

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

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
July 14, 2009

Members Present: Rebecca Mundy, Thomas Graffagnino, Kathleen Reilly, Mark Kanarvogel, Linda Eklund, Kenneth Lewis, Jr.

Members Absent: Stephen Gessner; Sam Schneider, School District Business Leader,

Others Present: Superintendent, Sharon Clifford; Assistant Superintendent, Donna Guiffre; District Clerk, Deborah Vecchio; Jake Williams and Cara Loriz, Shelter Island Reporter; 10 community members and 4 staff/faculty members

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Mundy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Call To Order

Ms. Rebecca Mundy thanked the parents of the Class of 2014 for coming and for the letters received regarding their concerns.

A discussion was held regarding the concerns and questions parents have as to whether or not the district should accelerate the incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in math. By placing students in an accelerated program, parents are concerned with the students' ability to succeed and their readiness for such a program. Parents also asked why this is being promoted for all students, and do the students really need to be on such a fast track. Mrs. Clifford stated when you raise expectations, students meet those expectations with support. She also discussed using AIS (Academic Intervention Services) for mastery, not just helping students to pass. She also stated that if there is a strong concern for a regular section of math, she will make a section if she has to.

Ms. Melanie Matz, parent, commented that Mrs. Sharon Gibbs, Earth Science teacher, has done a phenomenal job with the Earth Science program and suggested to the administration that they make the model the same for the math program and apply it. Mrs. Sharon Gibbs did propose adding a math lab on top of the regular class to work on skills and added that there would be common planning with the HS Math faculty to offer additional support. Mrs. Gibbs stated that this class needs transitioning, and she is not in favor of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade being kept in the elementary school. This is our moment to support them. Mrs. Virginia Gibbs, MS Math teacher, also suggested offering a period and a half of math instruction everyday.

Ms. Rebecca Mundy stated that the Board had discussed the change in the math curriculum last summer. Ms. Linda Eklund said perhaps it should have been brought to the parents for discussion sooner. Ms. Debbie Ross, parent, stated that the parents need to be part of the solution and suggested a meeting with the board, administration, faculty, and a math staff developer.

Ms. Linda Eklund stated that she would like to see a more concrete plan from the administration for the next Board of Education meeting. Ms. Rebecca Mundy would also like administration and faculty to discuss a regular 8<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum. Mr. Ken Lewis commented that he will try to do everything in his power to make the last 4 years the best the Board of Education can; however, the district has to be consistent with every class from here on out and work on the model.

At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Sharon Gibbs, for the record, stated that the elementary teachers are dedicated, professional people that are very capable. This statement was in response to a comment made earlier in the meeting by a parent who stated that this 8<sup>th</sup> grade class has always had change and chaos since they entered school in kindergarten.

A motion was made by Kenneth Lewis, Jr., seconded by Kathleen Reilly, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Deborah Vecchio  
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, August 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.







