

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

**BUDGET ADOPTION/REGULAR MEETING
April 7, 2025**

Members Present: Kathleen M. Lynch, Katherine Rossi-Snook, Margaret Colligan, Dawn Hedberg 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; Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison; 4 faculty/staff/ student and 2 community resident/other

Absent: Tracy McCarthy and Karina Montalvo

Executive Session

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby voted to go into an executive session at 5:03 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 6:01 pm. President Lynch led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Anthony J. Rando read the following Shelter Island School Mission Statement – Engage, Explore, Empower:

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

2025-2026 Budget Presentation

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget Presentation and stated that after his presentation the Board of Education would vote to adopt the proposed budget. The topics presented were as follows.

- Accomplishments
- AP Platinum Designation
- Budget Formation Process
- District Administration Budget Goals
- Qualified for \$250,000 Funding for Security Upgrade
- Why Does the District Need to Pierce the Cap?
- The Budget Recommended for Adoption
- Revenue Budget
- Impact Estimates
- What Else is on the Ballot?

Dr. Doelger also reviewed some important dates and noted that absentee ballots can be obtained by calling District Clerk Jacqueline Dunning. The specific dates Dr. Doelger reviewed are as follows.

- May 12, 2025 – Budget Hearing at Board of Education Meeting
- May 20, 2025 – School 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.

President Lynch thanked Dr. Doelger and all who worked so diligently on the 2025-2026 budget.

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Actions: 5.1

5.1 2025-2026 School Budget and 2025-2026 School Property Tax Report Card

- a. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District adopts the proposed budget as presented for the 2025-2026 school year in the total amount of

*Call to Order
& Executive
Session*

*Pledge of
Allegiance*

*Mission
Statement*

*Budget
Presentation*

\$13,855,325 to be presented to the public at a budget hearing on May 12, 2025 and subject to approval of the voters on May 20, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Property Tax Report Card for the 2025-2026 school year be approved.

Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Anthony J. Rando commended the District on not piercing the tax cap in the past ten (10) years. Mr. Rando noted that costs have increased over time and it's amazing we have been able to stay under the cap for so long. Unfortunately, we need to pierce the tax cap this year in order to keep programming at the high-level it's at. Our school is providing a great product for the students and our students are the future of our community. It's an investment and well worth it.

Visitor Questions - None

Consent Agenda

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

7.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. Budget Overview/Regular Meeting of March 10, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

President Lynch acknowledged an email containing letters from five (5) ESBOCES Board Candidates seeking re-election and two emails from a Community Member regarding employee benefits.

Student Liaison Report

Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison thanked Mr. James Theinert and Mr. Sean Brennan for elevating Student Council this year. Mr. Weslek shared that the Student Council is going to print and hang photos that students have taken, as a way to spruce up the hallways. Mr. Weslek also reported that there will be a Field Day for students in grades 9-12 and it will be held on June 6, 2025 during periods 8 and 9.

Presentations

March 2025 Employee of the Month

Mr. Gulluscio presented the March 2025 Employee of the Month Award to Mr. Michael Dunning, our Buildings & Grounds Manager. Mr. Gulluscio stated that Mr. Dunning always goes above and beyond and can always be counted on to get the job done. Mr. Gulluscio added that Mr. Dunning has impacted the Shelter Island School in a way that is truly indescribable with his contributions in different facets of our school.

Dr. Brian Doelger described Mr. Dunning as an invaluable part of the school community. He pointed out how the Septic System project, which was a major project, was completed in two (2) months because of Mr. Dunning's experience and oversight. Anywhere else, a project of this magnitude would have taken much longer.

Ms. Kathleen Lynch stated that Mr. Dunning always goes above and beyond whether it's in his position at the school or as volunteer coach.

Ms. Katherine Rossi-Snook referred to Mr. Dunning as the "School Dad." She further explained this title as he can be trusted to make the best choices and to fix things before anyone else even notices they need to be done.

Ms. Margaret Colligan congratulated Mr. Dunning and stated this recognition is well deserved.

Mr. Anthony Rando congratulated Mr. Dunning and stated that Mr. Dunning is very deserving of this recognition.

NYC Trip

Mr. James Theinert reported about the recent field trip to New York City for students in grades 9-12. Mr. Theinert explained that this trip used to be a long-standing tradition in the district, but had taken a hiatus for several years. The tradition was started up again last school year. The 9th grade students visited the American Museum of Natural History and Rise New York. The 10th grade visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center. The 11th grade visited the USS Intrepid, explored Vessel, walked the High Line

*Budget
Presentation
(continued)*

*Visitor
Questions*

*Consent
Agenda –
Minutes*

Correspondence

*Student
Liaison
Report*

Presentations

and visited Little Island. The 12th grade class visited the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and One World Observatory. The idea of this annual trip is that by the time a student graduates, they will have had four (4) different New York City experiences.

Dr. Doelger shared that the day after the trip, the students and adult chaperones who attended were on Cloud 9. Dr. Doelger complimented Mr. Theinert on doing such a great job resurrecting and organizing the New York City field trip.

Externship Program Update

Mr. James Theinert reported that this is year two (2) of the Externship Program and he is happy to report that there have been no repeat experiences/opportunities. Mr. Theinert shared a list of partners in this year's program. Included on the list were Sylvester Manor, Shelter Island Highway Department, Taylor's Island, Gardiners Bay Country Club Pro Shop, JP Morgan & North Ferry, Shelter Island Yacht Club, Shelter Island Friends of Music, Shelter Island History Museum, FoodLab at Stony Brook University – Southampton, and an internship opportunity with Susan Schrott. Mr. Theinert reported that in year two (2) of the program, he finds the community is reaching out to him more instead of him having to reach out to them. Mr. Theinert shared that he hopes to build up the program every year.

Dr. Doelger and Kathleen Lynch both thanked Mr. Theinert for bringing this unique opportunity to our students. Mr. Anthony Rando stated that the Externship Program is a great service to both our students and our community alike.

Personnel

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Anthony J. Rando BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel Actions: 11.1 – 11.7

11.1 Memorandum of Agreement

- a. Approve a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Shelter Island Faculty Association (SIFA) and the Shelter Island School District for the 2024-2025 school year, granting twenty-four (24) additional sick days as donated by members of Shelter Island Faculty Association to Elizabeth Eklund, Elementary Teacher, effective April 8, 2025; and authorize the Superintendent, and the Shelter Island Faculty Association President to execute said agreement.

11.2 Additional Substitute Teacher for the 2024-2025 School Year, at \$125 per day

- a. Stephanie Sareyani

11.3 Additional Substitute Aide for the 2024-2025 School Year, at \$110 per day

- a. Leah Weir, pending fingerprint clearance

11.4 Home Instruction

- a. Approve Sean Brennan for Secondary Level Home Instruction for 1.5 hours per day, 7.5 hours per week, at a rate of \$75.10 per hour, not to exceed 15 hours
- b. Approve Lynne Colligan for Secondary Level Home Instruction for 1.5 hours per day, 7.5 hours per week, at a rate of \$75.10 per hour, not to exceed 15 hours

11.5 Leave of Absence

- a. Approve a medical leave absence for Walter Brigham, III, from March 11, 2025 through April 9, 2025.

11.6 Vote Chairperson

- a. Appointment of Kathleen M. Lynch, President, Board of Education, as the chairperson for the Annual Meeting/Budget Vote on May 20, 2025.

11.7 Poll Workers for Annual Meeting/Budget Vote on May 20, 2025 at a rate of \$148.50 per day

- a. Angela Corbett
- b. Lew Corbett
- c. Lois Corbett
- d. Shirley Ferrer

Motion carried unanimously.

*Presentations
(continued)*

*Consent
Agenda --
Personnel*

At this time, Mr. Gulluscio thanked Stephanie Sareyani for filling in as Catherine Brigham's leave replacement and he noted that everyone is thrilled Stephanie wants to come back as a substitute teacher.

*Consent
Agenda –
Program*

Program

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Program Action: 12.1 – 12.3

12.1 CSE Recommendation for the 2025-2026 School Year

- a. Committee on Special Education

12.2 First Reading of Policy Revisions

- a. Policy 3410 – Code of Conduct
- b. Policy 3420 – Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District
- c. Policy 4212 – Organizational Chart
- d. Policy 5110 – Budget Planning and Development
- e. Policy 5140 – Administration of the Budget

12.3 Amend Motion

- a. Amend the motion of November 12, 2024 from:

The Board President requests a motion to approve Prom 2025 to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm, at 1901 Grill located at Goat Hill Golf Course.

to:

The Board President requests a motion to approve Prom 2025 to be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm, at **The Ram's Head Inn**.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda –
Finance*

Finance

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Margaret Colligan, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Finance Actions: 13.1 – 13.3

13.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report – February 2025
- b. Extra Class Report – February 2025
- c. Appropriation Status Report
- d. Revenue Status Report
- e. Claims Audit Report – March 2025
- f. Payroll Audit Report – March 2025

13.2 Journal Entries

- a. Accept and approve the Journal Entries, for the period of March 5, 2025 through April 1, 2025, in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved.

13.3 F.I.T. Capital Reserve

- a. Accept two (2) payments from the Town of Shelter Island, totaling \$10,000, and authorize the District Treasurer to deposit said payments into the Capital Reserve for the F.I.T. Center (A878.1) and added to the sum held in the reserve.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda --
Business*

Business

A motion was made by Dawn Hedberg, seconded by Anthony J. Rando, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Finance Actions: 14.1 – 14.2

14.1 Private School Transportation

- a. Approval to transport twenty-five (25) students to the following private schools for the 2025-2026 school year:
 - Ross Upper School – East Hampton, NY (1 student)
 - Hayground School – Bridgehampton, NY (7 students)

- Our Lady of the Hamptons - Southampton, NY (11 students)
- Peconic Community School - Cutchogue, NY (6 students)

14.2 Contracts

- Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and CBIZ Valuation Group, of Lawrenceville, NJ, for property valuation services, including a limited onsite update service, in the amount of \$5,000, for the 2024-2025 school year, and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Facility - None

Items for Consideration - None

Old Business – None

Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel Report

Mr. Todd Gulluscio congratulated the Varsity Boys Basketball, Varsity Girls Winter Track and Varsity Boys Winter Track teams on achieving NYSPHSSA Scholar Athlete Team status. Mr. Gulluscio stated that the Spring athletics season has taken off with a couple of good wins for both our baseball and softball teams, and noted that the track teams are also doing well. Mr. Gulluscio was very pleased to announce that outdoor AED stations have been installed at the baseball and softball fields.

Mr. Gulluscio shared an outline for the school-wide Day of Gratitude. He shared the following schedule.

- Group PK/K will be doing a clean up on school grounds as well as leaving school grounds to do a service activity at the American Legion.
- Group 1/2/3 will be leaving school grounds to participate in a sidewalk chalk gratitude project by town and first responder buildings.
- Group 4/5 will be leaving school grounds to participate in a car wash for first responder vehicles.
- Group Farkas will be leaving school grounds to participate in performing music for Island senior citizens, as well as playing board games.
- Group Goff/Mahoney/Sears will be leaving school grounds to participate in a roadside clean up around the island and a food drive.
- Group Knipfing will be leaving school grounds to participate in service at Camp Quinipet.
- Group Theinert will be leaving school grounds to participate in various locations on the Island to serve local veterans.

These off-campus events will be followed by a whole-school outdoor luncheon back at the school. After lunch, Kevin Eriksen, Coordinator for Disabled Services for the New York Yankees will speak to our students and faculty about gratitude in everyday life. The day will end with writing letters of gratitude and a fun activity.

In speaking about the Cafeteria, Mr. Gulluscio shared that the new warm pretzel machine is up and running. He also shared that we aren't quite over all the hurdles yet to make it happen, but there is a possibility that the District could end up with fresh, local fish on our menu. Mr. Gulluscio has more to share on the topic at the May 12, 2025 Board of Education meeting. In closing, Mr. Gulluscio reported that there will be a free Summer School Breakfast and Lunch program available to any of our students participating in Summer School this year and for any Summer School students who don't attend the Shelter Island School, those meals will be offered at a very reasonable price.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. Jennifer Rylott reported that the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) testing will begin tomorrow, April 8, 2025 and testing for grades 6-8 will be held on April 10-11, 2025. Ms. Rylott noted that make-up exams for anyone who was absent will be given the week of April 23-25, 2025. Ms. Rylott closed her report by sharing that the English Language Learners' NYSESLAT speaking exam begins April 23, 2025, as well.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Doelger reported about the Drama Club production of Big Fish and stated how lucky he felt to be able to see it twice. Dr. Doelger went on to say it was a phenomenal production and all of the students and adults involved should be very proud.

*Consent
Agenda –
Business
(continued)*

Facility

*Items for
Consideration*

Old Business

*Director of
Athletics,
Physical
Education,
Health,
Wellness &
Personnel
Report*

*Assistant
Superintendent
Report*

*Superintendent
Report*

Dr. Doelger also shared the following.

- The New York City Trip for students in grades 9-12 took place last week and was a huge success. Adults and students all said it was great fun.
- He attended a regionalization meeting at ESBOCES and he believes the Shelter Island School District is way ahead in collaborating with other school districts, many of which are on the East End, simply because we have to be creative with our budget.
- The District posted for the District Treasurer opening and received a robust response. Dr. Doelger added that interviews will be held in late-April.
- The Math Department put together an amazing Pi Day of Math Activities and food buffet.
- This year’s Book Club met again last week and continued the discussion of cell phone usage and avoidance.
- New York State English Language Arts (ELA) Exams will be held tomorrow, April 8, 2025 through April 11, 2025.
- Spring Recess is next week, April 14, 2025 through April 21, 2025.

Board Member Reports

Mr. Anthony J. Rando thanked Michael Dunning for recently hosting the police department for one of their annual training days.

Ms. Dawn Hedberg was impressed by the fantastic Externship program as presented by James Theinert earlier in the meeting. Ms. Hedberg noted that there are so many opportunities for our students in our tiny school.

Ms. Margaret Colligan shared that she attended the Drama Club presentation of Big Fish over the weekend and it was extraordinary.

Ms. Katherine Rossi-Snook shared that she was excited about Mr. Gulluscio’s report about the possibility of fresh, local fish being served at the school.

Ms. Kathleen Lynch simply echoed everything her fellow board members already shared and she humbly asked the community for their support of the 2025-2026 budget.

Visitor Comments - None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.

*Superintendent
Report
(continued)*

*Board
Member
Reports*

*Visitor
Comments*

Adjournment