

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

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING (REVOTE)
June 9, 2025**

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

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; and 15 faculty/staff/ student and 17 community resident/other

Absent: Anthony J. Rando; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by President Lynch.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Karina Montalvo, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, 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 particular individuals 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 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 Public Budget Hearing

At this time, President Lynch read the following:

“We will now conduct a public hearing on the 2025-2026 adopted budget. I therefore declare this hearing open at 6:02 pm.

If there are no objections from my fellow Board Members, I would offer the floor to Brian Doelger, Superintendent of Schools, who will deliver a brief presentation on the budget that will go before the voters on June 17, 2025, at 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the school conference room.”

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the 2025-2026 Public Budget Hearing and presented a brief overview of the following topics.

- Accomplishments
- Shelter Island UFSD 2025-2026 Revised Proposed Expenditure Budget
- Shelter Island UFSD 2025-2026 Proposed Revenue Budget
- What is at stake on June 17?
- What would be cut in a Contingency Budget at Shelter Island UFSD?

In closing, Dr. Doelger reminded everyone to vote on June 17, 2025, from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the school conference room, and provided instructions for receiving an absentee ballot.

At this time, Ms. Lynch stated the following.

“Thank you, Dr. Doelger. The Board of Education will open the floor to public comments, but before that, are there any members of the Board of Education who have questions or wish to make comments?”

Call to Order

Executive Session

Pledge of Allegiance

Mission Statement

Public Budget Hearing

Tracy McCarthy questioned which groups of people would lose the ability to use the school if we went to a contingency budget. Dr. Doelger explained that it would encompass all outside organizations and gave a few examples – adult sports, auditorium use, Arts & Craft Fair, Bucks Baseball, FIT Center. Dr. Doelger noted that such organizations would only be allowed to use our building and grounds if they paid 100% of all costs associated with the use.

Anthony J. Rando asked Dr. Doelger what the goal was when administration looked to make suggested cuts to the failed budget. Dr. Doelger responded that they looked at things that would have the least amount of impact on people. Some examples he included were travel & conference lines, materials & supplies, professional development. Next, they looked at bigger things like field trips and athletics and ultimately, so much money needed to be cut from the original program they had no choice, but to suggest cutting the Pre-K3 program.

Ms. Lynch then asked if there were any comments from the public that they wished to make at this time.

Community member Ms. Elizabeth Galle, stated that cutting an early education program from the budget hurts the community and she asked the Board of Education to reconsider the cut. Ms. Galle also noted that by cutting the program, enrollment is lower and it looks like there are more administrators than there are students.

President Lynch responded that the budget was adopted last week and explained the tight timeline for a budget revote. Ms. Lynch also shared that she fought to bring the Pre-K3 program to the school so it is particularly crushing for her to have to cut it. Ms. Lynch hopes it will return some day. Ms. Lynch shared that a group of various community leaders will be meeting to determine if and how they may be able to help fund a program whether it be at the school or at the preschool held in the Presbyterian Church. Ms. Lynch also responded to the accusation that it looks like there are more administrators than there are students. Ms. Lynch noted that the three (3) administrators in the building each do the mandated jobs of what would be three (3) to four (4) administrators in other districts and added that a few years ago when the School Business Official left, Dr. Doelger took on that workload as well.

Student Lily Potter noted that Winter Track was canceled for next year and wanted to know if the budget went down at the re-vote, which other sports would be cut. Dr. Doelger replied that administration and the Board of Education would have to look at which sports teams would affect the least number of students and decide from there.

President Lynch asked, “Do my colleagues on the Board of Education have anything that they would like to add?”

Ms. Dawn Hedberg asked if the brainstorming session regarding how the community may be able to fund a Pre-K3 program would be a public session. President Lynch responded that the first meeting will be a committee only meeting.

Ms. Hedberg inquired about how many students were projected to attend the Pre-K3 program next year. Dr. Doelger responded that there were six (6) students expected next year.

Ms. Molly Kendall, elected to begin a Board of Education Member term on July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 explained that she had been reviewing minutes from past years and noticed that the budget put before the voters on May 20, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year was not really that much higher than what was put before and approved by the voters in 2018. Dr. Doelger stated that the school budget has increase 9% over the last six (6) years. President Lynch noted that there was even a 0% increase in 2020 because administration and the Board of Education acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic was taking a toll on our taxpayers.

At this time, parent Brett Surerus had to excuse himself from the meeting and took a moment to acknowledge how hard it is for the Board of Education to make the difficult decisions they’ve made and he thanked them for all of their hard work and dedication.

Dr. Doelger circled back to the 9% increase in school taxes over the past six (6) years and pointed out that the taxes for the Town of Shelter Island is up 40% over the same period of time. Dr. Doelger referred back to the accomplishments he reported earlier in his presentation and stated that the district turns out a very good product. Dr. Doelger also noted that special education costs fluctuate depending on the needs of our students and those are mandated programs. Dr. Doelger reiterated that the original budget piercing the tax cap put forth to the voters was a budget that would have sustained the district for the next eight (8) to ten (10) years. Unfortunately, the budget failed and cuts now needed to be made.

*Public
Budget
Hearing
(continued)*

Mr. Anthony J. Rando explained that when earlier in the meeting he asked Dr. Doelger what the goal was when administration looked to make cuts to the budget it was because he wanted the audience to know that the goal was not to simply cut the Pre-K3 program, but instead to look at everything else first. Mr. Rando noted that the revised budget is our best path forward right now and it's important that it passes because we do not want to lose anymore programs.

A parent in the audience who expected to enroll her child in the Pre-K3 program next year asked how the public would know what would be considered for cuts in the future. President Lynch responded that the budget season begins in January each year and the schedule of meetings is posted on the website – on both the calendar and the Board of Education page. Ms. Lynch added that meeting agendas and minutes are also posted on the website under the Board of Education tab. Ms. Lynch explained that there are many ways to be informed about the school noting that The Shelter Island Reporter publishes articles from all Board Meetings, information is posted on the school sign and the school has a presence on both Facebook and Instagram. Ms. Lynch added that a Budget Newsletter is mailed to every post office box holder on Shelter Island two weeks before every budget vote held in May.

Mr. James Theinert who is both a parent and teacher in the district stated that he is in favor of piercing the tax cap next year in order to bring back the Pre-K3 program.

Ms. Lynch continued the hearing by asking the public to please remember to vote on June 17 and stating polls are open from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the school conference room.

Seeing that no one else wished to participate, President Lynch hereby declared the hearing closed at 7:04 pm.

Visitor Questions (Specific to Agenda)

Community member Ms. Amanda Bartilucci who is also a member of the board for the Early Childhood Learning Center held at the Presbyterian Church entered the meeting after the public hearing and wanted to add her concern that parents may not enroll their children in the Early Childhood Learning Center now that the program ends at 11:00 am and there's isn't a continued program for the second half of the day at the school.

*Visitor
Questions*

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Margaret Colligan, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following agenda items: 7.1

- 7.1 Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025
 - b. Annual District Meeting and Election of May 20, 2025
 - c. Executive Session of May 22, 2025
 - d. Budget Revote Presentation of May 28, 2025
 - e. Budget Revote Adoption Meeting of June 2, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda –
Minutes*

Correspondence

President Lynch acknowledged a letter of thanks from the Shelter Island Country Club for signage made by Mr. Christopher Conrardy's classes.

Correspondence

Student Liaison Report - None

*Student
Liaison Report*

Presentations

Presentations

Mr. Daniel Williams along with his Science Research students Makayla Cronin, Nathan Cronin, Michael Kotula, Lily Potter and Maeve Springer presented a recap of the research they performed this school year. The projects were impressive and Mr. Williams noted that the barcoding projects this year were the best our school has had in years.

Mr. Gulluscio presented the May 2025 Employee of the Month Award to School Nurse Mary Kanarvogel. Mr. Gulluscio described Nurse Mary, as she's fondly called, as a positive light who is always found helping others and that nursing is only a small fraction of the role she plays at the school.

President Lynch surveyed past and present students to fill in the blank, "Nurse Mary is _____" and she read all of the responses she received.

Dr. Doelger shared that Nurse Mary is one of his closest advisors as she has a very good feel for the community. Dr. Doelger described her as one of his best friends at work and noted that she can never retire.

Ms. Tracy McCarthy spoke from a parent perspective. Ms. McCarthy noted that her daughter is accident prone so it's comforting to know that Nurse Mary is the person who is there to be with her child in these situations.

Ms. Margaret Colligan noted that Mary's influence, reputation, and goodness goes well beyond her time at the school.

Mr. Anthony Rando was the only Board Member who could actually say was a student in Nurse Mary's office. He described Mary's demeanor as calm and impressive.

Personnel

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 Personnel Action:

11.1

11.1 New Hire

- a. BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby approves Kathleen Springer, as 1.0 FTE PK-12 Music Teacher, effective September 1, 2025, at \$71,371, Step 1 MA of the 2025-2026 teacher salary scale with a four (4) year probationary period through September 1, 2029, in the tenure area of Music K-12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Ms. Springer must receive three (3) annual APPR composite ratings of Effective or Highly Effective, in at least three (3) preceding four (4) years and cannot have an APPR composite rating of Ineffective in the last year of her probationary appointment to be granted or considered for tenure.

Motion carried. Mr. Anthony J. Rando recused himself.

Mr. Gulluscio stated that administration is thrilled to have Kathleen Springer at the Shelter Island School.

Dr. Doelger described Ms. Springer as the perfect fit for our school.

President Lynch welcomed Ms. Springer to the Shelter Island School family.

Ms. Margaret Colligan excitedly shared that she worked with Ms. Springer in real estate many years ago and always told her she should be a teacher.

Ms. Springer stated that she is happy to be a part of the Shelter Island School and thanked Ms. Colligan for suggesting she pursue a career in teaching.

Personnel

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Anthony J. Rando BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel Action: 11.2

– 11.7

11.2 Summer 2025 Extra Duty

- a. Lisa Goody to provide extra duty, as needed, between the period of June 30, 2025 and September 1, 2025, at a rate of \$16.50 per hour.
- b. Deborah Brewer to provide extra duty, as needed, between the period of June 30, 2025 and September 1, 2025, at a rate of \$16.50 per hour.

11.3 Extra Compensation

- a. Walter C. Brigham, III to provide computer support and supervision for the period of time between July 1, 2025 and September 1, 2025, at his daily rate.
- b. Carol Euring to provide training for the new Claims Auditor, for the period of July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025, not to exceed at a rate of \$75 an hour.
- c. Alyssa Prior to provide guidance counseling services for the period of July 1, 2025 through August 29, 2025, not to exceed 10 days, at her daily rate.

11.4 Abolish Position

- a. BE IT RESOLVED that for purposes of economy, the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District has determined to abolish one full-time position within the Elementary Teacher tenure area, effective June 30, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED that Employee No. 1302, as the least senior Elementary Teacher, is hereby excessed from said position effective June 30, 2025; and be it further

RESOLVED that said excessed Elementary Teacher shall be placed on a preferred eligible list as per Education Law §3013.

11.5 Agreement

- a. Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District, hereby approves an amendment to the employment contract of Deborah Vecchio, and authorizes the Board President to sign said agreement.

11.6 Resignation of Personnel

- a. Accept the resignation of Carol Euring, Claims Auditor, effective June 30, 2025.

11.7 Childcare Leave

- a. Approve a contractual childcare leave of absence for Erin Mulrain, Physical Education Teacher, to commence on or about September 2, 2025 through September 12, 2025; with said period credited towards the employee's FMLA leave of absence.

Motion carried unanimously.

Program

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 Program Action: 12.1 – 12.5

12.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations for the 2024-2025 School Year

- a. Committee on Preschool Special Education

12.2 CPSE Recommendations for Summer 2025

- a. Committee on Preschool Special Education

12.3 504/CSE/CPSE Recommendations for the 2025-2026 School Year

- a. 504 Committee
- b. Committee on Special Education
- c. Committee on Preschool Special Education

12.4 Second Reading and Possible Adoption of Policies

- a. Policy 5672 - Info Security Breach and Notification

b. Policy 5676 - Privacy and Security

12.5 Approve Date of Re-Organizational Meeting

- a. Approve the Re-Organization Meeting date of Monday, July 14, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Katherine Rossi-Snook, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Finance Actions: 13.1 – 13.4

13.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report – April 2025
- b. Extra Class Report – April 2025
- c. Appropriation Status Report
- d. Revenue Status Report
- e. Claim Auditor's Report – April 2025
- f. Payroll Audit Report – April 2025

13.2 Journal Entries

- a. Accept and approve the Journal Entry Reports for the period of May 6, 2025 through June 3, 2025, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved.

13.3 Donation

- a. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$500 from Shelter Island PTSA, for ice cream; and authorize an increase to the budget line of A.2810.400.00.0000 in the same amount.

13.4 Budgetary Modifications

- a. BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby authorizes a budgetary modification/increase to the following budget lines in the amount, not to exceed:

A1325.160.00.0000	\$44,400.00
A9090.802.00.0000	\$5,600

to be offset by the Reserve for Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve (EBALR) pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 6-P, effective June 30, 2025.

- b. BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby authorizes a budgetary modification/increase to the following budget line in the amount, not to exceed:

A9090.802.00.0000	\$32,942.10
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to be offset by the Unexpended Budget for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

President Lynch acknowledged the donation from the Shelter Island PTSA and thanked them for bringing Mr. Softee to the school for our students.

Business

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Karina Montalvo, 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 Contracts

Consent
Agenda –
Program
(continued)

Consent
Agenda –
Finance

Consent
Agenda --
Business

- a. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approve the Contract for Cooperative Educational Services between the Shelter Island School District and Eastern Suffolk BOCES in the amount of \$347,340.20, for the 2025-2026 school year in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in said agreement; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.
- b. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education for the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Mattituck-Cutchogue Union Free School District for student services for the 2024-2025 school year; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

Consent
Agenda –
Business
(continued)

14.2 Amend Private School Transportation

- a. Amend the motion of May 12, 2025 from:

Approval to transport twenty-eight (2) students to the following private schools for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Ross School – East Hampton, NY (4 students)
- Hayground School – Bridgehampton, NY (7 students)
- Our Lady of the Hamptons - Southampton, NY (11 students)
- Peconic Community School - Cutchogue, NY (6 students)

to:

Approval to transport **thirty-one (31)** students to the following private schools for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Ross School – East Hampton, NY (4 students)
- Hayground School – Bridgehampton, NY (**9 students**)
- Our Lady of the Hamptons - Southampton, NY (11 students)
- Peconic Community School - Cutchogue, NY (**7 students**)

Motion carried unanimously.

Consent
Agenda –
Facilities

Facilities

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Margaret Colligan, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Facility Action: 15.1

15.1 Excessing of Equipment

- a. Broken Television, repair cost exceeds replacement cost – Shelter Island Serial #20240047

Motion carried unanimously.

Items for
Consideration

Items for Consideration

The members of the Board of Education discussed the *suggested* 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Dates (to be approved at the July 14, 2025 Re-org meeting). Everyone agreed to check their calendars and let District Clerk Jacqueline Dunning know if there were any conflicts.

August 25, 2025	November 10, 2025	February 9, 2026	May 11, 2026
September 15, 2025	December 8, 2025	March 16, 2026	May 19, 2026 (Tues. Budget Vote)
October 14, 2025	January 12, 2026	April 20, 2026	June 8, 2026

Old Business

Old Business - None

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

Mr. Todd Gulluscio congratulated all of the Spring teams on an amazing wrap up to the year and noted that the school hosted a Senior Day BBQ for the Baseball and Softball teams following their final home contests. Mr. Gulluscio thanked the Shelter Island PBA for providing a great bike day for our elementary students and he congratulated the Physical Education staff on a very successful elementary field day, Student Council on a great Secondary Field Day and the Cafeteria Staff on a great BBQ lunch for everyone during field day. Mr. Gulluscio reviewed the Athletic Department's calendar of events for the month of June. In closing, Mr. Gulluscio stated that Section XI is transitioning to a new web service and scheduling software and he will acclimate families to it once the transition is complete.

Dir. of
Athletics, PE,
Health,
Wellness &
Personnel
Report

Assistant Superintendent's Report - None

Assistant
Superintendent
Report

Superintendent's Report

Before starting his report, Dr. Doelger wished District Treasurer Deborah Vecchio and Board Member Katherine Rossi-Snook a fond farewell.

Dr. Doelger presented the following Senior Class stats on behalf of Guidance Counselor Ms. Alyssa Prior who couldn't attend this evening's meeting.

Senior Class 3Q GPA: 92.63

We have students attending next year, University of Notre Dame, Penn State University, Stony Brook University, University of Arizona, Adelphi University, Quinipiac University, University of Tampa, and Suffolk County Community College.

Half of our students are receiving diplomas with advanced designation. Standard Regents – 5 required Regents exams. 22 credits in various subjects. Advanced – 8 Regents, 5 unit sequence in art or CTE and World Language.

All of our seniors took 1 or more AP course.

Entrance Exam Results:

- SAT Reading and Writing
 - o National Average – 519 Shelter Island – 607
- SAT Math
 - o National Average – 505 Shelter Island – 608
- ACT Score
 - o National Average – 20.2 Shelter Island – 25.85

Dr. Doelger announced that Ms. Maryann Impastato is the new District Treasurer and Mallory Clark was hired to work in the Business Office, as well.

Dr. Doelger stated that he is very excited to fill the open music position with Kathleen Springer and the open science position with Avery Zumpol who was appointed at the June 2, 2025 meeting.

Dr. Doelger shared that he attended the Book Craft Club Author's Reception last week, noting it is one of the highlights of the school year and it was great to see all of the beautiful works created by the students. Dr. Doelger stated that Mrs. Mahoney always does a wonderful job with this club.

Dr. Doelger thanked the Shelter Island PTSA for an amazing job with the recent Book Fair and he especially thanked Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Choo for chairing the book fair and donating so much of their time.

Dr. Doelger shared that the DARE Graduation was wonderful and that both the elementary and secondary field days were a blast.

In closing, Dr. Doelger reviewed the schedule of events and Regents exams for the remainder of the school year.

Board Member Reports

At this time, President Lynch thanked Vice-President Rossi-Snook whose term ends on June 30, 2025. Ms. Lynch described Ms. Rossi-Snook as a dedicated trustee for the past six (6) years and she presented her with a Shelter Island School Varsity Letter Jacket as a gift of thanks.

Ms. Margaret Colligan congratulated Ms. Rossi-Snook and thanked her for her service on the Board.

Ms. Tracy McCarthy described Ms. Rossi-Snook as someone who is not afraid to speak her mind and stated that she is amazed by all that Ms. Rossi-Snook contributed. Ms. McCarthy added that she respects Ms. Rossi-Snook as a person, a Board Member and a professional.

Ms. Dawn Hedberg echoed all of the sentiments of those who spoke before her and described Ms. Rossi-Snook as a wonderful person with great insight.

Ms. Karina Montalvo shared that Ms. Rossi-Snook as someone she looks up to.

Mr. Anthony Rando thanked Ms. Rossi-Snook for her service and told her she will be missed.

Ms. Rossi-Snook thanked everyone for their kind words and for the gift. Ms. Rossi-Snook explained that she will still be involved and making the decision to leave was made so much easier because she knows the current members of the Board of Education have it under control. Ms. Rossi-Snook went on to report about the recent Seahorse Hotel Project she held at Shelter Island School as part of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program.

Visitor Comments – None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Karina Montalvo, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, July 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.

Board
Member
Reports
(continued)

Visitor
Comments

Adjournment