

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

**WORK SESSION
BUDGET MEETING
March 31, 2009**

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

Members Absent: Kaitie McGayhey, Student Liaison

Others Present: Superintendent, Sharon Clifford; Assistant Superintendent, Donna
Guiffre; District Clerk, Deborah Vecchio; School District Business
Leader, Sam Schneider; Jake Williams from the Shelter Island Reporter; 8
community members, 18 staff/faculty/students

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Mundy, followed
by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call To Order

Presentation –

Presentation

Ms. Rebecca Mundy stated that since the last meeting, the budget document changed a little bit after a few suggestions and is still a working document. Ms. Mundy asked the Board of Education to look at each page of the draft proposed budget and ask any questions they have. Ms. Mundy said that the document presented to the Board does not have any major contingency figure in it, and she would like the Board to review the 5 different contingency options placed before them. Ms. Mundy opened it up for discussion.

Mrs. Clifford pointed out that on the right hand side of the proposed budget document, Mr. Schneider added a “component” column, which explains what part of the budget the account code falls under, such as administrative, program, or capital. Ms. Mundy commented that on the last page of the budget, the percentage increase was 1.55% with no contingency.

As the Board of Education reviewed the budget document, there was a dialogue regarding how much contingency to add to the budget. Mr. Williams would like to review the history of the district, and also suggested that the board look at the prior years’ budget and take an average. He would like to keep as much money in the taxpayers pocket until such time as to fix any bumps that come up along the way. Mrs. Clifford asked the board what level of risk do they want to take. The district cannot handle special situations with this budget as it stands now.

Mr. Williams and Ms. Mundy are comfortable with a \$150,000 contingency line added to the budget. Mr. Williams also commented that it is good that this is a bare bone budget, although adding the \$150,000 contingency raises the percentage increase, year to year, to 5.6%. This is not the environment for this percentage increase.

Ms. Mundy asked the Board if they had any comments on any other contingency amount and also asked what goal is the board looking for in a percentage increase. Mr. Kanarvogel, Ms. Eklund, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Lewis all agreed on no more than 3%. Mr. Lewis stated that the Board should look historically at the contingencies and take a chance, and that the board has a lot more work to do. He also commented that other avenues might not have been explored yet. Mr. Kanarvogel asked how much would have to be pulled out of the budget to reduce the percentage from 5.6% to 3.0%. Approximately \$223,000 would have to be removed, and Mr. Williams feels there are a few tools to work with to reduce this number. Ms. Eklund stated she does not want to look at a number or a percentage, if the board gets there, that's great.

To reduce the budget, Mrs. Clifford stated that the Board of Education brought to her attention the idea of moving the 5th grade back to the Middle School. She feels that this is a very viable possibility, but wants the opportunity to talk to the parents and the faculty. Another option is to reduce the transportation line by \$44,000. April 1st is the deadline for submitting transportation requests. Ms. Donna Guiffre also commented that under the stimulus plan, special education, under IDEA, is to receive \$30,000, which can be used to offset a salary. Mrs. Clifford said that these three things are a good start; however, Mr. Williams commented that they can go further.

The Board of Education briefly discussed moving the 5th grade back to the Middle School. Mr. Williams asked how it would affect the program, and what about the student's social maturization. Mrs. Clifford responded by saying that she asked the Middle School for a plan and has already spoken with 2 of the Middle School teachers. In reading – balanced literacy, moving the students back would give them an extra block and would utilize the 3 ELA teachers more efficiently. Mrs. Sharon Gibbs, Middle School science teacher, also stated that some pieces are already set up (ex. science, gym, recess) and the social piece is not as big of an issue.

The discussion continued regarding the budget. The Board of Education commented that if you strip the budget too much, parents will send their children elsewhere. Other thoughts on cutting the budget included isolating the sports program and keeping core sports only, eliminating the social worker, and cutting conferences and travel for the Board of Education. Mr.

Williams would like to see the mechanics of a contingent budget. Mrs. Clifford will provide the board with the formula for a contingent budget. Ms. Mundy repeated the suggestions to reduce the budget. These include moving the 5th grade back to Middle School, reducing transportation, the social worker, conference & travel for the Board of Education and administration, revenue projection regarding IDEA, appropriated fund balance, adding the \$150,000 contingency in, and the mechanics of the contingent budget.

Presentation
(con't)

Some visitor's questions & comments included the social worker, the student tablet program, and conference and travel.

The Board of Education had one item of business as follows:

A motion was made by Thomas Graffagnino, seconded by Mark Kanarvogel, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby rescinds the resignation, for retirement purposes, of Phyllis Power, Music Teacher, effective March 31, 2009.

Rescind the
resignation of
Phyllis Power

Motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Linda Eklund, seconded by Arthur Williams, to go into executive session for a specific personnel issue at 8:37 p.m.

Executive Session

Motion carried unanimously

The Board of Education came out of executive session at 9:21 p.m.

A motion was made by Thomas Graffagnino, seconded by Arthur Williams, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Deborah Vecchio
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

