

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

**SPECIAL MEETING
April 20, 2015**

Members Present: Stephen Gessner, Thomas Graffagnino, Elizabeth Melichar, Marilyn Pysher, Linda Eklund, and Alfred Brigham Sr.

Others Present: Leonard Skuggevik, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Academic Administrator; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Physical Education/District Operations; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; Donald Hoffman, Cullen & Danowski (left at 7:10 pm), 5 faculty/staff/ student and 2 community resident/other

Absent: Mark Kanarvogel; and Elizabeth Dunning, Student Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 pm by President Gessner.

A motion was by made by Marilyn Pysher, seconded by Thomas Graffagnino, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into an executive session at 6:20 pm to discuss the employment of particular individuals in the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

The budget presentation began at 7:10 pm, 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 Discussion

Mr. Leonard Skuggevik explained the changes in the budget that took place since the last meeting. Overall, the budget to budget increase and tax levy were each decreased by 2%. The Energy Performance Contract and Bond Principle were taken out of the budget, as the work would not be begin until the following year. Ms. Linda Eklund voiced concern about our fragile heating system and wanted to make sure there was enough money in the plant/maintenance equipment budget lines to take care of any unforeseen problems with the system. Mr. Michael Dunning explained that the system is currently in need of repair and that money has been budgeted.

Dr. Stephen Gessner shared that approximately \$300,000.00 was reduced from the original budget presented to the Board of Education and he cannot imagine finding any other reductions.

Ms. Linda Eklund thanked the teachers for working very hard on finding reductions that could be made. Ms. Eklund also acknowledged the Business Office personnel for all of their hard work throughout the budget process.

As this was Ms. Marilyn Pysher’s last budget workshop as a Board of Education member, she pleaded with the remaining members to please take a hard look at field trips in the future, specifically the Disney trip which costs the district approximately \$8,000.

Visitor Questions

Mr. Brian Becker, Shelter Island Faculty Association President, asked if the Board was anticipating to take any money from the Fund Balance. Dr. Gessner explained that we would be using a lot less than

Call to Order

Executive Session

Mission Statement

Budget Discussion

Visitor Questions

was originally anticipated, but a lot more than we used last year. Based on this information, Mr. Thomas Graffagnino mentioned that it may be another year or two before we need to pierce the tax cap.

Mr. Becker applauded the members of the Board of Education for their support of program and asked if there was anticipation of any money going back into the Fund Balance at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Skuggevik explained that he anticipates there will not be any money going back into the Fund Balance at the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Ms. Laura Leever, teacher, pointed out that we have added programs, classes, and personnel over the past few years, and she was wondering if there was any anticipation of cuts this year. Mr. Skuggevik assured her that there wouldn't be any cuts this year. Dr. Gessner did point out that the reality is next year, everything will be on the table. Elizabeth Melichar pointed out that everyone has to look at everything – parents included. Ms. Melichar used the Driver's Education Program as an example, supporting the idea that in the future this should become a program paid for by parents. Ms. Kathleen Lynch, parent, suggested that perhaps we can look into sharing this type of program with another district.

Ms. Linda Eklund closed the discussion, stating that in future years, she would like to see the Board of Education, Administration and the Faculty to meet and go through the budget together, line by line. Ms. Eklund believes this would be the most efficient and effective way to create a budget. Other Board of Education members agreed.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Thomas Graffagnino, seconded by Marilynn Pysher, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 6:30 pm, in the Conference Room.

*Budget
Discussion
(continued)*

Adjournment