

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

**SPECIAL MEETING  
April 18, 2016**

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

Others Present: Leonard Skuggevik, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Academic Administrator; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Physical Education/District Operations; Timothy Laube, School District Business Leader; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Mary Ellen McGayhey, Town Videographer, 3 faculty/staff/ student and 2 community resident/other

Absent: Connor Rice, Student Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Graffagnino, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thomas Graffagnino 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.

**Budget Workshop**

Mr. Thomas Graffagnino welcomed everyone to the last of the Budget Workshops in preparation of the 2016-2017 budget and stated that over the last several months, the members of the Board of Education along with Administration went through the budget, line by line, reducing any lines that wouldn't affect programs for our students. The Board of Education also decided to increase the amount of money taken from the fund balance from \$275,000 to \$350,000 in an effort to further reduce the tax increase for our taxpayers. Mr. Graffagnino did stress how difficult it is to plan around a tax cap and not the needs of the students.

Mr. Timothy Laube reviewed the current budget totals, a recap of the budget development, the estimated tax for homes on Shelter Island, and the future budget dates which included the following.

- April 20, 2016 – Budget Adoption
- May 9, 2016 – Public Budget Hearing
- May 17, 2016 – Budget Vote

At this time, the floor was opened to visitor questions.

**Visitor Questions**

Community member, Mr. Bonacore asked for an explanation of what changes were made to the budget, besides the increase of money taken from fund balance, to show a reduction. Mr. Laube mentioned that only a few lines were reduced between last week and this evening because the majority of reductions took place over the past several weeks and there just wasn't much more to reduce.

Mr. Bonacore also addressed the introduction of a full day Pre-Kindergarten program, specifically how to justify spending additional monies on a program that will only benefit four (4) students. Ms. Rylott explained that interest in the Pre-K program was based on a half day program and she expects that the number of students will increase when families learn of it being a full day program. Ms. Linda Eklund added that neighboring districts offer tuition based full day Pre-K programs and parents of Shelter Island children who want a full day program for their child, enroll their child in these programs. Once students begin their education in a school, making friends and becoming part of the school culture, typically, they don't return to

*Call to Order  
and Pledge of  
Allegiance*

*Mission  
Statement*

*Budget  
Workshop*

*Visitor  
Questions*

Shelter Island School. By offering a full day Pre-K program, we will keep students on Shelter Island which will boost our enrollment and cut the cost for the District for transportation to off-Island schools.

Mr. Fredericks, community member stated a concern about the amount of money in debt services/bonds. Mr. Graffagnino stressed that the school building structure hadn't been maintained for many years so the work that was funded by the bonds was quite necessary. Mr. Graffagnino also stated that the work that is currently being done will keep the building maintained for years to come.

Ms. Linda Eklund thanked the community members for coming out throughout the budget process.

**Executive Session**

A motion was by made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into an executive session at 6:36 pm to discuss the employment of particular individuals in the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Thomas Graffagnino, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

---

Jacqueline Dunning  
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.