

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

SPECIAL MEETING
July 30, 2025

Members Present: Kathleen M. Lynch, Dawn Hedberg, Karina Montalvo, Anthony J. Rando, and Molly Kendall

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Director of Pupil Personnel, Data & Instruction; Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; 0 faculty/staff/ student and 0 community resident/other

Absent: Margaret Colligan, Tracy McCarthy, Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Maryann Impastato, District Treasurer; Lionardo Napoles, Student Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by President Lynch, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitor Questions – None

At this time, Dr. Doelger stated that following community engagement, including three (3) public forums – one for parents, one for students and one for staff, along with numerous internal meetings, and as required by New York State Law, he is asking the Board of Education to adopt a new student device policy. Dr. Doelger explained that the policy aims to reduced sistractions, encourage responsible use of technology, and ensure consistency across school settings while recognizing individual student needs.

Dr. Doelger provided the definition of internet-enabled devices (smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, and similar personal technology -- excluding school-issued devices) and non-internet devices (calculators, basic fitness trackers, digital cameras, and similar tools without internet capabilities).

Dr. Doelger further explained that to maintain appropriate boundaries and limit disruption during the school day, parents may contact their child by calling the school's front lobby or emailing the student's district-provided email account. Students may contact parents by using the front lobby phone or the phone in the Academic Suite if students need privacy, or using the Nurse's phone for medical-related concerns.

With regards to device storage and access, Dr. Doelger stated that in Elementary School, devices are strongly discouraged, but if brought to school, they must be silenced and stored in student cubbies. On the secondary level (grades 6-12) devices must be silenced and stored in lockers for the entire school day. The only exception would be for students with off-campus lunch privileges. These students may access their devices during their lunch period, as long as they leave campus.

Dr. Doelger went on to explain that there are some exceptions to the policy as devices may be permitted if it's documented in a child's IEP or 504 Plan, a student has to use their phone for medical needs (such as diabetes monitoring), an English language learning student uses their phone for translation services, a student has family caregiving responsibilities or if a student has clearance from Administration to have their phone in the event of a family emergency.

If a student violates this policy as a first time offender, the device will be turned into the Superintendent and the student will have to pick up the phone at the end of the day. Repeated violations will require a parent/guardian to pick up the phone from the Superintendent at the end of the school day and the student will then be required to check-in their phone at the front lobby desk every morning, for two weeks. Dr. Doelger added that in accordance with New York State Law, students may NOT be suspended out-of-school solely for improper device use.

Program

A motion was made by Anthony J. Rando, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent on the following Program Action: 4.1 – 4.2

- 4.1 Adoption of New District Policy
 - a. Policy #7316 – Use of Internet-Enabled Devices During the School Day
- 4.2 Deletion of Obsolete Policy
 - a. Policy #7590 – Cell Phone Use

Motion carried unanimously.

*Call to
Order*

*Visitor
Questions*

*Review of
New
Policy*

*Consent
Agenda --
Program*

Board Member, Dawn Hedberg stated concern that parents may not fully understand that this new policy is a New York State Law and asked Superintendent Doelger to spread the word on social media. Dr. Doelger responded that a letter will be going home to parents and it will also be posted on Facebook and Instagram.

Ms. Hedberg requested that activities such as games and paper and crayons/pencils be made available so students who do not want to participate in physical play could instead play games and draw. Dr. Doelger liked this idea very much and agreed.

Board Member Anthony J. Rando stated that although this new policy may be difficult for current secondary students, the issue will actually become obsolete as our younger students will not know any differently when they move up to secondary school.

Visitor Comments – None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Karina Montalvo, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Jacqueline Dunning
District Clerk

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, August 25, 2025, at 5:30 pm, in the Conference Room.

*Consent
Agenda –
Program
(continued)*

*Visitor
Comments*

Adjournment