

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

**BUDGET ADOPTION/REGULAR MEETING  
April 5, 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 & Personnel; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Julia Brennan, Shelter Island Gazette, 1 faculty/staff/ student and 15 community resident/other

Absent: Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison

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

*Call to Order  
& Pledge of*

Katherine Rossi-Snook 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.

**Public Hearing on Proposed Use of the 2020 Repair Reserve**

At this time, President Colligan read the following:

We will conduct a public hearing on the proposed use of the 2020 Repair Reserve. I therefore declare this hearing open at 6:01 pm. If there are no objections from my fellow Board Members, I will offer the floor to Buildings & Grounds Manager Michael Dunning, and the representative from BBS Architects & Engineers John Longo, who will deliver a brief presentation on the septic system repairs and reconstruction at the Shelter Island School.

Mr. Longo presented a recap of the Capital Project that was started in September 2021 and then temporarily put on hold while the District determined whether or not they would be able to join the Town’s septic system project. Mr. Long reviewed the locations of the systems and shared the timeline for the project as follows.

- March 2023 – Systems tested for abandoning
- March - April 2023 – Bid and award projects
- May 2023 – Contracts and start construction (System 1 and partial install)
- June 2023 – Begin plumbing and electrical
- July – August 2023 – Sanitary System Replacement
- September 2023 – Close and commissioning

At this time, Ms. Colligan stated the following.

“Thank you, John. Are there any members of the Board of Education who have questions or wish to make comments?”

Board Member Katherine Rossi-Snook asked if there was any consideration given for the Summer School Program held at the school. Mr. Long replied that when the work begins, Summer School students will be moved to other parts of the building.

Ms. Rossi-Snook noted that ammonia levels are currently very high and asked Mr. Longo if that can be addressed with this complex system. Mr. Long replied, yes.

Ms. Rossi-Snook then inquired about the cost of maintenance of this system. Mr. Longo replied that it would be approximately \$1,000 per year.

Board Member Dawn Hedberg asked what immediate and long- term effects this new system would have on nitrogen in ground water. Mr. Long responded that he does not have that information and reminded everyone that as an engineer of this project, his job is to install the best IA system out there.

Mr. Longo reminded the Board of Education that when they first started speaking about the IA septic system project, they were being proactive and environmentally-friendly and it wasn't mandated, but now it is mandated.

Member Kathleen Lynch thanked Mr. Longo for his presentation and stated that as a Board Member she has been having this conversation for almost nine (9) years now and we've waited long enough. It is now time to get the job done.

President Colligan stated that she and her colleagues on the Board of Education would like to invite anyone in the public to express any comments or questions about this budget.

Community member, Mr. Robert Kohn urged the Board of Education to move forward with the district's septic system project, noting that it has been going on too long. Mr. Kohn further explained that the Town alternatives are not going to benefit the public more than then the IA system the school is planning to install. Mr. Kohn added that he has friends who will probably file lawsuits to stop the Town's project; stalling said project for another two (2) years. Mr. Kohn noted that he does not plan to be involved in such lawsuits. In closing, Mr. Kohn stated that the water quality is critical in the Center of Town so it is important to move forward with the school's septic project.

Community member, Mr. Benjamin Dyett asked the Board of Education how comfortable they are with the septic system project timeline for school to open in September. President Colligan responded that the District is constrained by the timeline and Mr. John Longo of BBS Engineers explained that the last bits of the timeline are made up of mostly paperwork. Everyone agreed that they were very confident about the project being done in time for school to open in September.

Community member, Mr. Howard Johansen stated that currently the effluent flow from the school's system goes to Menantic Creek and asked Mr. Longo if the new system will flow the same way. Mr. Longo responded that the placement of the new system will not change, but the new system will clean the effluent much better.

Gazette Reporter, Julia Brennan asked the cost of the project. Mr. John Longo of BBS Engineers responded that the project will cost somewhere between \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

At this time Supervisor Gerard Siller noted that two years ago, Mr. Longo stated the project was going to cost \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 and wanted to know how that was possible. Mr. Long stated that two years ago, the cost of the project also included other projects. Mr. Longo further explained that in order to qualify for building aide there needs to be physical work done on the building and noted that doors are being replaced as part of the project.

Supervisor Gerard Siller asked Mr. Longo how many times his firm has installed similar systems for school districts. Mr. Longo stated his firm has installed at least a dozen of these systems for other school districts with many of them being larger schools.

Community member Gordan Gooding asked what part of the \$800,000 project is really for just the IA system. Mr. Longo responded that it is probably \$500,000. Mr. Gordan added that since the permitting is all done, theoretically, the system would be ready in September. Mr. Longo responded that this is correct and the nitrates would be remedied immediately.

Community member James Eklund told the Board of Education he is a proponent of IA Systems and he applauds their efforts. Mr. Eklund stated that he has come to believe a centralized system does remove a greater percentage of nitrogen than any other system, as well as pharmaceuticals and other harmful chemicals and went on to say that a new IA system at the school will continue the flow of effluent towards Menantic Creek. Based on that information, Mr. Eklund asked the Board of Education if there was any possibility to delay the school's project for another year to see what happens with the Town's project or if not, is it possible for the school to investigate a way to pump the effluent to the centralized system and out of the Center.

In response to Mr. Eklund, President Colligan asked Mr. Longo of BBS Engineers if the District installed the IA system and the Town eventually installed a centralized system, could there be a collaboration down the road.

Mr. Longo responded to say that it could be done, but it would be expensive to pump from the system in the back parking lot to a system on Route 114.

Katherine Rossi-Snook pointed out that our system isn't failing by definition alone and ask Michael Dunning to describe two recent issues at the school. Facility Manager, Michael Dunning stated that recently there was a blockage issue and a broken pipe; and noted that the age of the infrastructure is why it's classified as failing.

Community Member Anthony Rando asked if there was a way to stage the project – do system 1 first and then if the Town's comes on line, tie everything else to the Town system. This way the district mitigates the cost upfront and when the Town comes on line in a year or two down the road the district can buy in and save a lot of money for the district and town. John Longo responded that the simple answer is yes that could be a possibility. Katherine Rossi-Snook added that doing it this way, it would just minimize the more immediate reduction of Nitrogen.

Community Member Robert Kohn asked if there was a budget shortfall, could the community create a GoFundMe for the school and would the school be able to legally accept those monies. Dr. Doelger explained that donations can be accepted by the school, but they cannot be earmarked for a specific item.

Town Engineer Joseph Finora urged the members of the Board of Education for a reasonable extension of time to discuss more ideas; noting that this is a unique opportunity for the school to join forces with the Town and have a tremendous impact. Mr. Finora stated that the school's new system would provide a nitrogen level of nineteen (19) and while that's an improvement, the level could instead be a three (3) if the school were to join with the Towns project. Mr. Finora stressed that time is not the enemy in the school's situation, but instead it is location. Mr. Finora pointed out the school is located in such a place that what gets put in the ground lasts for a very long time and travels through a very dense portion of the Island where many people live year-round and rely on that drinking water source. Mr. Finora went on to say that the effluent is also draining into Menantic Creek. Mr. Finora shared that the Town is on the verge of receiving full permitting for the project and urged the Board of Education to reverse the trend of degrading water quality.

President Colligan asked Mr. Finora if the Town's system would address carcinogens in the drinking water and creek. Mr. Finora stated that the Town's new system would address the carcinogens and it would also provide a cost-effective opportunity to adapt and change as needed.

Councilman James Colligan shared that the Town's \$2.5 Million grant application was denied, but the Town already has \$321,000+ worth of grants awarded to them and they will continue to look into other grant opportunities.

Community member Anthony Rando asked if the proposed Fuji system for the school provides the ability to add additional treatment to treat other chemicals that are put in the water. Mr. Longo stated that it would have to be treated after the fact and that the only option would probably be to hook up into the Town's system.

Community member Robert Kohn reminded the Board of Education that they are in 100% control of their decision and if they were to say yes to moving forward with their own project, they know it will happen in time for school to open in September.

Dr. Brian Doelger explained that at tonight's meeting, the Board of Education is voting to use funds in the Repair Reserve for the septic system project.

Community member Gordon Gooding stated that the school is no place for political banter and that the school knows what is best for the school and he believes the Board will make the right decision for the school. Mr. Gooding referred to the school as the "heart of the Island."

Dr. Brian Doelger stated that no matter what side everyone falls on, he believes everyone has the very best intentions. He also added that the Town has been nothing but extremely pleasant and friendly.

Mr. Joseph Finora stated that the Town's project has been vetted more than other project and science proves the maximum positive environmental impact and shows no negatives.

Supervisor Gerard Siller stated that the science has been proven and he asked the Board of Education to please consider joining the Town on the project.

Katherine Rossi-Snook likes the term "hybrid model" being thrown around and asked if the district could do all three systems as currently proposed and then hook to the Town at a later date when their system comes on line.

BBS Engineer John Longo stated that it would be less expensive to make adjustments to the entire system as a whole at a later date than do part of the work now and add additional systems later.

Town Engineer Joseph Finora stated that IA systems are not the best in a school setting because they do not meet the maximum level of performance as a centralized system.

Do my colleagues on the Board have anything they would like to add? (Nothing more was added.)

Seeing that no one else wishes to participate, I would like to ask for a motion to approve and/or accept the following action: 4.1

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

4.1 Use of 2020 Repair Reserve

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District held a duly advertised public hearing to examine the plans to expend the sum of \$800,000.00 from the 2020 repair reserve fund for the purpose of septic system repairs and reconstruction at the Shelter Island School.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is desirous of seeing these repairs take place using funds as described herein; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby authorizes an increase to the 2022-2023 budget, in the Capital Projects line H.1620.200.00.2021, in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.00, to be offset by the 2020 Reserve for Repair, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 6-d; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to sign any necessary contracts with vendors and service providers to effectuate these projects.

Motion carried unanimously.

I hereby declare this hearing closed at 7:21 pm and we will move on to the budget adoption and regular business portions of the meeting."

**2022-2023 Budget Presentation**

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget Presentation #6 and stated that after his presentation the Board of Education would vote to adopt the proposed budget. The topics presented were as follows.

- Accomplishments
- Budget Formation Process
- District Administration Budget Goals
- The Budget Recommended for Adoption (1.76% increase budget to budget)
- Revenue Budget (Lowers Applied Fund Balance uses some Reserves; stays UNDER Tax Cap)
- Appropriated Fund Balance History
- School District Performance & Budgetary Goals Met

- Proposition #2 Brought by a Community Member – Increase Maximum Mileage Limitation from 15 to 17 Miles for Transportation of Pupils to Nonpublic Schools at a Cost of \$102,498.12

Dr. Doelger also reviewed some important dates. The specific dates are as follows.

- May 8, 2023 – Budget Hearing at Board of Education Meeting
- May 16, 2023 – School Budget Vote, 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, School Gymnasium

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

There were various questions pertaining to Proposition #2 which was brought forward by a community member; increasing the maximum mileage limitation from 15 to 17 miles for transportation of pupils to Nonpublic Schools at a cost of \$102,498.12. Dr. Doelger explained that even though the budget is under the 2% tax cap, Proposition #2 would cause the district to pierce the tax cap and therefore the budget and the proposition would both need to pass by 60% of the voters. He then further explained the other scenarios – if budget passes by 60% and Proposition #2 doesn't, then the budget passes and Proposition #2 is defeated; if the budget doesn't pass by the 60% it is defeated and Proposition #2 is automatically defeated – even if Proposition passed by the 60%.

Board Member Tracy McCarthy asked if the mileage limitation affected both the North and South Fork. Dr. Doelger stated that the mileage radius is in both directions. Ms. McCarthy shared a concern that a new school is coming to the North Fork and could fall within the extended mileage if Proposition #2 passes.

Community Member Anthony Rando asked if the new school were to fall within the extended mileage, would that mean that the \$102,000 cost of Proposition #2 would come closer to \$204,000. Dr. Doelger told Mr. Rando that is exactly what would happen.

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Actions: 5.1

- 5.1 2023-2024 School Budget and 2023-2024 School Property Tax Report Card
  - a. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District adopts the proposed budget as presented for the 2023-2024 school year in the total amount of \$12,664,093 to be presented to the public at a budget hearing on May 8, 2023 and subject to approval of the voters on May 16, 2023; and  
  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Property Tax Report Card for the 2023-2024 school year be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Visitor Questions**

Community Member Sarah Gordon asked Dr. Doelger for the date of the meeting where they intend to vote on the Septic System. Dr. Doelger replied that said meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following:

- 7.1 Approval of Minutes
  - a. Budget Overview/Regular Meeting of March 13, 2023
  - b. Special Meeting of March 20, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

President Colligan stated that the Board of Education received an email on April 4, 2023 from a community member regarding an opinion on the septic system project.

### **Presentations - None**

### **Personnel**

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Kathleen Lynch BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel Actions: 10.1 – 10.6

10.1 New Hire

- a. Appoint Julieta Santos de Fabian, Custodial Worker I, 26-week probationary appointment, effective retroactively to March 20, 2023 at a salary of \$47,621, pro-rated to \$13,737, Step 3 of the 2022-2023 Custodial Salary Schedule.

10.2 Home Instruction

- a. Approve Patricia Goff for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to March 27, 2023, at a rate of \$72.89 per hour, not to exceed 18 hours.

10.3 Additional Coaches for the 2022-2023 School Year

- a. Appoint Christopher Conrardy as Secondary School Soccer Intramural Co-Coach, at \$1,344.21
- b. Appoint Peter Miedema as Secondary School Soccer Intramural Co-Coach, at \$1,344.21

10.4 Additional Substitute Aide for the 2022-2023 School Year at \$110 per day

- a. Sara Mundy

10.5 Vote Chairperson

- a. Appointment of Margaret Colligan, President, Board of Education, as the chairperson for the Annual Meeting/Budget Vote on May 16, 2023.

10.6 Poll Workers for Annual Meeting/Budget Vote on May 16, 2023 at a rate of \$142.50 per day

- a. Angela Corbett
- b. Lois Corbett
- c. Lew Corbett
- d. Shirley Ferrer
- e. Mary Gennari
- f. Lucas Martinez

Motion carried unanimously.

**Program**

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Program Action: 11.1 – 11.3

11.1 CSE/CPSE/504 Recommendation for the 2022-2023 School Year

- a. Committee on Special Education
- b. Committee on Preschool Special Education
- c. 504 Committee

11.2 CSE/504 Recommendation for the 2023-2024 School Year

- a. Committee on Special Education
- b. 504 Committee

11.3 Second Reading & Adoption of Policy

- a. Policy #7618 – Use of Time Out Room & Physical Restraints (NEW)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Finance**

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Finance Actions: 12.1 – 12.2

12.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report – February 2023

- b. Extra Class Report – February 2023
- c. Appropriation Status Report
- d. Revenue Status Report

12.2 Budget Transfers & Journal Entries

- a. Accept and approve the Budget Transfers and Journal Entries, for the period of February 8, 2023 through March 29, 2023, in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved, as well as the transfers that need specific Board approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Business - None**

**Facility - None**

**Items for Consideration - None**

**Old Business – None**

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

Mr. Todd Gulluscio reported the following.

- Congratulations to all of our Varsity Winter teams on their status as New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete Teams.
- Congratulations to the following teams for receiving League Sportsmanship honors for the Winter Season – JV Boys Basketball, Varsity Boys Basketball, JH Girls Volleyball, and JH Girls Basketball
- The Spring athletics season has begun. Congratulations to the JV Baseball team defeating Mattituck 8-5 at their home opener.
- Secondary Soccer Intramural will begin the week of April 17, 2023.
- Happy National Student Athlete Day to all of our student athletes.
- If you know anyone that would like to become a bus driver or an umpire/referee please send them my way. High School athletics needs them.

Board Member Katherine Rossi-Snook asked what the requirements are for bus drivers, umpires and referees. Mr. Gulluscio explained that these positions do have specific requirements and are employed by other agencies so he will send anyone interested to the proper organization.

Ms. Rossi-Snook asked if the Intramural Soccer Program was strictly for students enrolled in our school or could children attending private schools also join. Mr. Gulluscio stated that this program is only for students enrolled in the Shelter Island School.

**Assistant Superintendent Report**

Mrs. Jennifer Rylott stated that she is gearing up for the New York State Exams for Grades 3-8 and English Language Learners noting that the ELA exam will be held two days after students return from Spring Recess and that the NYSESLAT exam will be held on the day students return to break.

Mrs. Rylott also reported that she continues to work with the Elementary Team to review new literacy programs, noting that they want to see how each program works before they make a final decision.

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Doelger's report included the following.

- Thank you to the PTSA and Elementary teachers for putting together a great PARP week. Dr. Doelger noted that he was lucky enough to be a mystery reader for several different classes.
- Congratulations to the JV Boys Baseball Team, Coach Peter Miedema and Coach Michael Dunning on their home opener win.

- Thank you to The Kaasiks and all of the adults who worked on the production of “Mamma Mia!”. Dr. Doelger stated he enjoyed having a cameo appearance in the play and he really especially enjoyed the Saturday night performance where the seniors were honored.
- The Strategic Plan is coming to completion and will be presented at a future Board of Education Meeting.
- Worked with professional developer, Christina Lesh this past week by reviewing survey data, academics and choosing a focus area for next year.
- School is closed on Friday, April 7, 2023 through Friday, April 14, 2023 for Spring Recess. Happy Passover and Happy Easter to everyone.

At the request of the faculty, Dr. Doelger asked the Board of Education to consider a cell phone ban at some point. The members of the Board of Education were very receptive of the idea. Dr. Doelger stated that he will get policies from neighboring districts and then a discussion can be held to determine which ideas would work best for our district.

#### **Board Member Reports**

Kathleen Lynch had an opportunity to visit the student art show at the Parrish Art Museum and thanked Art Teacher, Mrs. Catherine Bringham for always raising the bar for her art students.

Margaret Colligan stated that the production of “Mamma Mia!” was absolutely wonderful.

#### **Student Liaison Report – None**

#### **Visitor Comments**

Ms. Julia Brennan asked the Board of Education to take a look at all the documentation on the Town’s website because the school contributes 1/3 of the nitrates in the Center and the Town’s septic system project would reduce the nitrates to zero (0).

#### **Executive Session**

A motion was by made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into an executive session at 8:10 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular individual in the Dsitric and negotiations, pursuant to Section 105(f) of the Public Officers Law.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

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Jacqueline Dunning  
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Wednesday April 19, 2023, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.