

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

**REGULAR MEETING
February 13, 2023**

Members Present: Kathleen Lynch, Katherine Rossi-Snook, Tracy, McCarthy, Dawn Hedberg, Karina Montalvo, and Anthony J. Rando

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Lionardo Napoles, Student Liaison Alternate; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; 5 faculty/staff/ student and 4 community resident/other

Absent: Margaret Colligan; Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by President Lynch.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby voted to go into an executive session at 5:01 pm to discuss the employment of a particular individual in the District.

The members of the Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 6:00 pm. President Lynch led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dawn Hedberg read the following Shelter Island School Mission Statement – Engage, Explore, Empower:

We want our students to cherish our small Island community while applying 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.

Public Hearing on Proposed Use of the 2020 Repair Reserve

At this time, President Lynch read the following:

“We will conduct a public hearing on the proposed use of the Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption. I therefore declare this hearing open at 6:04 pm. If there are no objections from my fellow Board Members, I will offer the floor to Dr. Doelger.”

Dr. Doelger explained that certain groups of citizens are entitled to property tax exemptions; such as senior citizens, members of the fire department and members of emergency medical services. Veterans are also eligible for such exemptions. The Shelter Island Town Board approved the Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption and now Shelter Island School District is doing the same. Dr. Doelger shared that eligible veterans must submit the initial exemption application form to the Town Assessor, Judith Lechmanski, noting that the deadline is March 1st of each year.

At this time, Ms. Lynch stated the following.

“Thank you, Dr. Doelger. Are there any members of the Board of Education who have questions or wish to make comments? (No questions were asked or comments made.)

President Lynch stated that she and her colleagues on the Board of Education would like to invite anyone in the public to express any comments or questions about this Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption.

Mr. Sean Clark thanked the members of the Board of Education on behalf of the veterans on Shelter Island and noted that this tax exemption is going to especially help our older veterans.

Ms. Lynch asked her colleagues on the Board if they have anything they would like to add.

Anthony J. Rando thanked the veterans in our community for their service. (There were no other Board comments.)

Seeing that no one else wishes to participate, I would like to ask for a motion to approve and/or accept the following action: 5.1”

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following:

5.1 Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a and New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b provide real property tax exemptions from various property taxes for certain classes of veterans, based on an individual property owner's service history; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District, having held a public hearing on this matter wishes to grant such exemptions to eligible property owners as per the revisions to New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a and New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby authorizes the exemptions outlined in the revisions to New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a and New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b, and such exemptions shall be applicable to school taxes in such manner as equal to the provisions set forth by the Town of Shelter Island in any and all Local Laws as adopted by the Town Board as of February 10, 2025, and that refer to New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a and New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b, including those provisions as adopted under the terms of a Local Law adopted by the Town Board on April 29, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby intends that such exemptions shall extend to Gold Star Parents as described in New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a(7); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby directs the District Clerk to notify the Assessor of the Town of Shelter Island of the adoption of this resolution in such a manner as to impact the tax rolls of 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

“I hereby declare this hearing closed at 6:08 pm and we will move on to the budget adoption and regular business portions of the meeting.”

2025-2026 Budget Presentation

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the second presentation to be held in preparation of the 2025-2026 school budget and explained that tonight’s presentation will focus on the facilities, debt service, instruction and property tax cap calculations. Topics presented by Dr. Doelger at this meeting were as follows.

- Accomplishments
- Budget Formation Process
- District Administration Budget Goals
- Operations & Maintenance of Plant
- Proposed Budget – Operations & Maintenance of Plant
- Debt Service
- Transfers to Other Funds
- Proposed Budget – Debt Service & Transfers to Other Funds
- Academic Administration & General Classroom Instruction
- Proposed Budget – Academic Administration & General Classroom Instruction
- Special Education
- Occupational Education
- Summer School
- Guidance, Counseling & Health
- Proposed Budget – Special Education, Occupational Education, Summer School, Guidance, Counseling & Health
- State Aid – An Early Look

- State Aid – Governor’s Proposal
- Property Tax Cap – What Does the Law Say?
- Will the District Need to Pierce the Cap?
- Budget – Next Steps

In closing, Dr. Doelger reviewed the schedule of the dates and topics for the remaining 2025-2026 school budget meetings, and noted that all meetings will begin at 6:00 pm, in the conference room. The schedule is as follows.

- February 25, 2025 – Budget Presentation
- March 10, 2025 – Budget Overview & Adjustments
- April 7, 2025 – Budget Adoption by the Board of Education
- May 12, 2025 – Budget Hearing at Board of Education Meeting
- May 20, 2025 – Budget Vote, 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, School Gymnasium

At this time, Dr. Doelger opened the floor to questions of which there were none.

Visitor Questions – None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following:

- 8.1 Approval of Minutes
 - a. Budget Presentation/Regular Meeting of January 13, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence – None

Student Liaison Report

Lionardo Napoles, Student Liaison Alternate shared that Student Council is currently working on sprucing up the hallways with photographs taken by students. Mr. Napoles indicated that the Student Council will meet again after Mid-Winter break.

Presentations

January 2025 Employees of the Month

Mr. Gulluscio announced the Cafeteria Staff, Catherine Davidson, Luis A. Rodas and Pamala Wood as the January 2025 Employees of the Month and presented each of them with a certificate. (Note: Pamala Wood was not present as she was not feeling well.) Mr. Gulluscio described the three of them as an amazing team and noted that when you go into the Cafeteria there are always smiles and happiness. Mr. Gulluscio noted that all three employees are hardworking and dedicated to feeding children in a happy environment.

Kathleen Lynch stated that it is a joy to have Luis in the building and that she loves how he connects with our students. When speaking about Catherine Davidson, Ms. Lynch noted that she is like a mom to everyone in the Cafeteria.

Katherine Rossi-Snook stated that from a parent perspective, she’s thrilled because her son loves the variety of menu items.

Dr. Doelger thanked Mr. Rodas and Ms. Davidson for everything they do, noting that they are a blessing to our school.

Personnel

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Personnel actions: 12.1 – 12.6

- 12.1 Additional Schedule C for the 2024-2025 School Year
 - a. Appoint Jessica King, School Play Choreographer, Level III, at \$2,141.32
- 12.2 Extra Teaching Periods

- a. Approve Maggie Manarel to teach ten (10) extra periods on a bi-weekly basis retroactively from February 3, 2025 through June 16, 2025, at a rate of \$8,068.25.
- b. Approve Janine Mahoney to teach ten (10) extra periods on a bi-weekly basis retroactively from February 3, 2025 through June 18, 2025, at a rate of \$12,072.
- c. Approve Jennifer Gulluscio to teach five (5) extra periods on a bi-weekly basis retroactively from February 3, 2025 through June 18, 2025, at a rate of \$5,880.50.
- d. Approve Debra Sears to teach five (5) extra periods on a bi-weekly basis retroactively from February 3, 2025 through June 16, 2025, at a rate of \$4,983.75.
- e. Approve Peter Miedema, to teach ten (10) extra periods on a bi-weekly basis retroactively to January 31, 2025 through June 16, 2025, at a rate of \$12,193.

12.3 Sick Days

- a. Approval to grant 9 additional sick days to Elizabeth Eklund, Elementary Teacher, for the period of February 12, 2025 through March 3, 2025, in accordance with Article XVII of the Shelter Island Faculty Association's collective bargaining agreement.

12.4 Leave Replacement

- a. Appoint Kelsey Northcote as an Elementary Teacher Leave Replacement, effective February 12, 2025 through March 3, 2025, at a salary of \$69,972, prorated to \$3,148.74, Step 1 MA of the 2024-2025 teacher salary scale.

12.5 Resignation of Personnel

- a. Deborah Vecchio, effective June 30, 2025, for the purpose of retirement

12.6 Agreement

- a. BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves the agreement between the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Ms. Jennifer Rylott; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, members of the Board of Education and Administration took the time to congratulate Deborah Vecchio on her retirement.

Ms. Kathleen Lynch referred to Ms. Vecchio as a cherished employee and stated that she was thrilled for Ms. Vecchio, although sad to see her go.

Dr. Doelger described Ms. Vecchio as one of the pillars of the District, noting that the school is forever changed because of her. Dr. Doelger stated that Ms. Vecchio's retirement is a big loss for the District, but he is very happy for Ms. Vecchio and her husband, Frank.

Mr. Gulluscio called Ms. Vecchio a great partner and friend in the Human Resources Department. Mr. Gulluscio echoed the sentiment of being happy for both Ms. Vecchio and her husband.

Ms. Rylott stated that Ms. Vecchio will be missed and she is leaving very big shoes to fill as her job is quite intricate.

Ms. Vecchio thanked everyone and stated that she will miss them all. Ms. Vecchio noted that she cannot believe twenty-five (25) years have passed already and it's really been a pleasure working at the school. Ms. Vecchio noted that she won't be going anywhere soon and will be here if she is needed to help train the new person.

Program

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Program actions: 13.1 – 13.3

13.1 CSE Recommendation for the 2024-2025 School Year

- a. Committee on Special Education

13.2 Policies to Be Deleted

- a. Policy 3120 – Relations with the Municipal Governments (addressed in another policy)
- b. Policy 3130 – Senior Citizens (addressed in another policy)
- c. Policy 3273 – Soliciting Funds from School Personnel (addressed in another policy)

13.3 School Calendar – 2025-2026

- a. Approval of the Shelter Island District’s School Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year

Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Katherine Rossi-Snook reminded everyone that the school calendar is driven by BOCES so there is very little room for making changes.

Finance

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Finance actions: 14.1 – 14.2

14.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer’s Report – November 2024
- b. Treasurer’s Report – December 2024
- c. Extra Class Report – November 2024
- d. Extra Class Report – December 2024
- e. Appropriations Status Report
- f. Revenue Status Report
- g. Claims Audit Report – December 2024
- h. Claims Audit Report – January 2025
- i. Payroll Audit Report – December 2024
- j. Payroll Audit Report – January 2025

14.2 Budget Transfers & Journal Entries

- a. Accept and approve the Budget Transfers and Journal Entry Reports for the period of January 8, 2025 through February 5, 2025, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved, as well as the transfers that need specific Board approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

Business

A motion was made by Dawn Hedberg, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Business action: 15.1 – 15.2

15.1 Contracts

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Southampton Union Free School District of Southampton, NY, for health and welfare services. The term of said agreement shall be September 4, 2024 through June 26, 2025; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

15.2 Donation

- a. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$5,000 from the Shelter Island Educational Foundation for the Broadway Field Trip and Master Music Field Trip; and authorize an increase to the budget line of Field Trip Fees, A.2110.419.00.0000 in the same amount.
- b. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$5,000 from GENYouth, Incorporated for a milk dispenser in the cafeteria; and authorize an increase to the budget line of Food Service Equipment, C.2860.200.00.0000 in the same amount.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Lynch thanked the Shelter Island Educational Foundation for their generous donation to fund two (2) music department field trips.

Mr. Gulluscio thanked The Dairy Association and the New York Jets for the \$5,000 grant that will allow our District to buy a bulk milk dispenser. Mr. Gulluscio explained that there has been an issue getting small, individual containers of

milk and the solution to this problem was to get a bulk milk dispenser. The grant from The Dairy Association and the New York Jets will now allow us to make this purchase.

Facility

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Facility action: 16.1

16.1 Excessing Equipment

- a. DELL 2700 Heat Computer – Shelter Island Serial #20190025 (replaced with existing equipment)

Motion carried unanimously.

Items for Consideration - None

Old Business - None

Director of Athletics, Physical, Health, Wellness & Personnel

Mr. Gulluscio congratulated the High School Winter Teams on a great season and thanked the cheerleaders for putting together a fun-filled spirit week. Mr. Gulluscio also congratulated our Seniors who were celebrated on February 1, 2025. Mr. Gulluscio shared that the Junior High Girls Basketball season is now in full swing.

Although Spring seems so far away, Mr. Gulluscio announced that the High School Spring Athletic Registration has begun and the season will begin on March 17, 2025. In closing, Mr. Gulluscio stated that earlier in the day, he emailed to parents a Dicks Sporting Goods coupon from NYSPHSAA which is valid this weekend and can be used to help reduce the cost of sporting goods for the Spring Season.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Rylott reported that she had the honor of attending the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Sunday, February 2, 2025, at the Ram's Head Inn. There were six (6) students inducted. Ms. Rylott stated that it was a very nice event and was very well attended.

Ms. Rylott spoke about the professional development with Ms. Christina Lesh of Lesh EDvantage Consulting, that took place recently. Ms. Lesh met with our preschool teachers, K-12 science department, and K-7 literacy teachers. The preschool teachers will be piloting a new preschool program in the upcoming month for consideration of possible adoption for the 2025-2026 school year. The K-12 science department reviewed state test scores and Regents exams to see trends in data and they will be using this information as part of their curriculum review. The K-7 literacy teachers reviewed their pacing with our literacy curriculum to ensure they were on par to finishing out the year.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Doelger once again acknowledged that Deborah Vecchio is retiring and he noted what a great loss this is to the District. The rest of Dr. Doelger's report consisted of the following.

- Spirit Week was held January 20 – January 24, 2025. The week culminated with a Pep Rally during 9th period. Dr. Doelger congratulated the cheerleaders and student council for making it such a fun week.
- The January Faculty Meeting was held on January 22nd. Dr. Doelger presented building updates. Mr. Gulluscio presented on the new interactive cafeteria menu and the new Life Vac units throughout the building. Mr. Brigham presented our security plan that was presented at the last Board of Education meeting, and Ms. Rylott presented on the upcoming State testing.
- The District-Wide book talk on The Anxious Generation was held on January 23, 2025. The group consists of administrators, teachers and parents. If anyone is still interested in joining, there are extra copies of the book available.
- In follow up to the Pool Committee that presented at a Board Meeting earlier in the year, Dr. Doelger shared with the public that the District attorney informed him that the only way for the deal to work with the committee would be for us to sell the property to them at fair market value.
- Senior Day and the National Honor Society Induction took place the weekend before last. Dr. Doelger was travelling so he thanked both Mr. Gulluscio and Ms. Rylott for attending the events on his behalf.

- The National Honor Society Souper Bowl raised over five hundred (500) cans of nonperishable food for the local food pantry. Also, the National Honor Society had a Habitat for Humanity house build this Saturday which I as was very happy to attend.

In closing, Dr. Doelger spoke about the busy week ahead – on Tuesday, there’s a PTSA meeting; Wednesday, a Summer Activities Fair; and Thursday, the Elementary Play (Annie, Jr.). Dr. Doelger included a reminder that the District is closed next week for Mid-Winter Break.

Board Member Reports

Mr. Anthony Rando thanked Deborah Vecchio for everything she has contributed to the school and wished her well in retirement.

Ms. Karina Montalvo told Ms. Vecchio that she is sad to see her go, but she’s also so happy for her.

Ms. Dawn Hedberg thanked Ms. Vecchio and noted how she wears many hats. Ms. Hedberg wished Ms. Vecchio well in retirement.

Ms. Tracy McCarthy gave Ms. Vecchio a big congratulations. Ms. McCarthy admitted she was surprised to hear she was retiring, but that she is very happy for her.

Ms. Katherine Rossi-Snook stated that she did not realize Ms. Janine Mahoney was responsible for all of the great fundraisers like the Sneaker Drive and the Souper Bowl. She stated that these are some of her favorite events.

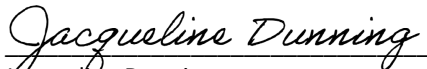
Visitor Comments – None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.



Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

There is a Budget Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.