

Mission Statement

Budget Presentation

- District Administration Budget Goals
- Budgeting Basics
- Budgeting Challenges
- How Are Salary Costs Calculated?
- Board of Education, District Clerk, Annual Meeting
- Central Administration and Support
- Proposed Budget: Board of Education, Central Administration and Support
- How Are Pension Costs Calculated?
- Pension System Costs
- How Are Health Insurance Costs Calculated?
- Where are Health Insurance Costs Heading?
- Health Insurance Costs
- Next Steps in Budget Process

Dr. Doelger reviewed the schedule of dates and topics for the remaining 2023-2024 school budget meetings, and noted that all the meetings will begin at 6:00 pm, in the conference room. The schedule is as follows.

- January 30, 2023 – Budget Presentation: Educational
- February 13, 2023 – Budget Presentation: Facilities, Transportation, Capital
- March 1, 2023 – Budget Workshop
- March 13, 2023 – Budget Overview & Adjustments
- April 5, 2023 – Budget Adoption by the Board of Education
- May 8, 2023 – Budget Hearing at Board of Education Meeting
- May 16, 2023 – Budget Vote, 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, School Gymnasium

Dr. Doelger opened the floor to questions of which there were none.

At this time, President Colligan stated that Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison to the Board of Education would make his presentation so he and his classmates could get to basketball practice. President Colligan noted that the parents in the audience would then be invited to speak.

Student Liaison Report

Harrison Weslek reported that members of Student Council met with Dr. Doelger and Mr. Gulluscio regarding a school soccer team. Mr. Weslek stated that 22 students in grades 8-12 stated they were interested in playing soccer in the Fall and of those students, 15 don't usually don't play a Fall sport and 3 of them don't play any sports. In addition to a Soccer team, Mr. Weslek is also seeking an intramural program through the school.

Dr. Doelger commented how administration and the Board of Education love when students come up with ideas and bring them forward and he added that Mr. Weslek has handled his request in a professional manner.

Mr. Todd Gulluscio stated that the plan is to start an Intramural Soccer program in Spring 2023 to start to grow a program for next school year.

Ms. Katherine Rossi-Snook inquired about the deadline for starting a Fall program. Mr. Gulluscio replied that there is an early-February deadline so a final decision about the program will need to be made soon.

President Colligan asked how many athletes were required to field a soccer team. Harrison Weslek replied that there are eleven (11) players on the field so a team of 22 would be a very healthy team.

Mrs. Tracy McCarthy asked if the soccer team would be boys only or could girls also join. Mr. Gulluscio responded that it would be a boys team and girls could join through mixed competition; similar to the Varsity Golf Team. Mr. Gulluscio added that an intramural program would be both boys and girls. Ms. Michelle Corbett, Student Council Advisor, added that she polled the girls and there are several interested in playing soccer.

Mr. Gulluscio added that the cost of equipment and all other financial responsibilities of the district will be given to Dr. Doelger for him to share with the Board of Education; noting that the district's current goals are rusted through and not suitable for use so they will be removed.

Visitor Questions/Visitor Comments

At this time, President Colligan stated that the Visitor Comment section of the meeting would be moved to this section and she opened the floor to the audience.

Several parents who questioned a recent Social Emotional lesson spoke. The lesson in question, titled "Cross the Line" was administered by a school counselor and asked students to step forward if they identified with the specific statements read. The program encompassed students in grades 6-12, but the questions differed based on age group. Some examples of the statements were, "You know someone who committed suicide," "You have a step parent," "You or someone you know are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender," "You are a survivor of sexual abuse," "You consider yourself a Democrat," "You consider yourself a Republican," "You identify or have been identified as fat."

Mr. Thomas Cronin, parent, wanted to know why such personal family matters were being discussed at school, especially without parental permission. Mr. Cronin accused the school of pushing a "woke"/political agenda and that teachers are pushing their beliefs on children. Mr. Cronin read some of the statements from the program and asked what any of them have to do with education. In closing, Mr. Cronin asked for the resignation of the school counselor who gave the lesson.

Ms. Barbara Marshall, parent, stated that her child was not present for the lesson, but it breaks her heart that the children and parents had to hear these terrible statements.

Mr. Anthony Rando, parent, stated that there have been multiple times when people in the school building felt isolated because of their beliefs and he referred back to the 2016 election when Donald Trump was elected President of the United States. Mr. Rando claimed that teachers dressed in black because they were in mourning. Mr. Rando stressed that politics do not belong in school. Mr. Rando also stated that children shouldn't be put in a position to stand out because of their differences.

Mrs. Deborah Shepherd, parent, stated that children feel pressured to grab a rainbow pin. (Note: rainbow ribbon pins are made available by the Unity Club on National Coming Out Day. Students are given the choice to wear one to show their support.) Mrs. Shepherd stated that she just wants her child educated and to have fun.

Mr. Ronald Jernick, parent, stated that whoever approved the lesson failed and that going forward his daughter can no longer meet with the Guidance Counselor without a parent present.

Ms. Rachel Medina, parent, wanted to know how we make sure this never happens again and how do we move forward from here. Ms. Medina stated that students were "outed" when they stepped forward and now they are dealing with that. How do we make sure the students are okay?

In response to her questions, Dr. Doelger stated that future lessons will go through himself or Mrs. Rylott for review.

Mr. Jared Gibbs, parent, stated that anything outside of the New York State Curriculum should be run by parents. Mr. Gibbs claimed the lesson encouraged bullying and now kids are labeled.

Dr. Doelger stressed to the parents that the Board of Education had nothing to do with this lesson. He explained that as soon as he learned about the program, he put a stop to it. Dr. Doelger assured parents that in the future they will receive notification of any type of program like this. Dr. Doelger apologized for how it went over like a ton of bricks and stated that the intentions were pure. Dr. Doelger further explained that the goal was to come up with a program to help our students unify and feel happier, but the moment parents reached out, the program was stopped. Dr. Doelger stated that the District missed the mark and assured parents no one was sneaking "wokeness" past the parents and it was not political. Dr. Doelger stressed to parents that he looks at their kids as if they were his own and he apologized deeply.

Mr. Dave Gurney, parent, stated that the lesson was not age appropriate at all.

Mrs. Jennifer Rylott pointed out that students did have the opportunity to not participate. Multiple parents stated that this was not true and their children said they would get a zero if they didn't participate.

Ms. Rachel Medina, parent, noted that there are just too few students in our classes for a lesson like this. She asked what happens moving forward because kids are still shaken up over this.

Dr. Doelger stated that he wasn't aware our students were still shaken and assured Ms. Medina that administration would look into this.

Mary Ellen Adipietro, community member, stated that she thinks the school should pay attention to test scores.

At this time, there were no further questions or comments and all of the parents left the meeting.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Kathleen Lync, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following:

- 7.1 Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence - None

Presentations - None

Personnel

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Personnel actions: 10.1 – 10.5

- 10.1 Extra Teaching Periods
 - a. Approve Christopher Conrardy, Drivers Education Teacher, to teach ten (10) extra periods on a bi-weekly basis retroactive to January 3, 2023 through June 23, 2023, at a rate of \$8,914.36
- 10.2 Resignation
 - a. Accept the resignation of Erin Mulrain, Substitute Dispatcher, effective retroactively to December 23, 2022.
- 10.3 Additional Schedule C for the 2022-2023 School Year
 - a. Natalie Regan, Substitute Dispatcher, effective December 24, 2022, at \$5,412.99, prorated to \$2,977.14.
- 10.4 Additional Substitute Aide for the 2022-2023 School Year at \$95/hour
 - a. Cecilia Surerus; pending fingerprint clearance (NYS Fingerprint Initiative)
 - b. Cathia Meredith; pending fingerprint clearance (NYS Fingerprint Initiative)
- 10.5 Additional Substitute Cafeteria Workers for the 2022-2023 School Year at \$15/hour
 - a. Cecilia Surerus; pending fingerprint clearance (NYS Fingerprint Initiative)
 - b. Cathia Meredith; pending fingerprint clearance (NYS Fingerprint Initiative)

Katherine Rossi-Snook commented that it is always exciting to see more substitutes added to our list.

Motion carried unanimously.

Program

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Program action: 11.1 – 11.3

- 11.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations for the 2022-2023 School Year

*Visitor
Questions/
Visitor
Comments
(continued)*

*Consent
Agenda –
Approval of
Minutes*

Correspondence

Presentations

*Consent
Agenda –
Personnel*

*Consent
Agenda --
Program*

- a. Committee on Preschool Special Education
- b. Committee on Special Education

11.2 Adoption of Policy

- a. Policy #7110 – Attendance

11.3 Items Rendered Obsolete

- a. Comprehensive Assessment of Spoken Language (CASL) – replaced and updated with Comprehensive Assessment of Spoken Language (CASL2)
- b. Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language (TACL-3) – replaced with Oral Passage Understanding Scale (OPUS)

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda –
Program
(continued)*

*Consent
Agenda –
Finance*

Finance

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Finance actions: 12.1 – 12.3

12.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer’s Report – November 2022
- b. Treasurer’s Report – December 2022
- c. Extra Class Report – November 2022
- d. Extra Class Report – December 2022
- e. Appropriations Status Report
- f. Revenue Status Report
- g. Claim Auditor’s Report – December 2022
- h. Payroll Audit Report – December 2022

12.2 Budget Transfers & Journal Entries

- a. Accept and approve the Journal Entry Report for the period of December 7, 2022 through January 11, 2023, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved, as well as the transfers that require specific Board approval.

12.3 NYCLASS Account

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby grants the District Treasurer permission to add a Subaccount to the district’s existing NYCLASS Bank Account.

Motion carried unanimously.

Business

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Business actions: 13.1

13.1 Contracts

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Elegant Limousine of Medford, NY, in the amount of \$1,850.00, for transportation to the music department’s Broadway Field Trip on March 15, 2023; 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 of Medford, NY, in the amount of \$2,030, for transportation to the English department’s Broadway Field Trip on March 8, 2023; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.
- c. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and School Business Advisor of Westhampton Beach, NY, for consulting services, at \$22,000 for the retroactive term of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda --
Business*

Facility

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Kathleen Lynch, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Facility actions: 14.1

14.1 Excessing Equipment

- a. HP All-In-One (obsolete/hard drive removed and destroyed) - Shelter Island Serial #20090863
- b. HP All-In-One (obsolete/hard drive removed and destroyed) – Shelter Island Serial #20100201

Motion carried unanimously.

Items for Consideration

Substitute Pay Rates

The members of the Board of Education discussed the idea of raising the rate of pay for substitute teachers, substitute aides, substitute cafeteria works, substitute monitors and permanent substitute teachers and they approved the following resolution.

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Kathleen Lynch, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Action:

Substitute Pay Rate Increases

- a. Approval to increase the rate of pay for Substitute Teachers from \$110 per day to \$125 per day, effective January 23, 2023.
- b. Approval to increase the rate of pay for Substitute Aides from \$95 per day to \$110 per day, effective January 23, 2023
- c. Approval to increase the rate of pay for Substitute Cafeteria Workers and Substitute Monitors from \$15 per hour to \$110 per day, effective January 23, 2023
- d. Approval to increase the rate of pay for Permanent Substitute Teachers from \$175 per day to \$190 per day, effective January 23, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

After the motion was carried, Kathleen Lynch noted that in order to stay competitive, this increase is a must.

Change in Day of the Week for Board Meetings

The members of the Board of Education discussed the idea of changing the day of the week on which Board Meetings are held each month. The rationale is that late night meetings at the start of the week are difficult and it is also inconvenient for Board Members who might want to take an extended weekend. The new day proposed was Wednesday. Board Member Tracy McCarthy stated that she is against Wednesdays because she has work-related meetings on Thursday nights of the same weeks as our Board Meetings and it would just be too much. The Board decided to table this idea and will consider discussing it again the future.

Old Business - None

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

Mr. Todd Gulluscio reported the following

- Intramural programs have been continuing strong with great numbers
- Congratulations to all the Varsity Fall teams on their status as New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Teams. Also, congratulations to the Varsity Golf and Varsity Volleyball teams for receiving League Sportsmanship honors.
- Senior Night for the Girls Varsity Basketball Team is on Friday, January 27th at 5:45pm against Smithtown Christian and the Boys Varsity Basketball Team on Tuesday, February 7th at 5:45pm against Greenport. Congratulations to Sophie Clark and Kaitlyn Gulluscio on their 3rd place finish in the shotput relay this past weekend. Also, congratulations to Jaxson Rylott on finishing 13th overall and 2nd in his league in the 1600m race at the Freshman/Sophomore Championships last week.
- Thank you to Cliff Clark for sharing his photos from the JH Boys Basketball season with the team families.
- Desire To Lead program is working on an internal appreciation project.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Jennifer Rylott announced that the January Regents will be held next week and a few of our students will be taking them. Ms. Rylott also shared that she is preparing for the upcoming Special Education and ENL annual reviews.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Doelger excitedly announced that in a few months he will be able to publicly share data pertaining to the strides the district has made over the last few years and he further explained that the data is currently embargo; preventing him from sharing it sooner.

Superintendent Report

In continuation of his report, Dr. Doelger shared the following.

- Beginning next year, elementary report cards will be based on a trimester system as opposed to the current quarterly system
- Under the direction of Lauren Farkas, students in grades 3-7 will perform, "Beauty & the Beast, Jr. on Thursday, January 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm, in the Auditorium
- The High School Drama Club will be performing "Mamma Mia!" on March 30, 2023 – April 2, 2023
- The annual holiday door decorating and ugly sweater contests had tremendous participation this year
- Thank you to Mr. Jamie Cogan for a wonderful holiday party
- November and December Students of the Month were honored at last week's PTSA Meeting
- PTSA Holiday Boutique was once again held in the school lobby and it was a magical day.
- Go Home Early Drill was held on December 23, 2022.
- Third Lock Down Drill of the year was held today.
- Met with Michael Dunning, Katherine Rossi-Snook, Gerry Siller and Joe Finora last week as follow up to the Town Septic Project. Supervisor Siller stated that the Town is waiting for two reports which should be received by the end of the month. The District is willing to wait two weeks for those reports before making a final determination as to whether the school will continue to join the Town's project or if the school will go out on its own.

Board Member Reports

Tracy McCarthy reported that she attended the Hamptons Music Educators Association (HMEA) this past weekend and the concert was fantastic. Ms. McCarthy noted that the students only had 15 hours of practice together and she was blown away by the talent. It was also a great opportunity for our students to meet students from other schools. In closing, Ms. McCarthy thanked Mrs. Lauren Farkas, music teacher, for preparing the students for this experience.

Board Member Reports

Katherine Rossi-Snook stated that she is enjoying the weekly sporting events graphic and that she and her family have been able to attend more games this season because they have the schedule to plan around.

Student Liaison Report (moved towards the beginning of the meeting)

Visitor Comments (moved towards the beginning of the meeting)

Adjournment

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.


Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Tuesday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.