

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

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
September 14, 2009

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Superintendent, Sharon Clifford; Assistant Superintendent, Donna Guiffre; District Clerk, Deborah Vecchio; Sam Schneider, School District Business Leader; Ted Hills, Shelter Island Reporter; 26 community members and 16 staff/faculty/students were present

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Mundy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Call To Order

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Kathleen Reilly, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves to go into executive session at 7:31 p.m. for the purpose of a specific personnel matter. Executive Session  
Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Thomas Graffagnino, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves to adjourn executive session at 8:16 p.m. and reconvene the special meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously

A statement was made by Rebecca Mundy that Visitor's Comments will be no more than 2 minutes in length and the person will be told when their time is up.

**Visitor's Comments –**

A. Ms. Judy Card asked the board to re-consider their decision not to appoint Jennifer Rylott and to look at all of the options that are available and think about what the right decision would be. Visitor's Comments

B. Ms. Jeannette Payne asked the board if they received the signed petition. Ms. Mundy responded yes.

C. Mr. Andy Payne asked the board if the community will have a chance to speak at the end of the meeting. He also asked if the Board can concisely tell him what the motivation was to deny the position to Jennifer Rylott.

D. Ms. Mary Boeklen stated that she would like the board to change their mind, and parents and kids want the Board of Education to re-consider also. This is the students' chance to take steps to the next level. Ms. Rylott is the person for that, and the parents feel the same way.

Visitor's  
Comments  
(con't)

E. Ms. Liz Lechmanski seconds Judy Card's request to re-consider. She implores the Board of Education to re-consider on behalf of parents and students.

F. Ms. Jeannette Payne asked about 5<sup>th</sup> grade balanced literacy and who is going to train the new teacher. She commented she feels sorry for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Ms. Jennifer Rylott wrote the curriculum for the Middle School.

G. Ms. Kyle Karen stated that it is a big job teaching ELA, and the district needs a teacher with experience. The Board of Education is obligated to find someone with the same experience.

H. Mr. Andy Payne stated it is astonishing to him that the board cannot see the tremendous job Mrs. Clifford has done. It is a gigantic mistake.

I. Ms. Fokine commented that she has 2 children in the school with Ms. Rylott, and it is a shrouded mystery that Ms. Rylott wants to take the next step and the door was slammed shut. Ms. Fokine is upset because she does not have all of the information she needs.

**Correspondence –**

Correspondence

A. Ms. Rebecca Mundy stated the board received a petition consisting of 105 signatures. The Board also received correspondence from Mary Boeklen, Kyle Karen, and Lee Oliver regarding the same request for the board to re-consider moving Ms. Rylott.

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Kenneth Lewis, Jr., BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby appoints Logan Kingston as an English Language Arts teacher assigned to grades 5, 6, & 7, effective September 15, 2009, at a salary of \$62,470, Step 5MA, of the teacher salary scale with a 3-year probationary period through September 15, 2012, in the tenure area of Elementary Education, pending receipt of transcripts.

Appointment of  
L. Kingston,  
English  
Language Arts

Motion carried, Rebecca Mundy opposed

**Visitor's Comments –**

A. Ms. Lee Oliver commented to the Board that the way things have been handled is inconsistent and not in the best interests of children. She also stated that the Board of Education and the school never have all of the information. This is why she sends letters to the paper. Ms. Oliver also stated that the children have experienced disruption now in the Middle School, and it is difficult for a parent to figure out what to do with their child.

Visitor's  
Comments

B. Ms. Barbara Brigham commented that since the Board has not appointed Ms. Jennifer Rylott to the Middle School, one must assume they have information on Jennifer Rylott that they do not want the public to know. She stated that it must be so terrible and maybe one must open their eyes and see what you are telling us.

A motion was made by Mark Kanarvogel, seconded by Thomas Graffagnino, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves to go into an executive session at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of a specific personnel matter.

Executive  
Session

Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Kathleen Reilly, seconded by Linda Eklund, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns executive session at 10:37 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

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

Adjournment

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 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, September 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.







