

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

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
May 11, 2015**

Members Present: Stephen Gessner, Elizabeth Melichar, Linda Eklund, Mark Kanarvogel, Alfred Brigham, Sr., and Marilyn Pysner

Others Present: Leonard Skuggevik, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Academic Administrator; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Physical Education & District Operations; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Mary Ellen McGayhey, Shelter Island Town Videographer; 27 faculty/staff/students and 15 community residents/other

Absent: Thomas Graffagnino; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President Gessner.

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 6:04 pm to discuss the employment of particular individuals in the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:37 pm by President Gessner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Linda Eklund 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.

**2015-2016 Public Budget Hearing**

Mr. Skuggevik welcomed everyone to the 2015-2016 Public Budget Hearing. He reviewed the following items.

- Budget Goals
- Academic Highlights
- Proposed Budget
- Three-Part Component Budget
- Contingency Budget
- Budget Calendar

At this time, Mr. Skuggevik opened the floor to questions, of which there were none.

There was a brief pause in the meeting, as visitors filed in, and the Regular Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

**Visitor Questions – None**

**Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Elizabeth Melichar, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following:

Approval of Minutes

- a. Budget Discussion of April 20, 2015
- b. Budget Adoption/Regular Meeting of April 22, 2015

Motion carried unanimously

*Call to Order*

*Executive Session*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Mission Statement*

*2015-2016 Public Budget Hearing*

*Regular Meeting*

*Visitor Questions*

*Consent Agenda Approval of Minutes*

**Correspondence**

Dr. Gessner acknowledged an email from a parent that was received earlier in the day.

**General Presentation**

Mr. Brian Becker explained to the Board of Education that he has requested to speak at each monthly meeting, in order to give a report of the exciting things the members of the Shelter Island Faculty Association (SIFA) are doing in the building. Mr. Becker also hopes this monthly report will allow for the opportunity for SIFA and the Board to have an open dialogue.

Mr. Becker reported that 15-20 SIFA members have formed a book club this year. They are reading, Teach Like a Pirate and the group meets bi-weekly.

Mr. Becker also announced that Ms. Jessica Bosak, Vocal Teacher and Mr. Keith Brace, Band Teacher completed the New York State School Music Association Adjudicator Training. They were then able to adjudicate at a recent festival.

**Presentation Requiring Board Approval**

Mr. Leonard Skuggevik explained that the State now requires districts to show a 1% decrease each year in our budget from the previous year. Districts have the ability to report this decrease on their own or they can combine with other districts. Shelter Island UFSD will combine with a group of districts. The Southampton School District will be the lead school of this group of districts and they will be responsible for filing the paperwork on behalf of the group.

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Stephen Gessner, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Business action:

8.1

8.1 Government Efficiency Plan

- a. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education designates the Southampton Union Free School District as lead entity for purposes of submission of the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of the Shelter Island Union Free School District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and the Chief Financial Officer to certify the submission of the Government Efficiency Plan on behalf of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and provide to the Southampton Union Free School District as the lead entity.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel**

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Alfred Brigham, Sr., BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.1

9.1 Change in Full Time Equivalent

- a. Bryan Knipfing, ESL Teacher, from .80 FTE to 1.0 FTE, effective September 1, 2015, with a 3-year probationary period through September 1, 2018, in the tenure area of ESL.

Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to each of the following motions for the approval of tenure, Mr. Skuggevik read an excerpt from each of the tenure recommendation letters he had written to the Board of Education.

*Correspondence*

*General Presentation*

*Presentations Requiring Board Approval*

*Government Efficiency Plan*

*Consent Agenda Personnel*

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Elizabeth Melichar, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.2 a

9.2 Tenure Recommendation

- a. Approval of the tenure recommendation of James Bocca, in the tenure area of English 7-12, effective September 1, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bocca thanked the Board of Education and promised he will continue to work hard.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Melichar, seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.2 b

9.2 Tenure Recommendation

- b. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Lynne Colligan, in the tenure area of English 7-12, effective September 1, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Colligan thanked the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.2 c

9.2 Tenure Recommendation

- c. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Michael Cox, in the tenure area of Elementary Education, K-6, effective September 1, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cox thanked the Board of Education and expressed how lucky he feels to work at the Shelter Island School.

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Elizabeth Melichar, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.2 d

9.2 Tenure Recommendation

- d. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Debra Sears, in the tenure area of Special Education, 7-12, effective September 1, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sears thanked the Board of Education and stated that she feels blessed to work at the Shelter Island School.

A motion was made by Alfred Brigham, Sr., seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.2 e

9.2 Tenure Recommendation

- e. Approval of the tenure recommendation of James Theinert, in the tenure area of Mathematics 7-12, effective September 1, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Theinert thanked the Board of Education for taking a chance on him and stated how blessed he is to work at the Shelter Island School. Mr. Theinert also mentioned that Shelter Island is his home, has always been his home, and will always be his home.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Melichar, seconded by Alfred Brigham, Sr., BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel action: 9.2 f

9.2 Tenure Recommendation

- f. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Jennifer Rylott, in the tenure area of Academic Administrator, effective July 1, 2015

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Rylott told the Board of Education that she couldn't thank them enough for this opportunity, and states she is so proud to be a part of the Shelter Island School District.

At this time, individual Board of Education members took the opportunity to congratulate and thank those who received tenure. Each member, in his/her own way, expressed how proud he/she was of the incredible educators they are. Several faculty members also congratulated and spoke about each of the tenure recipients. Dr. Gessner then mentioned that following the meeting, there will be reception in the hallway.

**Program**

A motion was made by Linda Ekund, seconded by Alfred Brigham, Sr., BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Program Action: 10.1

10.1 Second Reading & Adoption

- a. Policy #7420 – Sports and the Athletic Program

Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the Board of Education acknowledged the first reading of Policy #1650 – Submission of Questions and Propositions at the Annual Meeting and Election and Special District Meetings. There were no questions or comments about said policy, so the current changes will be made and presented for a second reading at a future Board meeting.

**Finance**

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Stephen Gessner, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Finance Actions: 11.1 – 11.2

11.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report – April 2015
- b. Extra Class Report – April 2015
- c. Claim Auditor's Report – April 2015
- d. Payroll Audit Report – April 2015

11.2 Budget Transfers

- a. Accept and approve Budget Transfer Reports for the period of April 22, 2015 through May 6, 2015, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Business**

A motion was made by Alfred Brigham, seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Business Action: 12.1

12.1 2015-2016 Contracts

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island School District and Pathfinder Village, for student services, for the 2015-2016 school year. The term of said

*Consent Agenda  
Personnel  
(continued)*

*Consent Agenda  
Program*

*Consent Agenda  
Finance*

*Consent Agenda  
Business*

agreement shall be July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

- b. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island School District and The Summit School, for student services. The term of said agreement shall be July 1, 2015 to August 31, 2015; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Facility - None**

**Items for Consideration**

The members of the Board of Education discussed the tradition of the members chipping in to purchase gifts for the graduates. All members present, agreed to continue the tradition. Linda Eklund has always done this in the past and once again agreed to purchasing these gifts again this year.

**Old Business - None**

**Director of Physical Education & District Operations Report**

**Suffolk Zone Awards**

Mr. Gulluscio reported that he, Mr. Skuggevik and Mr. Becker attended the Suffolk Zone Awards Ceremony on May 6, 2015. Four of our students in grades K-6 received awards.

**Grandparent/Student Bowling Night**

Mr. Gulluscio spoke about the Grandparent/Student Bowling Night, which was held on May 5, 2015 for grades 3-5. Mr. Gulluscio also thanked Brian Becker and Rick Osmer for putting the event together.

**Distracted Driver Assembly**

Mr. Gulluscio announced an upcoming distracted driver assembly for students in grades 10-12.

**Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony**

Mr. Gulluscio mentioned that the next Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2015, at 7:00 pm, in the Auditorium. There will be nine (9) individuals and one (1) team inducted.

**Academic Administrator Report**

**PTSA Staff Appreciation Week Celebration**

Mrs. Rylott thanked the PTSA for the fabulous Staff Appreciation Week luncheon and all of the various items they provided during the week. Mrs. Rylott also thanked Maria Schultheis, of Maria's Kitchen for donating the majority of the food provided at the luncheon.

**Pre-Kindergarten Lottery**

Mrs. Rylott reported that the the Pre-kindergarten Lottery was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. There were eleven (11) applicants and six (6) openings. For those parents whose children were chosen, a final registration packet will be mailed home in June.

**Summer School**

Mrs. Rylott explained that a Summer School Survey had been sent home to parents of students in grades K-7. The survey was created to find out what type of schedule was most desirable to parents, so perhaps more students would attend the program, on a more consistent basis. The results showed that most parents want a program that runs Monday – Thursday, instead of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It also showed that parents prefer the two days of math and two days of English Language Arts, which is how it is currently running.

**Superintendent Report**

**Valedictorian/Salutatorian**

Mr. Skuggevik announced and congratulated the Class of 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Olivia Garrison and Thomas Card, respectively.

*Consent Agenda  
Business  
(continued)*

*Facility*

*Items for  
Consideration*

*Old Business*

*Director of  
Physical  
Education &  
District  
Operations  
Report*

*Academic  
Administrator  
Report*

*Superintendent  
Report*

### **ESL Teacher Interview Process**

Mr. Skuggevik stated that only nine (9) of the ESL teacher applicants had the required dual certification. Of the nine (9), only three (3) committed to an interview. One (1) teacher was put through to the demo lesson round. There is a chance the position will have to be reposted.

### **Teeny Award Nominations**

Mr. Skuggevik congratulated Olivia Garrison for her Teeny Award nomination for best supporting female in a musical and Serina Kaasik for her nomination for best leading female in a musical.

### **Locking Lobby Doors**

Mr. Skuggevik announced that going forward, the lobby doors will be locked and visitors will need to be buzzed in by the monitor. Visitors will still need to sign in and receive a pass.

### **Board Member Reports**

**Mr. Alfred Brigham, Sr.** congratulated all who received tenure.

**Ms. Elizabeth Melichar** mentioned that the Policy Committee would be meeting the next day.

**Mr. Mark Kanarvogel** asked Julia Martin, a student in the audience, to speak about the softball season. Ms. Martin reported that the team was undefeated and there was a senior sendoff ceremony earlier in the day.

**Ms. Linda Eklund** reported that the Wellness Committee would be meeting later in the week.

**Ms. Marilyn Pysher** spoke about a film on substance abuse that Peter Waldner produced for Communities that Cares. The film will premiere on May 28, 2015, at 7:00 pm, in the school auditorium. The trailer for the film is on the school website, school Facebook page and the Town website. Ms. Pysher shared that it is a very powerful film and she encouraged all students in grades 7-12, parents, and community members to attend the premiere. Ms. Pysher also mentioned that she will be hosting her annual tea for the girls in the Senior Class. This is an intimate gathering where the girls who graduated last year, give college advice to the girls who are graduating this year. The tea will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at 3:00 pm.

### **Student Liaison Report**

#### **League of Women Voters – Iron Jawed Angels**

Ms. Elizabeth Dunning shared that on April 24, 2015, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade classes attended a viewing of Iron Jawed Angels, at the Shelter Island Public Library. The event was hosted by The League of Women Voters who also provided lunch and snacks. Ms. Dunning reported that it was an inspirational movie and it portrayed just how intense the road was for women to earn the right to vote.

#### **National Honor Society - Habitat for Humanity House Build**

Ms. Dunning reported that on April 25, 2015 members of the National Honor Society attended a Habitat for Humanity House Build in Orient. Ms. Dunning mentioned that the gentleman who would be living in the house was there working side by side with the students, and added that having him there made it that much more special.

#### **Prom 2015**

Ms. Dunning mentioned that the Prom was held on May 2, 2015, at the Ram's Head Inn. It was hosted by the Class of 2016 and the theme was Roaring Twenties. Ms. Dunning reported that it was well attended and everyone had a good time.

#### **Scholarship Blood Drive**

Ms. Dunning spoke about a Scholarship Blood Drive that was hosted by Haley Sulahian, a member of the Senior Class. Over 30 pints of blood were collected at the drive and Ms. Sulahian received a \$250 college scholarship for her efforts. On Haley's behalf, Elizabeth thanked everyone who donated blood, as well as the student volunteers who helped throughout the day.

#### **Upcoming Broadway Field Trip**

*Superintendent  
Report  
(continued)*

*Board Member  
Reports*

*Student Liaison  
Report*

Ms. Dunning shared that the students who participate in Jazz Band, Select Choir and Suffolk County Music Educators Association (SCMEA) Festival would be attending the annual Broadway Field Trip. This year, the trip will be held on May 27, 2015 and students will see On the Town.

*Student Liaison  
Report  
(continued)*

**Student Council Car Wash**

Ms. Dunning ended her report with an announcement about a car wash that will be hosted by Student Council on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Ms. Dunning encouraged everyone to come out have their car washed.

*Visitor  
Comments*

**Visitor Comments**

Ms. Katie Springer, along with two other parents, spoke about the petition for transportation to Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School that was submitted and rejected by the Board of Education. Ms. Springer gave each Board Member a packet of information outlining the number of students who attend Our Lady of the Hamptons, the mileage from Shelter Island School to Our Lady of the Hamptons, the time and cost of commuting for families, an overview of Catholic Schools and an outline of why the original petition had been rejected. Along with the two other parents, Ms. Springer asked the Board of Education to reconsider placing this item on the May 19, 2015 ballot.

Dr. Stephen Gessner explained that he appreciated Ms. Springer's efforts at this petition, but the District has to follow legal counsel and the Board was advised that the correct procedure was not followed. Dr. Gessner explained it was too late for anything to be added to the ballot at this time, but it would certainly be considered for next year's ballot if everything is submitted correctly.

Ms. Linda Eklund suggested that the petition be submitted earlier than 60 day prior to the vote. This would allow time for legal counsel to review and if anything is missing or incorrect, the Board of Education could pass the feedback to Ms. Springer for correction, before the final due date. Mr. Skuggevik also offered up the same suggestion.

At this time, Dr. Gessner thanked the parents for coming and presenting their ideas and documentation.

*Adjournment*

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Elizabeth Melichar, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

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Jacqueline Dunning  
District Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, June 15, 2015, at 7:00 pm, in the Conference Room.