

Public Hearing/Budget Review Meeting/Work Session
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FIRE ISLAND UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
January 28, 2025

CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order 4:31 p.m. by President, J. Lippert.
MEMBERS PRESENT	L. Kaufman, J. Lippert, L. Nowachek, J. Phelan, K. Skelly-Kurka, A. Wood, M. Wyckoff
MEMBERS ABSENT	All present
OTHERS PRESENT	Travis Davey, Superintendent J. Lizza, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations T. Murphy, District Clerk R. Swierkowski, Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING –
REAL PROPERTY TAX
EXEMPTIONS

A Public Hearing was held to review and discuss a proposed resolution regarding the following Real Property Tax Exemptions:

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options previously adopted under RPTL § 466-c; all previously adopted options will sunset by December 9, 2025, if not repealed earlier.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.

There were no public comments or questions – there were no community members present.

(The Budget Review/Work Session meeting resumed at 4:34 p.m.)

Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2025, continued...

RESOLUTION – TAX EXEMPTION TO ELIGIBLE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS/AMBULANCE WORKERS	On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Fire Island Union Free School District Board of Education approves the following resolution (“Attachment A”), to grant a tax exemption to Eligible Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers as provided by Real Property Tax Law 466-a. (A. Wood, L. Nowachek; 7-0)
APPOINTMENT – 2024-2025 SWIM CLUB CHAPERONE	On the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the following 2024-2025 Swim Club Chaperone appointment: Michael Lopiccio @ rate of \$180.00 per swim club session. (J. Phelan, K. Skelly-Kurka; 7-0)
REVIEW OF PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET	Mr. Davey, Superintendent and Mrs. Lizza, Assistant Superintendent for Business & Operations, presented a preliminary 2025-2026 budget and discussed known expenses for the upcoming school year as well as items for which expenses are unknown at this time.
REVIEW OF 2025-2026 ANNUAL SCHOOL CALENDAR	Mr. Davey shared and discussed options regarding the 2025-2026 Annual School calendar. The calendar draft is scheduled to be approved at the next meeting of the Board of Education.
PUBLIC HEARING/ 1ST READING OF PROPOSED POLICY	A Public Hearing and first reading was held of the following policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• #5840 – Artificial Intelligence (AI)
PUBLIC HEARING/ 2ND READING & ADOPTION OF POLICY REVISIONS	Following a Public Hearing and second reading, the Board adopts revisions to the following policy as hereby attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• #1640 – Absentee, Military and Early Mail Ballots (J. Phelan, A. Wood; 7-0)
EXECUTIVE SESSION	The Board entered Executive Session at 5:41 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to the employment of a particular person, and to receive legal counsel. (J. Phelan, M. Wyckoff; 7-0)
ADJOURNMENT	The regular meeting resumed at 6:08 p.m. and immediately adjourned. (J. Phelan, L. Nowachek; 7-0)

Traci Murphy
District Clerk

Approved: February 11, 2025