

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

**BUDGET / REGULAR MEETING
March 14, 2022**

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

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Julia Brennan, Shelter Island Gazette; 0 faculty/staff/student and 2 community residents

Absent: Robert Strauss; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Luca Martinez, Student Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Colligan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. At this time, President Colligan asked everyone to join her for a moment of silence in support of Ukraine.

*Call to Order
and Pledge
of Allegiance*

Karina Montalvo 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.

*Mission
Statement*

Budget Presentation

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the 2022-2023 school budget. Dr. Doelger’s presentation included the following topics.

*Budget
Presentation*

- Budget Formation Process
- Accomplishments
- District Administration Budget Goals
- What’s New – Increases (none)
- What’s New – Decreases (see below)
- What’s New – Reserves
- The Budget is Now Way Under Tax Cap
- Revenue Overview
- Revenue Budget – Lowers Assigned Fund Balance; Uses Some Reserves; Keeps Tax Levy Flat
- Appropriated Fund Balance History
- Budget – Next Steps

Dr. Doelger reviewed the changes that were made to the budget since the last meeting on February 28, 2022. The changes included a 2% decrease in materials and supplies lines throughout the budget, a decrease of \$1,950 in the maintenance budget, a decrease of \$2,840 in the travel and conference lines throughout the budget, and a \$5,000 reduction in unemployment costs. Dr. Doelger stated that the budget to budget increase is currently 0.76% and he will continue to look for ways to get it even closer to 0%. Dr. Doelger also noted that there should be an increase in state aid so that will take the budget to budget increase down even more.

Dr. Doelger concluded his presentation by reviewing the dates of future budget related meetings.

- April 11 – Board Adopts Budget – 6:00 pm, School Gymnasium
- May 9 – Public Budget Hearing – 6:00 pm, School Gymnasium
- May 17 – Budget Vote & Election, School Gymnasium, 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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

Ms. Rossi-Snook asked if there had been any feedback regarding the tiny cuts made to everyone’s materials and supplies lines. Dr. Doelger replied that everyone has been supportive.

President Colligan asked if the district was locked into heating costs for the school year. Dr. Doelger replied that we were locked in to New York State Contract pricing for 2022.

Julia Brennan of the Shelter Island Gazette noted that the state aid percentage increase from year to year is smaller this year than it was last year. Dr. Doelger explained that last year due to foundation aid all school districts saw an unusually large increase.

Visitor Questions (Specific to the agenda)

Mr. Thomas Cronin, parent, inquired about Policy #7223 – Class Rankings which was on the agenda for a second reading and possible adoption. Mr. Cronin was concerned that the Board was adopting a “no-ranking” policy because many colleges and universities require rankings.

Ms. Jennifer Rylott explained that the “no ranking” portion of the policy was adopted many years ago and that the policy is currently under review for specific language pertaining to the Valedictorian/Salutatorian process. Ms. Rylott also noted that in a small school, ranking can be dangerous and misleading.

After discussion amongst the board members, administration and Mr. Cronin, it was determined that the policy would be amended at tonight’s meeting. The amendment will add “and or admissions” after “scholarship” in the last sentence of the first paragraph.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting of February 15, 2022
 2. Budget Workshop of February 28, 2022

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence - None

Presentations - None

Personnel

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 Personnel actions: 9.1 – 9.5

- 9.1 Home Instruction
 - a. Approve Lynne Colligan for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to February 28, 2022, at a rate of \$72.16 per hour, not to exceed 5 hours.
 - b. Approve Peter Miedema for Home Instruction, effective retroactively to February 28, 2022, at a rate of \$72.16 per hour, not to exceed 5 hours.
- 9.2 Leave Replacement
 - a. Appoint Kathleen Springer as a Leave Replacement for Claire Geehreg, effective on or about April 25, 2022 through May 31, 2022, at a salary of \$67,246, prorated to \$8,758, Step 1 MA of the 2021-2022 teacher salary scale.
- 9.3 Rescind Motion
 - a. Rescind the following motion of August 30, 2021 due to a childcare leave of absence.
Appoint Lauren Farkas, School Play Pianist/Accompanist/Vocal Director, \$3,084.43 for the 2021-2022 school year
- 9.4 Additional Schedule C for the 2021-2022 School Year
 - a. Appoint Sarah Mundy, School Play Pianist/Accompanist/Vocal Director, \$3,084.43 for the 2021-2022 school year; pending fingerprint clearance.
- 9.5 Amend Motion
 - a. Amend the motion of January 18, 2022 from:

*Budget
Presentation (continued)*

*Visitor
Questions*

*Consent Agenda
– Approval of
Minutes*

Correspondence

Presentation

*Consent Agenda
- Personnel*

Approve Kathleen Springer as a Leave Replacement for Lauren Farkas, effective on or about February 28, 2022 through April 11, 2022, at a salary of \$67,246, prorated to \$9,078.48, Step 1 MA of the 2021-2022 teacher salary scale.

to:

Approve Kathleen Springer as a Leave Replacement for Lauren Farkas, effective on or about January 27, 2022 through April 8, 2022, at a salary of \$67,246, prorated to \$15,635.15, Step 1 MA of the 2021-2022 teacher salary scale.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda –
Personnel
(continued)*

*Consent
Agenda –
Program*

Program

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 Program actions: 10.1

10.1 CSE/504 Recommendations for the 2021-2022 School Year

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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 Program actions: 10.2

10.2 Second Reading & Adoption

- a. Policy #7223 – Class Rankings with amendment of last sentence of first paragraph: “However, individual requests for scholarship **and/or admissions** ranking will be calculated as follows”
- b. Policy #8460 – Field Trips and Excursions

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda --
Finance*

Finance

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 Finance actions: 11.1 – 11.2

11.1 Financial Reports

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| a. Treasurer’s Report – January 2022 | d. Revenue Status Report |
| b. Extra Class Report – January 2022 | e. Claim’s Audit Report – February 2022 |
| c. Appropriations Status Report | f. Payroll Audit Report – February 2022 |

11.2 Budget Transfers

- a. Accept and approve Budget Transfers Report for the period of February 8, 2022 through March 7, 2022, 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 -
Business*

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: 12.1

12.1 Contract

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and C-BIZ Valuation Group, LLC of Lawrenceville, NJ, for property valuation services, including an electronic annual update service option, in the amount of \$1,190, for the 2021-2022 school year; and authorize the District Treasurer to execute said agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda -
Facility*

Facility

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 Facility actions: 13.1

13.1 Donation of Playground Fitness Equipment

- a. Accept the donation of the following playground fitness equipment, materials and labor from Dawgpatch Bandits, Incorporated of Sag Harbor, NY, for installation at Fiske Field.

- Sports Play Triple Horizontal Bar
- Sports Play Parallel Bars
- Excavation Work
- RCA Blend Material
- Concrete Footings
- Time of Contractors
- All Architectural Plans

Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to Facility action 13.1 voted on, Ms. Tracy McCarthy asked for more information about the donation of the playground fitness equipment. Ms. Kathleen Lynch explained that Dawgpatch Bandits is a non-profit organization raising awareness for the opioid epidemic plaguing this country and working to promote fitness as a positive mental and physical outlet for all. Community Member, Charlie Binder has a contact at the organization and they offered to install playground fitness equipment near the basketball courts on Fiske Field – completely free of charge to the district.

Items for Consideration - None

Old Business - None

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

Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Jennifer Rylott reported that the New York State English Language Arts Exams will be held on March 29-30, 2022. The tests will not be timed and students are encouraged to take them this year.

Ms. Rylott also reported about today's Mystery Monday event. Mr. Peter Miedema, social studies teacher and Ms. Laura Mayo, Spanish teacher both brought in their dogs and visited every classroom throughout the day. Ms. Rylott shared that there has been a lot of positive feedback for the Mystery Monday events so she plans on sending out a survey to determine if this is something we should continue to do in the future.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Doelger reported the following.

- In order to build on the success we've had as a district students are encouraged to take the grades 3-8 New York State Exams.
- Student Council, National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society will be holding a bake sale on Monday, March 21, 2022. All proceeds will be sent to support Ukraine.
- Teacher Workshop is this coming Friday, March 18, 2022. Faculty and staff are required to report to school, but there is no school for students.
- PTSA Meeting was held last week. Their annual Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) event will be held the first week of April. This year's theme is "Escape with Reading".
- Attended last week's "Seriously COVID?" discussion lead by Kym Laube, the executive director of HUGS (Human Understanding and Growth Services). Ms. Laube discussed the COVID experience and the affect it had on our children.
- Since masks have become optional, not one case of COVID has been reported. Dr. Doelger pointed out that while some students and adults still wear their masks, everyone is considerate of one another and no one says anything about it.
- Gave a shout out to the community for not making masks controversial. Dr. Doelger said he was grateful to focus on education and not the politics of masking.
- Graduation Committee met. Graduation will be held on Friday, June 24, 2022, at 5:00 pm, on the stage outside.
- National Honor Society had two builds this month with Habitat for Humanity. Dr. Doelger was lucky enough to work alongside students at one of the builds.
- Due to extra-long ferry lines, there is a new faculty shuttle service to/from the ferry. Supervisor Gerry Siller was generous enough to lend the district the Town van used for the food service program. Mr. Bridgford Hunt of North Ferry was also kind enough to sell resident-priced tokens to our faculty and staff. Dr. Doleger thanked Miguel Mendoz and Matthew Dunning who have been driving the van.

*Consent Agenda
– Facility
(continued)*

*Items for
Consideration*

Old Business

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

*Assistant
Superintendent's
Report*

*Superintendent's
Report*

- The district is in great shape financially and coming out of the pandemic better than ever.

Superintendent's Report (continued)

Board Member Reports

Student Liaison Report

Visitor Comments

Executive Session

Adjournment

Board Member Reports

Karina Montalvo reported that she didn't realize how excited our students would be to no longer wear masks. Her own son was very eager not wear his.

Kathleen Lynch reported that she also attended the "Seriously COVID?" discussion led by Kym Laube, the executive director of HUGS (Human Understanding and Growth Services) and remarked that it was a phenomenal presentation. Ms. Lynch also mentioned that the Spain Trip is taking place this summer and the new owner of the Chequit, Stacey Soloviev is holding a fundraiser to help cover the cost of the trip. Ms. Soloviev's son is also making a very large donation towards the trip. Ms. Lynch explained that any monies raised beyond what's needed will be donated to the Shelter Island Educational Foundation.

Katherine Rossi-Snook reported that there will be a student art exhibition at the Parrish Museum on March 13, 2022 – April 24, 2022. Ms. Rossi-Snook also acknowledged how great it was to read that the CAST (Community Action Southold Town) van is bringing fresh food to the Island for those in need to round out the food pantry. Ms. Rossi-Snook also mentioned that the harvest from the school's edible garden could possibly be distributed at the same time. Ms. Rossi-Snook thanked Mr. Peter Miedema, social studies teacher, for holding free basketball clinics for elementary students on Saturdays and noted that it is very well attended. In closing, Ms. Rossi-Snook shared that Little League season is about to begin and the shed on Fiske Field is looking shabby and needs a good cleanout. Ms. Rossi-Snook didn't know if this shed belonged to the school or the Town.

Student Liaison Report – None

Visitor Comments

Ms. Alexandra Hakim, parent of a Kindergarten student voiced concern over safety and the response to threats made against the school. Ms. Hakim asked for the creation of a flow chart that would show parents the steps that are being taken to address the situation. Dr. Doelger explained that the district wants to be transparent and as soon as there is a threat he notifies parents. However, there is just so much information that can be shared because the district also has an obligation to protect the identity of the student making the threat. Ms. Hakim further explained that as a parent, she cannot rest on Dr. Doelger's word that everything is okay. Instead, she needs to know what is actually being done to address the situation. Dr. Doelger sympathized with Ms. Hakim and assured her he would put something together that outlines the process of what happens when there is a threat made against the school. Ms. Hakim was very grateful to Dr. Doelger and the Board of Education for hearing her concerns.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into an executive session at 7:21 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 Kathleen Lynch, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.


Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the Gymnasium.