

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

**BUDGET / REGULAR MEETING
March 8, 2021**

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

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent;; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Julia Brenna, Shelter Island Gazette; Mary Ellen McGayhey, Town of Shelter Island Videographer; 3 faculty/staff/student and 0 community residents

Absent: Robert Strauss; Jennifer Rylott, Director of Pupil Personnel, Data & Instruction; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel Nicholas Mamisashvili, Student Liaison

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

Tracy McCarthy 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.

At this time, President Lynch read the following statement.

Before we get underway, I'd like to make a statement addressing the letter to The Reporter suggesting we send our high school students off island to another school district, and the ensuing social media chatter. This is not the first time this has been suggested. It was posed to Chris Lewis and her school board in the 70's, Gerry Siller said it was made to his School Board back in the 80's, and Ken Lewis heard it on a more recent school board, saying that it has been suggested, "since the beginning of time."

So let's take a look at it. First, there are those who believe if we ship our children to another district, we won't have to pay for them to go to school and this is 100% inaccurate. Shelter Island is responsible for the cost of educating its student citizens, as is every other town. What would happen is we would pay tuition to another district but in addition to that, we would pay to bus them there—and busing, as I have come to discover is extremely expensive.

Sending our children elsewhere would cost the taxpayer more.

Second, students would spend close to 90 minutes a day riding the bus were they to attend the school in question, and they would not be picked up or returned to their homes but to the Shelter Island School. This means they would have to be picked up and dropped off by their parent or guardian—coming and going—putting a burden on families. This travel piece applies to those parents and guardians as well. Parent/teacher conferences, concerts, plays, sporting events, etc. would now be 45 minutes away. When student athletes arrive "home" from an away game, they would then need to travel home...from another town. The same would apply to a student who was sick and needed to be picked up or needed to leave school for a doctor's appointment.

As Shelter Island residents with children attending school in another district, we would have no local control. Think about it. We would not cast a vote for the school budget or vote for school board members. Individuals could try to exact change but they wouldn't have an actual vote. But more importantly, we would lose the personal relationships we have with our teachers, who are not only an exceptional educators, but who genuinely love and care about our students and their families. I would add that helping to increase enrollment in another school district helps to bolster the economy and vitality of that town, and not the town of Shelter Island.

The Shelter Island School has the potential to finish this very challenging year being open more days, full time than any other Pre-K through 12 on Long Island. This was achieved with a 25% increase in enrollment and we

*Call to Order
and Pledge of
Allegiance*

*Mission
Statement*

Statements

feel confident many of our new students and their families will opt to stay. Other schools do offer more students, they offer athletics that we do not, and some have libraries that I genuinely covet. But sending our students somewhere else would be asking them to be outsiders. And I for one will never ask them to do that. They would always be the kids from Shelter Island and not part of the school community the same way the hometown students are. How could they be?

Most importantly, the mere suggestion that our students should be relocated to another district during the most vulnerable time in their lives is as ludicrous as it is insensitive. The entire nation is having a conversation about the emotional and mental health needs of our youth and how that challenge is going to be met moving forward. They have been isolated from each other, restricted in how they can move about the world and probably, at times, frightened to death. They have been unable to travel or visit their grandparents—they've been unable to play with each other. To suggest another radical change that they have no control over, lacks compassion and fails to address what is always our number one priority, the care and keeping of our island's children.

Let's not focus on what we can find elsewhere. Let's focus on how we can shine a light on what we have here and how we can consistently continue to turn that light up. Thank you.

Dr. Doelger read the following statement.

I support Kathy's statement on behalf of the board of education 100%. I also support our secondary school as an institution and also our staff members. We have an outstanding secondary school.

You read all over the news, that districts that aren't in person. Our staff has been in person since day one and all our staff ever does is ask is how they can help more. Our teachers, and specifically our secondary school teachers, have provided more in school education than any other district on Long Island and perhaps the country. Keeping these secondary students in school has taken great planning and skill by our secondary school staff.

In fact, when the island needed them the most, they were here at school volunteering and helping to get our senior citizens shots.

Yes, we are small. Yes, there are some small negatives about being small. But we offer a great deal classes and AP courses for a school of our size. We have a tremendous amount of students who play sports. We do as much as we can to offer our students as many opportunities as possible.

Just this past week, I was informed of the many accomplishments of a division I athlete from last year's graduating class. I was informed of a current senior full scholarship valued at \$200,000. I was informed of several graduates who made the Dean's List at major universities. I was informed of three basketball players who made all-league and all-academic honors.

What other school has offered all that we have, not only in terms of educating in person, but after school intramurals, art classes, athletics. This school has shined during the pandemic due to our amazing staff.

I fully support our secondary school. All you have to do is see the smile on our kids' faces as they come through the doors each day - in the middle of a pandemic. With that, I would like to pass this along to Mr. Peter Miedema, who by the way, was voted the Long Island Social Studies Teacher of the Year by the LICSS.

Peter Miedema, Secondary School Social Studies Teacher and Shelter Island Faculty Association Vice President spoke about how the Shelter Island School staff truly loves our students, and how students are proud to be part of the Shelter Island Community. The letter to the editor claimed there isn't enough for students to do at the Shelter Island School. Mr. Miedema took everyone through a day in the life of a student – coming to school an hour early for band or choir, taking several AP courses, staying after school for review with their teachers, going to running club or cross country, then on to another sport, and then on to play practice – and then homework before going to bed. Mr. Miedema noted that the only thing our students are short on, is time. Mr. Miedema pointed out that our students make Shelter Island a better place and gave examples of students shoveling snow or stacking wood for community members for no other reason than because it's the right thing to do. Mr. Miedema stated that another right thing to do is to continue working in this building, working in the community, educating our students, and working with them to make their lives better on Shelter Island because in turn, they make this world a better place.

Budget Presentation

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the 2021-2022 school budget. Dr. Doelger explained that in formulating the proposed spending plan for evaluation by the Board Education, administration sought to design and adopt a budget that stays within the Tax Cap limitations, develop a budget that maintains district programs and community support, design and adopt a budget that values fiscal restraint, develop a budget that seeks to identify and implement cost savings, and design a budget that helps to transition from pandemic to post-pandemic educational needs.

Dr. Doelger reviewed the changes that were made to the budget since the last budget meeting on February 24, 2021. The changes included an increase for busing, an increase in the retiree health insurance costs, a decrease in off-island educational placements for special education students and a decrease in a school teacher aide. Dr. Doelger explained that with these changes, in order for the budget to be property tax cap compliant there is still \$37,587 to be cut from the budget. Dr. Doelger stated that the District will continue to monitor changes in the proposed state aid because any increase in state aid will decrease the need to make additional budget cuts. In addition, the District will continue to look for potential reductions. Dr. Doelger noted that if state aid increases significantly, the District may also look to reduce the Appropriated Fund Balance as part of a continued shift in budgeting estimates.

Dr. Doelger concluded his presentation by noting that the Board of Education will adopt the 2021-2022 budget at the meeting of April 12, 2021 which will begin at 6:00 pm.

Visitor Questions (Specific to the agenda) – None

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021
 2. Budget Workshop of February 24, 2021

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence - None

Presentations - None

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 – 9.5

- 9.1 Home Instruction
 - a. Approve Claire Geehreg for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to February 8, 2021, at a rate of \$71.44 per hour, not to exceed 6 hours.
 - b. Approve Janine Mahoney for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to February 8, 2021, at a rate of \$71.44 per hour, not to exceed 9 hours.
 - c. Approve Devon Treharne for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to February 8, 2021, at a rate of \$71.44 per hour, not to exceed 6 hours.
 - d. Approve James Theinert for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to March 1, 2021, at a rate of \$71.44 per hour, not to exceed 6 hours.
 - e. Approve Michele Yirce for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to March 1, 2021, at a rate of \$71.44 per hour, not to exceed 3 hours.
- 9.2 Appointment of Additional Substitute Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year at \$110/day (certified or 4-year degree)
 - a. Frank Kestler, effective retroactively to March 1, 2021
- 9.3 Appointment of Additional Substitute Aide for the 2020-2021 School Year at \$95/day pending clearance for employment by NYS Department of Education (fingerprint initiative)

*Budget
Presentation*

*Visitor
Questions*

*Consent
Agenda –
Minutes*

Correspondence

Presentations

*Consent
Agenda -
Personnel*

- a. Stephanie Clark
- 9.4 Leave of Absence
 - a. Approve an unpaid childcare leave of absence for Maggie Manarel, Literacy Education K-6 Teacher, to commence on April 19, 2021 through May 3, 2021; with said period credited towards the employee's FMLA leave of absence.
- 9.5 Amend Motion
 - a. Amend the motion of January 11, 2021 from:
 - Approve Erin Farley as a Leave Replacement for Maggie Manarel, effective on or about February 1, 2021 through April 19, 2021, at a salary of \$66,581, prorated to \$17,438, Step MA 1 of the 2020-2021 teacher salary scale.
 - to:
 - Approve Erin Farley as a Leave Replacement for Maggie Manarel, effective on or about February 1, 2021 through **May 3, 2021**, at a salary of \$66,581, prorated to **\$20,608**, Step MA 1 of the 2020-2021 teacher salary scale.

Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Dr. Doelger welcomed Dr. Frank Kestler as a substitute teacher and pointed out that 9.1 – Home Instruction is necessary for students who are mandated to quarantine.

Program

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Program actions: 10.1 – 10.2

- 10.1 CSE Recommendations for the 2020-2021 School Year
 - a. Committee on Preschool Special Education
 - b. 504 Committee
- 10.2 First Reading
 - a. Policy #5633 – Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms (new mandated policy)
 - b. Policy #7130 – Admissions (combines and replaces individual policies #7130, #7131 and #7132)
 - c. Policy #7530 – Child Abuse and Maltreatment

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Finance actions: 11.1 – 11.2

- 11.1 Financial Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report – November 2020
 - b. Treasurer's Report – December 2020
 - c. Treasurer's Report – January 2021
 - d. Extra Class Report – November 2020
 - e. Extra Class Report – December 2020
 - f. Extra Class Report – January 2021
 - g. Appropriations Status Report
 - h. Revenue Status Report
 - i. Claim's Audit Report – January 2021
 - j. Payroll Audit Report – January 2021
- 11.2 Budget Transfers
 - a. Accept and approve Budget Transfers Report for the period of January 29, 2021 through February 25, 2021, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved, as well as the transfers that need specific Board approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda –
Personnel
(continued)*

*Consent
Agenda –
Program*

*Consent
Agenda --
Finance*

Business

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

12.1 Contract

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Water Dynamics Corporation d/b/a Mermaid of Mattituck, NY, for water system testing services for the 2020-2021 school 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 A+ Technology & Security of Bay Shore, NY, for the installation of sixteen (16) HALO Smart Sensors, at \$25,249.00; 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 A+ Technology & Security of Bay Shore, NY, for the installation of four (4) additional interior cameras and relocation of three (3) existing interior cameras, at \$6,853.84; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Facility - None

Items for Consideration - None

Old Business - None

Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel - None

Director of Pupil Personnel, Data & Instruction Report - None

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Doelger reported the following.

- Regents exams and New York State Assessments were not waived this year so the New York State Education Department and Board of Regents are scrambling to issue tests. Dr. Doelger added that there will be no accountability for the results of the tests, but they will still need to be administered to students.
- The COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic was amazing and it was so beautiful to see our senior citizens walking into the building and getting vaccinated. Dr. Doelger described it as a great historic day.
- Student Council held Spirit Week during the week of March 1 – 5 and noted there were photos of the students who participated on the District's Facebook page.
- National Honor Society will be raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association until March 17th and have challenged themselves to raise more than the \$500 raised last year.
- Graduation will be held on Friday, June 25, 2021, the last day of school. The time is to be determined based on what works best for parents. Two hundred (200) participants are allowed this year. Senior Parent meetings to discuss Prom and other Senior events will begin soon.
- Ms. Lauren Farkas, Chorus Teacher, has been holding play practice for students in grades 3-7 for months and is getting ready to shoot a video of the play. Dr. Doelger noted that he has been in discussion with John Kaasik, Drama Club musical play director to determine what he may be able to do this year.

Board Member Reports

Dawn Hedberg was pleased to have learned about a third grade lesson where students were taught about American Symbolism and shown how to properly fold the American Flag. Ms. Hedberg stated she volunteered at the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the school and said she never felt more connected to the community. Weighing in on the letter to the editor suggesting our secondary students attend Mattituck-Cutchogue School, Ms. Hedberg stated that the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic draws attention to how important the students and school are to our Island Life and it would negatively affect so many families – it would be a travesty.

*Consent
Agenda –
Business*

Facility

*Items for
Consideration*

Old Business

*Dir. of Athletics,
PE, Health,
Wellness &
Personnel*

Superintendent

*Board Member
Reports*

Katherine Ross-Snook also commented about the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic and said this type of event is everything Shelter Island stands for.

Margaret Colligan noted that the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic was extraordinary and praised Shelter Island Senior Center Staffer Sara Mundy and Councilwoman Amber Brach-Williams for everything they did to arrange the appointments.

Kathleen Lynch stated she completely agrees with all of the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic sentiments of her fellow Board Members.

Student Liaison Report – None

Visitor Comments – None

Executive Session

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into an executive session at 6:44 pm, to discuss the employment of particular individuals in the District pursuant to Section 105 (e).

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.


Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

*Board Member
Reports
(continued)*

Student Liaison

*Visitor
Comments*

Executive Session

Adjournment