

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

**SPECIAL MEETING
March 28, 2016**

Members Present: Thomas Graffagnino, Linda Eklund, Mark Kanarvogel, Elizabeth Melichar, Susan Binder and Kathleen Lynch

Others Present: Leonard Skuggevik, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Academic Administrator; Timothy Laube, School District Business Leader; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Physical Education/District Operations; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Christopher Tehan, Town of Shelter Island Videographer, 2 faculty/staff/ student and 2 community resident/other

Absent: Alfred Brigham, Sr.; and Connor Rice, Student Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm by President Graffagnino, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elizabeth Melichar 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, Mr. Graffagnino announced that this evening’s budget presentation would be the last meeting that would be taped and televised, as only five (5) tapings were budgeted for and tonight’s meeting is the fifth one. Mr. Graffagnino did encourage the viewing audience to attend the future workshops scheduled for April 4, 11, and 18.

Budget Presentation

Mr. Timothy Laube welcomed everyone to the fifth budget presentation in preparation of the 2016-2017 school budget. Mr. Laube presented an overview of the 2016-2017 school budget, which included appropriations: salaries and benefits district-wide, appropriations: the 2016-17 proposed budget, projected revenues 2016-2017, revenues vs. expenditures 2015-16 and 2016-17, tax impact: what it means to homeowners.

Mr. Robert Frederick and Mr. Frederick Buonocore, community members in the audience asked for a description of each of the administrator and administrative support staff positions with an overview of their responsibilities. Mr. Laube spoke to the position of Superintendent, his own position of Business Official, and the positions of District Treasurer and Accounts Payable Senior Clerk. Ms. Jennifer Rylott, Academic Administrator; Mr. Todd Gulluscio, Director of Physical Education & District Operations; and Ms. Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk then spoke about their positions.

As two of the curriculum-related budget lines were showing an increase of over 30% each, the community members asked for an explanation of these increases. Mr. Laube explained that the Curriculum Development line increase was due to simply the reclassification of a service. This service was reclassified from another budget line to avoid budget transfers in the future. Mr. Laube stressed that this is not a budget increase, but simply a reclassification of an existing service. The other budget line being questioned was Curriculum Contractual and this included several repairs that the music department has put off for years, piano tuning, and dry cleaning of band uniforms.

As Mr. Laube was reviewing the District’s debt services, he pointed out that the bond was voter approved in September 2015, and 2% of the proposed 2016-2017 is related to the bond. So, although we are looking at a 7.99% increase, it’s really a 5.99% increase, since the 2% was already voted on and repayment was anticipated to begin in the 2016-17 school year.

Call to Order

Mission Statement

Budget Presentation

Mr. Laube reviewed the schedule of the dates and topics for the remaining 2016-2017 school budget meetings, and noted that all the meetings will begin at 6:00 pm. The schedule is as follows.

- April 4, 2016 – Budget Workshop
- April 11, 2016 – Budget Workshop
- April 18, 2016 – Budget Workshop
- April 20, 2016 – Budget Adoption

Mr. Laube ended his presentation and opened the floor to any questions and concerns.

Mr. Graffagnino stated that the Board of Education still has a lot of work ahead of them to try to bring the percentage of the increase down, and stressed that he would like the amount of the reserve money used to stay at \$275,000.00. In response, one of the community members asked why we wouldn't use more and Mr. Skuggevik explained that it is important to keep an emergency fund in reserves in case of an unexpected situation, such as a special education student or an influx of English language learner students moving into the District.

The same community members asked how many students are currently enrolled and how many teachers do we have. Mr. Skuggevik that there are currently 222 students enrolled and 35 teachers. Mr. Skuggevik did point out that if the District takes in all of the four year old preschool students in the coming school year, there will be an additional teacher added, but the number of additional students is unknown at this time.

In closing, Mr. Graffagnino, stated that the Bond work and the Energy Performance Contract is going to show a guaranteed savings in the end and pointed out that the replacement of the boilers alone will pay off, as there will no longer be a worry about the heating system, or the need to pay overtime for keeping an old system up and running, plus it will run more efficiently.

Visitor Questions

Visitor questions were asked during the presentation and there were no additional questions asked at this time.

Ms. Linda Eklund thanked Mr. Frederick and Mr. Buonocore for attending the meeting and for asking questions. Ms. Eklund stressed how important it is for the community to attend the Board of Education meetings.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into an executive session at 7:00 pm, to discuss the employment of a particular individuals in the District pursuant to Section 105(e).

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Elizabeth Melichar, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, April 4, 2016, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.