

FIRE ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Budget Review/Work Session Agenda
January 28, 2025
4:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC HEARING

To provide an opportunity for interested parties and citizens to be heard regarding a proposed resolution related to the partial real property tax exemption for School District taxation purposes for qualifying volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers, as provided for by RPTL § 466-a. The resolution authorizes the repeal of the local options previously adopted under RPTL § 466-c; all previously adopted options will sunset by December 9, 2025, if not repealed earlier.

The resolution authorizes the same partial exemption benefits previously adopted under RPTL § 466-c, except pursuant to RPTL § 466-a, the partial exemption benefits are expanded to cover the primary residence owned by a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who has a minimum service requirement of two years, instead of five years. The options under consideration, which are intended to encourage the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers, are as follows:

- *A qualified volunteer with a minimum service requirement of five years to under twenty years of service is entitled to a 10% real property tax exemption for School District taxation purposes;*
- *A qualified un-remarried spouse of a previously qualified volunteer who died in the line of duty with at least five years of active service, or a shorter minimum period of active service authorized by RPTL § 466-a, is entitled to retain the 10% real property tax exemption;*
- *A qualified volunteer with a minimum service requirement of more than twenty years of service is entitled to a 10% real property tax exemption for School District taxation purposes for his or her lifetime;*
- *A qualified un-remarried spouse of a previously qualified volunteer who is deceased is entitled to retain the 10% lifetime real property tax exemption.*

- ITEM 1 Action Items**
- RESOLUTION –*The Fire Island UFSD to grant a tax exemption to eligible Volunteer Firefighters/Ambulance Workers as provided for by Real Property Tax Law § 466-a (Attachment “A”)*
 - 2024-2025 Swim Club Chaperone Appointment – *M. Lopiccolo @ \$180.00 per Swim Club Session*
- ITEM 2 Discussion/Review**
- Review of Preliminary Budget for 2025-2026
 - 2025-2026 Annual School Calendar
- ITEM 3 Public Hearing/1st Reading of Policy/Revision of Policy**
- # 5840 – Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- ITEM 4 Public Hearing/2nd Reading of Policy**
- #1640 – Absentee, Military and Early Mail Ballots

ITEM 5

Executive Session

It is expected the Board will make a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the employment of a particular person/s.

ITEM 6

Adjournment

**RESOLUTION OF THE FIRE ISLAND UFSD
TO GRANT A TAX EXEMPTION TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
AS PROVIDED FOR BY REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW § 466-a**

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) Section 466-a was enacted to provide eligible volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers with a partial real property tax exemption for school district taxation purposes on real property owned by the eligible volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker so long as the School District in which the real property is located, after public hearing, adopts a resolution authorizing the exemption under RPTL Section 466-a; and

WHEREAS, RPTL Section 466-a also allows the School District to provide certain additional benefits applicable to this partial real property exemption for school district taxation purposes so long as the School District, which has authorized the exemption under RPTL Section 466-a, adopts a resolution authorizing such additional benefits; and

WHEREAS, RPTL Section 466-a repeals RPTL Section 466-c as of December 9, 2025, and any local options adopted under RPTL Section 466-c will automatically sunset at that time, unless earlier repealed by the adoption of a partial exemption authorized under RPTL Section 466-a; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education previously adopted a partial exemption for a primary residence owned by volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers pursuant to RPTL Section 466-c; and

WHEREAS, the District has conducted the public hearing required by RPTL Section 466-a and elicited public comment on said topic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that the granting of a partial exemption under RPTL Section 466-a should provide at least the same exemption benefits previously granted by the Board of Education under RPTL Section 466-c; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that authorizing the partial exemption of a primary residence owned by a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker with a minimum service requirement of five years under RPTL Section 466-a, instead of the minimum service requirement of five years under RPTL Section 466-c, will enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers who own a primary residence within the School District;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Fire Island UFSD, pursuant to RPTL Section 466-a, hereby authorizes a 10% real property tax exemption for school district taxation purposes of a primary residence owned by an enrolled

volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who meets the eligibility requirements established in this resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the enrolled volunteer member must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for the tax exemption:

1. The enrolled member must reside in the territory served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or incorporated volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service.
2. The property must be the primary residence of the enrolled member.
3. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section.
4. The enrolled member has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the volunteer as an enrolled member with at least five years of active service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the exemption granted under this Resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, incorporated volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, who is killed in the line of duty upon all of the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the deceased enrolled member as the un-remarried spouse of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker killed in the line of duty.
2. The deceased enrolled member had been an enrolled member for at least five years, or a shorter minimum period of active service authorized by Section 466-a of the RPTL.
3. The deceased enrolled member had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, incorporated volunteer fire department, or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the enrolled member, shall be granted the 10 percent exemption as authorized by this Resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as the property for which the exemption is sought under this Resolution is the primary residence of

the enrolled member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such exemption granted under this Resolution shall continue for the un-remarried spouse of a deceased enrolled member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, incorporated volunteer fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service under the following conditions:

1. The un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction over the deceased enrolled member as the un-remarried spouse of the deceased enrolled member.
2. The deceased enrolled member had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years.
3. The deceased enrolled member had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any exemption granted under this Resolution shall be filed with the Town of Islip on the forms designated by the Town; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the School District is directed to provide the Town of Islip with a certified Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be governed by and applied in accordance with Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be effective as of the date of its adoption.

Adopted:

DRAFT**SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)****Overview**

The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, especially generative AI (GenAI), pose unique challenges and opportunities for learning environments. As these technologies integrate deeper into everyday life, the District must proactively address the implications of AI usage to ensure it enhances educational outcomes without compromising academic integrity or equity. This policy outlines the District's commitment to responsible AI integration in educational practices, balancing innovation with the core values of the District's educational mission. Further, it sets forth guidelines designed to evolve as new technologies and methodologies emerge, ensuring the District remains at the forefront of academic excellence and technological responsibility.

Scope and Application

This policy applies to all District students, personnel, volunteers, and contractors. It integrates with, and complements, existing policies on data privacy, acceptable use, and student conduct. This policy aims to provide clear guidelines on the use of AI within the District's schools, ensuring that its application supports the District's educational goals and adheres to its privacy and security standards.

Definitions

- a) Generative AI (GenAI) represents a dynamic subset of AI technologies that can create new, human-like content from extensive data training sets. This content spans across text, images, audio, and more, often mimicking human creativity and adaptability.
- b) Traditional AI refers to systems that operate on fixed algorithms and predefined rules without altering their behavior based on new data after their initial deployment.

Risks and Limitations

The use of GenAI comes with some risks and limitations which include, but are not limited to:

- a) Hallucinations/Confabulations

GenAI can generate plausible, but false or inaccurate, information, a phenomenon known as a hallucination/confabulation.

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DRAFT**SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) (Cont'd.)**

b) Biases

GenAI tools learn from data created by people, which means any biases, prejudices, and stereotypes in that data can be reflected in the outputs produced by GenAI. For example, GenAI has been found to generate images and text that reinforce existing gender and racial biases. It is essential to recognize that these biases exist and to critically assess the outputs of GenAI tools to prevent the perpetuation of stereotypes and unfair treatment.

The impact of GenAI biases is particularly significant in the context of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. DEI initiatives aim to create environments where all individuals have equal opportunities and are treated with respect and fairness. Biased AI outputs can undermine these goals by perpetuating inequality and exclusion, which can be detrimental to the educational mission of the District.

GenAI can also suffer from response bias, where the AI generates answers tailored to what it predicts the user wants to hear based on its training data or specific tuning.

c) Copyright

GenAI may pose copyright issues as it may have used copyrighted material within its training data without explicit permission from the copyright holders. As a result, there are unsettled legal questions about the ownership and copyright status of GenAI's outputs, which can closely mimic or incorporate elements of existing copyrighted works.

Data Privacy and Security

Information entered into GenAI may be accessible to others due to data sharing or breaches. All users should exercise caution when utilizing GenAI. Under no circumstances should any sensitive, copyrighted, confidential, or proprietary information be entered into GenAI or any other AI platform, consistent with relevant state and federal laws and District policy. This includes, but is not limited to, data protected by:

- a) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA);
- b) Education Law Section 2-d (Unauthorized Release of Personally Identifiable Information);
- c) Labor Law Section 203-d (Employee Personal Identifying Information);
- d) State Technology Law Section 208 (Notification of Security Breach of Private Information).

Further, if the information would not be disclosed in response to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, it should not be entered into GenAI.

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DRAFT**SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) (Cont'd.)****Student Use**

The District permits teachers to determine whether students in their class may use GenAI for assignments. However, the District recognizes that disparities in access to GenAI technologies may exist and will work with teachers to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by their inability to use or decision not to use GenAI.

If teachers allow their students to use GenAI, they are expected to communicate their expectations regarding the use of GenAI clearly to their students. Further, the teacher must discuss the appropriate and responsible use of GenAI with the students. This includes talking to students about the risks and limitations of GenAI, emphasizing how students are accountable for the accuracy of their work, and, when relevant, ensuring proper citation of sources.

Student use of GenAI that conflicts with teacher instruction, District policy, regulation, procedure, or other document, such as the District's Code of Conduct, may result in investigation and/or disciplinary action.

District Personnel Use

District personnel may utilize GenAI in accordance with this policy. However, regardless of the tools used to enhance their work, personnel are ultimately responsible for the accuracy and integrity of all work they produce. AI is intended to support, not replace, an employee's responsibility for their own work.

Training, Awareness, and Support

The District will provide training, awareness, and support to teachers in navigating the evolving use of GenAI in the classroom. This may include professional learning opportunities, workshops, and resources to enhance teachers' proficiency and confidence in using GenAI to enrich student learning. The goal is to equip teachers with the knowledge to critically assess GenAI technologies and guide students in understanding the complexities associated with these tools. Additionally, the District may extend training, awareness, and support regarding GenAI to other District personnel who may benefit from understanding and utilizing GenAI in their roles.

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DRAFT**SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) (Cont'd.)****Compliance with Other Documents**

When using GenAI, all personnel and students must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and District documents. This includes Education Law Section 2-d, which requires the District to ensure that whenever it enters into a contract or other written agreement with a third-party contractor under which the third-party contractor will receive student data or teacher or principal data from the District, the contract or written agreement will include provisions requiring that confidentiality of shared student data or teacher or principal data be maintained in accordance with law, regulation, and District policy.

Applicable District documents may include the District's policies on data security and acceptable use, as well as the District's *Code of Conduct*.

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3310 -- Public Access to Records
#3320 -- Confidentiality of Computerized Information
#5672 -- Information Security Breach and Notification
#5673 -- Employee Personnel Identifying Information
#5674 -- Data Networks and Security Access
#5676 -- Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and
Principal Data
#6410 -- Staff Acceptable Use Policy
#7240 -- Student Records: Access and Challenge
#7315 -- Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
#7316 -- Student Use of Personal Technology
#8271 -- Internet Safety/Internet Content Filtering
#8350 -- Use of Copyrighted Materials
District *Code of Conduct*

Adoption Date

Bylaws

SUBJECT: ABSENTEE, MILITARY, AND EARLY MAIL BALLOTS**Absentee Ballots**

The Board authorizes the District Clerk or a Board designee to provide absentee ballots to qualified District voters. Absentee ballots will be used for the election of Board members and District public library trustees, the adoption of the annual budget, and District public library budget and referenda.

A District voter must request in advance an application for an absentee ballot. The voter must complete the application and state the reason they will not be able to appear in person on the day of the District election/vote for which the absentee ballot is requested. The application must be received by the District Clerk or Board designee at least seven days before the election/vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election/vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

An absentee ballot will also be mailed to every qualified District voter otherwise eligible for an absentee ballot who sends a signed letter requesting an absentee ballot which states the address of the voter to the District Clerk or Board designee. The signed letter must be received by the District Clerk or Board designee not earlier than the thirtieth day before the election/vote and at least seven days before the election/vote. Enclosed with the absentee ballot will be an application form for the absentee ballot. The absentee ballot will not be counted unless a valid application form is enclosed with the ballot.

A qualified District voter is eligible to vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear to vote in person on the day of the District election/vote because they:

- a) Are or will be a patient in a hospital, or are unable to appear personally at the polling place on the day of the election/vote because of illness or physical disability;
- b) Have duties, occupation or business responsibilities, or studies which require being outside of the county or city of residence on the day of the District election/vote;
- c) Will be on vacation outside of the county or city of residence on the day of the District election/vote;
- d) Will be absent from their voting residence due to detention in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial; or is confined in prison after conviction for an offense other than a felony; or
- e) Will be absent from the District on the day of the District election/vote by reason of accompanying spouse, parent, or child who is or would be, if they were a qualified voter, entitled to apply for the right to vote by absentee ballot.

Statements on the application for an absentee ballot must be signed and dated by the voter.

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Bylaws

SUBJECT: ABSENTEE, MILITARY, AND EARLY MAIL BALLOTS (Cont'd.)

A voter's absentee ballot must reach the Office of the District Clerk or Board designee not later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election/vote in order that their vote may be canvassed.

Qualified District voters who are unable to personally appear at the polling place because of a permanent illness or physical disability and whose registration record has been marked "permanently disabled" pursuant to law are entitled to receive an absentee ballot without application if they have previously applied for an absentee ballot.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be maintained in the Office of the District Clerk or Board designee and made available for public inspection during regular office hours until the day of the election/vote. Any qualified voter may, upon examination of this list, file a written challenge of the qualifications as a voter of any person whose name appears on this list, stating the reason for the challenge. A challenge to an absentee ballot may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an early mail ballot. The written challenge will be transmitted by the District Clerk or Board designee to the election inspectors on the day of the District election/vote.

Military Ballots

The Board authorizes the District Clerk or a Board designee to provide military ballots to military voters to be used for the election of Board members and District public library trustees, the adoption of the annual budget, and District public library budget and referenda.

A military voter is:

- a) A qualified voter of New York State who:
 1. Is in actual military service and, by reason of that military service, is absent from the District on the day of registration or election; or
 2. Is discharged from that military service within 30 days of an election; or
- b) A spouse, parent, child, or dependent of the previously described voter, accompanying or being with that voter, if a qualified voter of New York State and a resident of the District.

A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military ballot application or a military ballot by mail, fax, or email. This designation will remain in effect until revoked or changed by the military voter. If a military voter does not designate a preference, a military ballot application or a military ballot will be provided to the military voter by mail.

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Bylaws

SUBJECT: ABSENTEE, MILITARY, AND EARLY MAIL BALLOTS (Cont'd.)

Military ballots will be distributed as soon as practicable, but no later than *25 days before the election/vote.

Three days before the first day for distribution of military ballots, the names of all candidates duly nominated for public office and the amendments, referenda, propositions, and questions to be voted for on the ballots will be determined. If, at a later date, the nomination of any candidate named on a military ballot is found invalid, the ballot will still be valid, but no vote for the invalid candidate will be counted in the election/vote.

A voter's military ballot must be received by the Office of the District Clerk or Board designee not later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election/vote in order that their vote may be canvassed at which point the military ballot will be processed in the same manner as absentee ballots.

All military ballot applications and military ballots must be returned by mail or in person.

Early Mail Ballots

The Board authorizes the District Clerk or a Board designee to provide early mail ballots to qualified District voters. Early mail ballots will be used for the election of Board members and District public library trustees, the adoption of the annual budget, and District public library budget and referenda.

A District voter must request in advance an application for an early mail ballot. The voter must complete the application. The application must be received by the District Clerk or Board designee at least seven days before the election vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election/vote, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.

An early mail ballot will also be mailed to every qualified District voter otherwise eligible for an early mail ballot who sends a signed letter requesting an early mail ballot which states the address of the voter to the District Clerk or Board designee. The signed letter must be received by the District Clerk or Board designee not earlier than the thirtieth day before the election/vote and at least seven days before the election/vote. Enclosed with the early mail ballot will be an application form for the early mail ballot. The early mail ballot will not be counted unless a valid application form is enclosed with the ballot.

Any qualified District voter is eligible to vote by early mail ballot.

Statements on the application for an early mail ballot must be signed and dated by the voter.

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Bylaws

SUBJECT: ABSENTEE, MILITARY, AND EARLY MAIL BALLOTS (Cont'd.)

A voter's early mail ballot must reach the Office of the District Clerk or Board designee not later than 5 p.m. on the day of the election/vote in order that their vote may be canvassed.

A list of all persons to whom early mail have been issued will be maintained in the Office of the District Clerk or Board designee and made available for public inspection during regular office hours until the day of the election/vote. Any qualified voter may, upon examination of this list, file a written challenge of the qualifications as a voter of any person whose name appears on this list, stating the reason for the challenge. A challenge to an early mail ballot may not be made on the basis that the voter should have applied for an absentee ballot. The written challenge will be transmitted by the District Clerk or Board designee to the election inspectors on the day of the District election/vote.

Education Law Sections 2014, 2018-a, 2018-b, 2018-d, 2018-e, 2018-f, and 2613
8 NYCRR Part 122

Adoption Date: