

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

**PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
May 12, 2025**

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

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Lionardo Napoles, Alternate Student Liaison; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; (too many faculty/staff/student/community residents/other to count as many family members and friends were present for the tenure appointment for five (5) teachers.)

Absent: Anthony J. Rando; Deborah Vecchio, District Treasurer; Harrison Weslek, Student Liaison

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Katherine Rossi-Snook, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby voted to go into an executive session at 5:04 pm to discuss the employment of particular individuals in the District.

The members of the Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 6:02 pm. President Lynch led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Katherine Rossi-Snook 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 6:05 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 May 20, 2025, at 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the school gymnasium.

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

- Accomplishments
- AP Platinum Designation
- District Administration Budget Goals
- 2025-2026 Proposed Expenditure Budget
- Why Does the District Need to Pierce the Cap?
- 2025-2026 Proposed Revenue Budget
- What Else is on the Ballot?

In closing, Dr. Doelger reminded everyone to vote on May 20, 2025, from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the school gymnasium, 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? (No questions or comments were made.)

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

Community Member, Christine Gallagher spoke in favor of the school and asked that Dr. Doelger and the Board of Education explain what would have to be cut if the budget failed. Dr. Doelger responded that everything that doesn't affect programs has already been trimmed from the budget so if it fails, the next step will require programmatic cuts to the budget.

Community Member, Karen Kiaer asked about the number of students being bused to private and parochial schools based on a proposition on the ballot to increase the mileage for private school transportation from 15 miles to 19 miles. Dr. Doelger responded that there are approximately twenty-eight (28) students who take the bus to private and parochial schools. Dr. Doelger went on to explain that the proposition came about because a parent of a bused student presented a petition to expand the distance. Dr. Doelger further explained that as of now, there is a student living within the 15-mile range to Our Lady of the Hamptons. However, should that student move, no one else attending that school is within the 15-mile range and therefore bussing would not have to be provided. By increasing the mileage to 19-miles, this will secure the busing for all students attending the parochial school.

Ms. Kiaer then inquired about the number of students in grades 6-12. Dr. Doelger responded, 89 students.

Do my colleagues on the Board of Education have anything that they would like to add? (Nothing was added.)

As a reminder to the public, please remember to vote on May 20. Polls are open from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm, in the school gymnasium.

Seeing that no one else wishes to participate, I hereby declare this hearing closed at 6:24 pm.”

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Tracy McCarthy, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following agenda items: 6.1 – 6.2

6.1 Ballot Propositions for May 20, 2025 Budget Vote & Election

a. Proposition 1

Shall the Shelter Island Union Free School District Budget in the amount of \$13,855,325 for the fiscal year 2025-2026 be approved as proposed and the requisite portion thereof raised by taxation on the taxable property of the district?

b. Proposition 2

Shall the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District be authorized to expend a sum not to exceed \$49,823.42 from the Project F.I.T. Capital Reserve Fund, as established on May 17, 2011 for the purpose of reconstructing the roof on the portion of the Shelter Island School commonly known as the F.I.T. Center? Since the funds to be expended hereunder are from the 2011 Project F.I.T. Capital Reserve Funds, approval of this proposition has no impact on taxes to complete this project.

c. Proposition 3

Shall the maximum mileage limitation be increased from 15-miles to 19-miles for the transportation of pupils to nonpublic schools, at no additional cost for the 2025-2026 school year?

d. Proposition 4

Shall the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District, Suffolk County, New York, authorize an annual appropriation of \$275,000.00 for operational and maintenance expenses of the Shelter Island History Museum for the fiscal year 2025-2026 and to levy the necessary tax, therefore?

6.2 Board of Education Candidates on Ballot for May 20, 2025 Budget Vote & Election

a. Kathleen M. Lynch

b. Molly Kendall

Motion carried unanimously.

Visitor Questions (Specific to Agenda) – 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 agenda items: 8.1

- 8.1 Approval of Minutes
 - a. Budget Adoption/Regular Meeting of April 7, 2025
 - b. Special Meeting of April 23, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence – None

Student Liaison Report

Lionardo Napoles, Alternate Student Liaison reported that Student Council is wrapping up the school year and elections for next year's Student Council officers will be held at the end of this school year.

Presentations

Mr. Gulluscio presented the April 2025 Employee of the Month Award to Third Grade Teacher, Mrs. Claire Geehreng. Mr. Gulluscio described Mrs. Geehreng as someone who outwardly wears her passion for teaching. She can always be found with a smile on her face and being pleasant to all she encounters. Her positive attitude is embedded in her classroom and you can see that her students are comfortable in her class because they know that she loves and support them to be their best.

Dr. Doelger stated that Ms. Geehreng is one of the kindest people he's ever met and that she's a phenomenal teacher.

Kathleen Lynch stated that Shelter Island is blessed to have Ms. Geehreng in the building and referred to her as an exceptional educator.

Katherine Rossi-Snook spoke from a parent's point of view and thanked Ms. Geehreng for taking such care to make sure every student gets it.

Margaret Colligan noted that Ms. Geehreng has the best holiday door decorations.

Ms. Geehreng thanked everyone very much for the recognition and stated that she loves teaching at the Shelter Island 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 recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Personnel Action: 12.1-12.3

- 12.1 Amend Motion
 - a. Amend the motion of February 10, 2025 from:
 - Approve an unpaid medical leave of absence for Elizabeth Eklund, effective March 4, 2025 through May 12, 2025.
 - to:
 - Approve a medical leave of absence for Elizabeth Eklund, effective March 4, 2025 through **May 2, 2025**.

- 12.2 Resignation of Personnel
 - a. Sarah Pfennig, effective June 30, 2025
 - b. Keith Wildstein, effective June 30, 2025

- 12.3 Additional Substitute Aide for the 2024-2025 School Year at \$110 per Day
 - a. Francis Regan

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel

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 Personnel Action: 12.4a

12.4a Tenure Recommendation

- a. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Lauren Farkas, in the tenure area of Music, K-12, effective September 1, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gulluscio thanked Lauren Farkas for her perseverance and always putting our students first. Mr. Gulluscio stated that what Ms. Farkas has done with the Band program is nothing short of amazing and he hasn't seen this kind of enthusiasm surrounding playing instruments in a few decades.

Dr. Doelger described Lauren Farkas as one of the hardest workers who always gives it her best. Dr. Doelger noted that the students love her and under her guidance, the concerts have been brought to a new level.

Kathleen Lynch thanked Ms. Farkas for everything she does and noted that the elementary-level plays she produces are a joy.

Lauren Farkas thanked the Board of Education and Administration. Ms. Farkas stated that she is very excited to continue working with her students at the Shelter Island School. In closing, Ms. Farkas thanked her family for supporting her.

Personnel

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 Personnel Action: 12.4b

12.4b Tenure Recommendation

- b. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Adrienne Pitch, in the tenure area of Elementary Education, K-6, effective September 1, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gulluscio thanked Ms. Pitch for being a shining light everywhere she goes. He described Ms. Pitch as a role model to not only her elementary students, but also to our high school students who see her on the sidelines cheering during all the basketball games.

Dr. Doelger described Ms. Pitch as an excellent teacher who is highly organized, a hard worker, and a problem solver. Dr. Doelger noted that every student says she's their favorite teacher and Shelter Island School is very lucky to have her.

Ms. Lynch stated that everyone has been thrilled to have Ms. Pitch at the Shelter Island School from the moment she set foot in the door. Ms. Lynch described Ms. Pitch as some one who does the hard things with love and that she is a role model to everyone.

Ms. Pitch sincerely thanked the Board of Education and Administration for believing in her. Ms. Pitch stated that she is truly honored and grateful to work with the Shelter Island Community. She thanked her family for encouraging her to try something new when she was offered a teaching position at a school where the commute involved a ferry. Ms. Pitch also thanked her colleagues for their guidance, mentorship and friendship.

Personnel

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 Personnel Action: 12.4c

12.4c Tenure Recommendation

- c. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Debra Sears, in the tenure area of English, 7-12, effective September 1, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gulluscio thanked Ms. Sears for stepping up when the District needed to fill an English teaching position. Mr. Gulluscio noted that Ms. Sears had to leave a secure position in Special Education, having to start over and she jumped at the chance. Mr. Gulluscio described Ms. Sears as a great role model to our students.

Dr. Doelger described Ms. Sears as a consummate professional, a wonderful person, teacher and friend. Dr. Doelger commended Ms. Sears for taking on the task of bringing English Language Arts into the secondary school realm.

Ms. Lynch stated that she is thrilled for the Board of Education to offer tenure to Ms. Sears for the second time. (The first time was in the area of Special Education.) Ms. Lynch shared that Ms. Sears sees the hearts of her students.

Ms. Sears stated that she is grateful to receive her second tenure at the Shelter Island School and described the school as her home away from home.

Personnel

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 Personnel Action: 12.4d

12.4d Tenure Recommendation

- d. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Kristin Sweeney, in the tenure area of Physical Education, K-12, effective September 1, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gulluscio noted that Ms. Sweeney started the new direction for the Physical Education Department and stated that the transformation she has made to the department will have a positive generational impact.

Dr. Doelger congratulated Ms. Sweeney and described her as a total professional who turned the Physical Education Department around. Dr. Doelger went on to describe Ms. Sweeney as sweet, kind, strong and hardworking and thanked her for the positive changes she has brought to the District.

Ms. Lynch stated that her involvement in the school started because she wanted to see change in the Physical Education Department. Ms. Lynch noted that Ms. Sweeney made it happen and thanked her for being a role model to everyone.

Ms. Sweeney thanked the Board of Education and Administration and stated that she is grateful to do something she loves in a place that she loves to come to every day.

Personnel

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 Personnel Action: 12.4e

12.4e Tenure Recommendation

- e. Approval of the tenure recommendation of Erin Baskin, in the tenure area of Physical Education, K-12, effective October 12, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gulluscio explained that Ms. Baskin started her Shelter Island School career as a part-time Physical Education Teacher and when the District had trouble finding a part-time English as a New Language (ENL) Teacher, she signed on to do it. Mr. Gulluscio stated that Ms. Baskin isn't afraid to try things that are hard and this teaches our students to take chances and also try hard things.

Dr. Doelger thanked Ms. Baskin for everything she does; noting that she is always happy to do anything that needs doing and that she coaches multiple sports each school year.

Ms. Lynch stated that there are people who say yes to doing everything and then become overwhelmed, but Ms. Baskin is not one of those people. Ms. Baskin is always able to do it all.

Ms. Baskin spoke of her gratitude to the Board of Education and Administration for giving her the opportunity to work at Shelter Island School and for granting her tenure. Ms. Baskin also thanked her colleagues for supporting and encouraging her and specifically thanked Ms. Kristin Sweeney and Mr. Todd Gulluscio for their teamwork and support.

Program

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Program Action: 13.1 – 13.4

- 13.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations for the 2024-2025 School Year
 - a. Committee on Preschool Special Education
 - b. Committee on Special Education
- 13.2 CSE Recommendations for the 2025-2026 School Year
 - a. Committee on Special Education
- 13.3 First Reading of Policy Revisions
 - a. Policy 5672 - Info Security Breach and Notification
 - b. Policy 5676 - Privacy and Security
- 13.4 Second Reading of Policy Revisions and Adoption
 - 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

Motion carried unanimously.

Finance

A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Finance Actions: 14.1 – 14.3

- 14.1 Financial Reports
 - a. Treasurer's Report – March 2025
 - b. Extra Class Report – March 2025
 - c. Appropriation Status Report
 - d. Revenue Status Report
- 14.2 Budget Transfers and Journal Entries
 - a. Accept and approve the Budget Transfers and Journal Entries, for the period of April 2, 2025 through May 5, 2025, in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved as well as the transfers that need specific Board approval.
- 14.3 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)
 - a. Adoption of the Tax Anticipation Note Resolution of the Shelter Island Union Free School District, New York, authorizing the issuance of not to exceed \$2,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes in anticipation of the receipt of taxes to be levied for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Motion carried unanimously.

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: 15.1

- 15.1 Contracts
 - a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island School District and Family Service League, Inc., of Huntington, NY, for student services. The term of said agreement is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

- b. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Suffolk County Department of Health Services, designating the school as a mass dispensing site in the event of a public health emergency, for the distribution of medicine to the public. The term of said agreement shall be retroactive to January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2029; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

15.2 Private School Transportation

- a. Amend the motion of April 7, 2025 from:

Approval to transport twenty-five (25) students to the following private schools for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Ross School – East Hampton, NY (1 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 twenty-eight (28) 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)

15.3 Donation

- a. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$4,992.85 from Experiment, for scientific research; and authorize to an increase to the budget line of Secondary School Science Equipment A.2110.200.04.0020 in the same amount to be deferred to the 2025-2026 school year.
- b. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$422.04 from Shelter Island Municipal Golf Course, Incorporated, for sign materials; and authorize an increase to the budget line of Technology Program Materials & Supplies A.2110.450.00.0016 in the same amount.

Motion carried unanimously.

Facilities – None

Items for Consideration

Class of 2025 Gifts

President Lynch asked if her fellow Board Members would like to continue with the traditional graduate gift and all members of the Board agreed that the same gift should be given and Kathleen Lynch volunteered to take on the project. (Note: these gifts are personally paid for by the members of the Board of Education.)

Old Business - None

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

Mr. Gulluscio reported that there will be a Senior Day BBQ for Baseball and Softball following their final home contests on May 20, 2025. Mr. Gulluscio also announced that next year's Fall Season will begin on Monday, August 25th.

Mr. Gulluscio shared a highlight video from the Day of Gratitude event which took place on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. The event included students and staff cleaning up school grounds, using sidewalk chalk to create messages and pictures by town and first responder buildings, a car wash for first responder vehicles, performing music for Island senior citizens and playing board games with them, a roadside clean up around the island, a food drive, acts of service at Camp Quinipet and serving local veterans. Mr. Gulluscio stated it was a very successful event that the District intends to hold every year.

Mr. Gulluscio was excited to announce that the long-awaited milk machine is up and running in the cafeteria; noting that the chocolate milk was so popular, they ran out of it very quickly. Mr. Gulluscio touched base on the concept of local fresh fish being served in the school cafeteria. He reported that the local fisherman has been in receipt of the requirements necessary to become a vendor of Aramark.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Rylott reported that the New York State Testing for the school year has been completed. The participation rate for each test was as follows.

- ELA: 94.3% participation rate (66 out of 70 students)
- Math: 100% participation rate (57 out of 57 students)
- Science: 100% participation rate (13 out of 13 students)

Mrs. Rylott shared that this year's Multicultural Event will take place on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, on the field by the play structure. Ms. Rylott stated that a survey of interest in hosting a table went out to families and staff. This year's participants are asked to focus on four (4) educational components – geography, historical figures, music, and national symbols, and of course samplings of food are still welcomed. Mrs. Rylott reminded students wishing to participate in the soccer game at the event that they need to have their parents grant permission on Final Forms. In closing, Mrs. Rylott congratulated all of the teachers who received tenure this evening. She stated it has been a pleasure working with each and every one of them. Mrs. Rylott shared with them that she appreciates their growth and she considers them a valuable part of the team.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Doelger reported the following.

- The Day of Gratitude event was truly a special day. The entire school came together in the morning before heading out in teams to complete service projects. Afterward, everyone shared lunch and heard from a dynamic and inspiring speaker. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Administration held a productive and collaborative faculty meeting; covering topics such as the budget, state testing updates, the rollout of our new security system and reflections on the Day of Gratitude.
- The Book Club met again and it was another engaging discussion. The last meeting of the Book Club is soon and a summary of the year's reading journey will be shared at a future meeting.
- The PTSA hosted a wonderful meeting. President Lynch and Dr. Doelger spoke briefly about the budget. Dr. Doelger had the great pleasure of helping present awards.
- Dr. Doelger joined Mrs. Colligan's class for a moving presentation by Erland Zygmuntowicz who shared the remarkable story of his mother, Itka. A Holocaust survivor, Itka endured unimaginable loss with courage and strength. We are grateful to Erland for bringing her legacy into our classroom.
- Ms. Farkas organized a fantastic student talent show. The event was filled with energy, creativity, and school spirit. It was such a joy to attend!
- Student, El Schack performed at the Tilles Center. Ms. Farkas, who also attended and performed, reported it was a truly fabulous performance. Congratulations to El!
- Shelter Island Friends of Music hosted two daytime concerts for our students. Both performances were wonderful and well-received by the students.
- The PTSA Spring Fling was recently held. From what I've heard, our students had a great time.
- The PTSA Book Fair is being held this week. This beloved event promotes reading and supports our school libraries.
- Prom was this past weekend. Dr. Doelger attended and celebrated with our students.
- DARE Graduation will be held Tuesday, May 13, 2025. This is always a special event for our 6th grade students. Thank you to Officer Clark for holding DARE classes throughout the school year.
- The Grades 6-12 Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Auditorium. We are all excited to see our talented students perform.
- Oral Comprehension Exams (OCEs) begin next week. This project is a requirement for graduation from Shelter Island School.

- Next Tuesday, May 20, 2025 is the Budget Vote and Election. Polls are open from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm. We also have two home games and PTSA meeting that same day.
- The Elementary Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Auditorium. It is always so much fun to see our younger students perform.
- As a reminder, school is closed May 23, 2025 – May 26, 2025 for Memorial Day Weekend. The extra day off is because we didn't use a snow day this year.

Board Member Reports

Margaret Colligan extended congratulations to all of the teachers who were granted tenure at tonight's meeting.

Katherine Rossi-Snook commented how the number of colleagues who came out to support the teachers receiving tenure speaks volumes to the respect they have for these teachers.

Visitor Comments - None**Adjournment**

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

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, June 9, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Conference Room.