

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

SPECIAL MEETING
August 5, 2009

- Members Present: Rebecca Mundy, Thomas Graffagnino, Kathleen Reilly, Mark Kanarvogel, Kenneth Lewis, Jr., Stephen Gessner
- Members Absent: Linda Eklund; Superintendent, Sharon Clifford; Sam Schneider, School District Business Leader
- Others Present: Assistant Superintendent, Donna Guiffre; District Clerk, Deborah Vecchio; Cara Loriz, Shelter Island Reporter; 3 community members and 2 staff/faculty members

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Mundy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Call To Order

Item For Consideration –

Item For
Consideration

Ms. Rebecca Mundy stated that the Board of Education decided to add this special meeting the day after the July 14th meeting. She also stated that the administration had evaluated and gathered facts about the 8th Grade Math program and those facts were sent to the Board of Education on July 21st. Ms. Mundy asked the Board to view their concerns regarding the offering of both a Grade 8 Math program and a Regents Algebra program with a Math lab component for Grade 8. Ms. Mundy stated that time is of the essence and staff needs to know their schedules so they can plan curriculum. Ms. Donna Guiffre stated if the Board of Education wants to make a decision on this at the August 17th Board meeting, that would be fine.

Ms. Guiffre further stated that both the Grade 8 Math program and Regents Program would be taught the same period so that if a student needed help, there would be more resources available to get that help. Ms. Ginny Gibbs will help parents decide which Math program their child is best suited for, and she will give help and support when needed.

The Board of Education had further concern about tracking and whether this would continue into high school. Ms. Donna Guiffre said there would be no tracking. The district would be providing assistance in helping the student decide which Math class they would be best suited for.

The Board of Education at their meeting of July 14 discussed bringing the Math consultant to the meeting of August 17th. Ms. Guiffre had a discussion with the consultant, who knows the caliber of program and staff, and he feels

confident that the two programs can be done and is appropriate. The consultant is also available to attend the August 17th meeting if needed. A parent in the audience did state that a lot of parents were not aware of this meeting, and that their concern is real. The Board decided to bring the consultant to the meeting of August 17th.

Item For
Consideration
(con't)

A motion was made by Ken Lewis, Jr., seconded by Kathleen Reilly, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves to bring the Math consultant to the Board of Education meeting of August 17, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval to
bring Math
consultant to
BOE Mtg.

The Board of Education further discussed the role of the Math consultant at the August 17th board meeting. It was stated that he will be objective, address the pro's and con's, and he will be able to answer any questions the parents have regarding the 2 math classes. He will accommodate the district however we want.

After proposing the two Math 8 sections, Ms. Guiffre had a discussion with the parent who suggested bringing the Math consultant to the August 17th meeting, and she said what Ms. Guiffre proposed was fair. One Board of Education member does not want two sections and proposes keeping everyone in Math 8.

The Board of Education members present did agree to have both math classes and would like a letter to go home to those parents so that they can get some feedback to streamline the meeting of August 17th. If the administration receives negative feedback from the parents, then the Math consultant will be needed for the meeting of August 17th. It was suggested that the administration and the parents have a meeting to discuss the program with no Board of Education present. Ms. Guiffre will get started with administering the program for the upcoming school year.

A motion was made by Stephen Gessner, seconded by Mark Kanarvogel, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves the administration to put in place, for the 2009-2010 school year, a Math 8 and an Algebra I course of study.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval of a
Math 8 &
Algebra I course
of study

A motion was made by Ken Lewis, Jr., seconded by Thomas Graffagnino, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education voted to go into executive session at 7:40 p.m. regarding a specific personnel matter.

Motion carried unanimously

Executive
Session

The Board came out of executive session at 9:05 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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.

