

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

REGULAR MEETING
February 9, 2026

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

Others Present: Dr. Brian Doelger, Superintendent; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Maryann Impastato, District Treasurer/District Clerk Pro Tem; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; 3 faculty/staff/student and 6 community resident/other

Absent: Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk and Lionardo Napoles, Student Liaison

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Dawn Hedberg, 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 a particular individual in the District.

The members of the Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 5:30 pm. President Lynch led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Margaret Colligan read the following Shelter Island School Mission Statement – Engage, Explore, Empower:

We want our students to cherish our small Island community while applying 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.

At this time, Board President Kathleen Lynch addressed questions and concerns raised by community and school members regarding the recent presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in neighboring communities, including Greenport, which caused understandable concern among families.

Ms. Lynch reaffirmed that the district loves and values every student and is fully committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment. She emphasized that the district’s highest priority is student safety. She further noted that both federal and state laws require schools to educate all school-age children, and that the United States Supreme Court has ruled that students may not be denied an education based on citizenship or immigration status. Additionally, civil rights laws prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

Ms. Lynch also informed the community that the district has established protocols regarding building access. Any outside agency seeking entry to the school must present a warrant, which must be reviewed and approved by the district’s attorney prior to entry. The only agency permitted to enter without such process is the Shelter Island Police Department.

She encouraged any families with questions or concerns to contact the administration and noted that community members are also welcome to reach out to her directly via email.

2026-2027 Budget Presentation

Dr. Doelger welcomed everyone to the second presentation to be held in preparation of the 2026-2027 school budget and explained that tonight’s presentation will focus on the facilities, debt service, instruction and property tax cap calculations. Topics presented by Dr. Doelger at this meeting were as follows.

- Accomplishments
- Budget Outlook: Cuts or Tax Cap Pierce
- Cuts/Cost Savings Already Implemented Since 2020

Call to Order

Executive Session

Pledge of Allegiance

Mission Statement

Budget Presentation

- Potential Future Cost Saving Measures
- Operations & Maintenance of Plant
- Proposed Budget – Operations & Maintenance of Plant
- Debt Service
- What Are Transfers to Other Funds
- Proposed Budget – Debt Service & Transfers to Other Funds
- Academic Administration & General Classroom Instruction
- Proposed Budget – Academic Administration & General Classroom Instruction
- Special Education
- Occupational Education
- Summer School
- Guidance, Counseling & Health
- Proposed Budget – Special Education, Occupational Education, Summer School, Library & Computer Instruction, and Guidance, Counseling & Health
- State Aid
- Property Tax Cap – What Does the Law Say?
- Shelter Island UFSD Property Tax Calculations
- Budget – Next Steps

In closing, Dr. Doelger reviewed the schedule of the dates and topics for the remaining 2026-2027 school budget meetings, and noted that all meetings will begin at 5:30 pm, in the conference room. The schedule is as follows.

- March 2, 2026 – Budget Workshop
- March 16, 2026 – Budget Overview
- March 30, 2026 – Budget Meeting *IF NEEDED*
- April 20, 2026 – Budget Adoption by the Board of Education
- May 11, 2026 – Public Budget Hearing
- May 19, 2026 – Budget Vote, 10:00 am – 8:00 pm, School Gymnasium

At this time, Dr. Doelger opened the floor to questions.

Board President Kathleen Lynch stated that the District requires additional revenue in order to meet rising expenses and emphasized the importance of restoring the Pre-K 3 program. She explained that costs are increasing between 12–14 percent annually, particularly in health care and retirement contributions, over which the District has no control. She noted that a 2% tax cap increase cannot absorb these rising costs, comparing the situation to household expenses increasing without a corresponding salary increase. Ms. Lynch stated that the Board of Education supports piercing the tax cap, noting that it has been ten years since the District last did so.

Ms. Lynch further explained that the District has already reduced administrative costs, operating with three administrators instead of four, and no longer employing a Business Official. She stated that members of the administrative team are taking on multiple roles. She compared Shelter Island School District to Bridgehampton School District (the school closest to ours in student population), which has more than seven administrators and a higher per-pupil cost (approximately \$50,000), not including ferry transportation costs. She also noted staffing adjustments, including a teacher serving dual roles in Physical Education and ENL, the loss of a social worker, and additional responsibilities assumed by Guidance Counselor Alyssa Prior, who is certified in mental health. Ms. Lynch stated that the District would welcome the estimated \$10,000 per four-year-old in New York State Universal Pre-K aid but cannot count on it in the budget process as we are still awaiting a decision from the State.

Parent Katherine Rossi-Snook inquired about Universal Pre-K funding, asking whether the \$10,000 allocation per child would function similarly to state aid. Dr. Doelger responded that it would help offset the tax levy; however, the District would not have confirmation until after the budget is adopted.

Jenn Rylott noted that acceptance of state funding requires compliance with specific regulations, including facility requirements, equipment standards, student-teacher ratios, and required state filings. She also raised the issue of

“supplement vs. supplant,” questioning whether the District would qualify for funding if General Fund money is already being used. Ms. Rylott stated she would seek clarification from the State.

Ms. Rossi Snook requested clarity regarding the impact if the budget were to fail, referencing the loss of a program and instructor the previous year. Dr. Doelger stated that there are no remaining non-personnel areas to cut and that reductions would likely involve positions. Ms. Lynch added that in such a small school releasing the specifics of specific reductions this early on could significantly impact the District’s climate and possibly create staff insecurity.

Town Supervisor Amber Brach-Williams expressed full support for restoring Pre-K 3. She noted that while the Town was able to work with private donors to restore the program for one year is not sustainable and will not happen again. She stated that the Town is not responsible for providing education, that working parents need a stable educational program, and that the current program lacks substitutes, requiring closure if staff are absent.

Ms. Lynch reiterated that if the budget fails, the District cannot restore Pre-K 3, as there are currently no funds allocated for it without piercing the cap. She emphasized the importance of community outreach and education about the long-term financial plan established ten years ago, noting that if the cap had been pierced last year, the District would be in a stronger position today.

Anthony J. Rando encouraged the District to ensure that any alternative to BOCES programming provides comparable vocational opportunities. He emphasized the importance of closely examining alternatives to mirror BOCES offerings and encouraged greater public engagement in budget discussions. He acknowledged that the District is not engaging in reckless spending and urged community members to ask questions to better understand the budget.

Dr. Doelger stated that the District would review alternative programs to ensure they meet or exceed current BOCES offerings.

Molly Kendall asked for clarification as to whether, even without restoring Pre-K or adding sports, the District would still need to pierce the tax cap to maintain current operations. Dr. Doelger responded that the District could not maintain the current level of programming next year within a 2 percent cap.

Molly also asked whether piercing the cap would require doing so annually. Dr. Doelger stated that if we pierced this year, that should hold us for several years to come; just as it did when we pierced ten years ago.

Ms. Rylott clarified that the proposed budget includes restoring Pre-K 3, while summer school, which was eliminated last year, is not being reinstated. Dr. Doelger confirmed that Pre-K 3 is the only program proposed for restoration.

This concluded the budget portion of the meeting.

Visitor Questions – None

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board hereby approves the following:

- 7.1 Approval of Minutes
 - a. Budget/Regular Meeting of January 12, 2026

Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence – None

Student Liaison Report - None

Presentations

The Beacon of Excellence Award

Visitor
Questions

Consent
Agenda –
Approval of
Minutes

Correspondence

Student Liaison
Report

Presentations

Ms. Patricia Goff was due to receive The Beacon of Excellence Award this evening, but with a sick child at home she was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Gulluscio noted that she will be presented with the award at the March 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting.

*Presentations
(continued)*

Personnel

A motion was made by Dawn Hedberg, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Personnel actions: 11.1 – 11.4

*Consent
Agenda –
Personnel*

11.1 Rescind Motion

- a. Rescind the motion of July 14, 2025:

Appoint Michael Dunning as Junior High Baseball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year, at \$3,036.85

11.2 Additional Coach for the 2025-2026 School Year

- a. Appoint Christopher Conrardy as Junior High Baseball Coach for the 2025-2026 school year, at \$3,036.85

11.3 Medical Leave of Absence

- a. Approve a medical leave of absence for Janine Mahoney, Special Education Teacher to commence on March 25, 2026 through on or about April 22, 2026, with said period credited towards the employee's FMLA leave of absence.

11.4 Teacher Mentor

- a. Approve Michelle Weir as a Teacher Mentor, at \$1,500 for the 2025-2026 school year, prorated to the period of January 15, 2026 – June 30, 2026 per the Shelter Island Faculty Association Contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

Program

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Program actions: 12.1 – 12.3

*Consent
Agenda –
Program*

12.1 CSE Recommendation for the 2025-2026 School Year

- a. Committee on Special Education

12.2 First Reading of Policy

- a. Policy 1220 – Board of Education Members: Nomination and Election
- b. Policy 3311 – Notification of Disclosure of Employee Disciplinary Records
- c. Policy 5685 – Maximum Temperature for School Buildings and Indoor Facilities (NEW)
- d. Policy 6212 – Certification and Qualifications
- e. Policy 6213 – Registration and Professional Learning
- f. Policy 6214 – Incidental Teaching
- g. Policy 6215 – Probation and Tenure

12.3 School Calendar – 2026-2027

- a. Approve the Shelter Island School District's Calendar for the 2026-2027 school year

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda --
Finance*

Finance

A motion was made by Dawn Hedberg, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Finance actions: 13.1 – 13.2

13.1 Financial Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report – December 2025
- b. Extra Class Report – December 2025

- c. Appropriations Status Report
- d. Revenue Status Report
- e. Claims Audit Report – January 2026
- f. Payroll Audit Report – January 2026

13.2 Budget Transfers & Journal Entries

- a. Accept and approve the Budget Transfers and Journal Entry Reports for the period of January 6, 2026 through February 3, 2026, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved, as well as the transfers that need specific Board approval.

13.3 Tax Cap Calculations

- a. WHEREAS, on January 12, 2026, the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District began the 2026-2027 budget formation process; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap law and associated regulations require school districts in New York State to notify the Office of the New York State Comptroller not later than March 1 of each year a report showing the anticipated property tax cap calculations for the coming fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the property tax calculations have been presented to the Board on February 9, 2026 and are as follows:

Prior school year tax levy	\$11,742,232
Tax base growth factor	1.0014
Product	\$11,758,671
PILOT in Prior Year	\$63,458
Sum	\$11,822,129
Capital Tax Levy in Prior Year	\$375,110
Difference	\$11,447,019
Allowable Levy Growth Factor	1.02
Product	\$11,675,960
PILOT in Coming Year	\$63,458
Difference	\$11,612,502
Capital Tax Levy in Coming Year	\$388,253
Tax Levy Limit Plus Exclusions	\$12,000,754

and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education sees no pathway forward that does not include asking the voters to pierce the property tax cap limitations; and;

WHEREAS, the tax cap calculations are due to New York State too early in the process, the Board of Education has not yet had the opportunity to review the proposed budget in great depth nor conduct a thorough review of the efficacy of the District’s programs and offerings in order to determine what must be cut from the 2026-2027 budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby authorizes the administration to file the property tax cap calculations with the Office of the New York State Comptroller and further authorizes the administration to notify the Office of the New York State Comptroller that the District intends to pierce the property tax cap limitations with a tax levy of \$14,009,259, which represents the full funding of all existing District programs in the 2026-2027 school year plus the reintroduction of the valuable Pre-K program for resident three year old children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reasonably anticipates that it will ultimately present a budget to the voters that is less than the above projected levy once a full evaluation can be conducted, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District hereby directs the administration of the district to adjust the above calculation for the inclusion of any additional

information impacting the calculations that has not, at the time of the adoption of this resolution, been received by the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

*Consent
Agenda –
Finance
(continued)*

Business

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Business action: 14.1 – 14.2

*Consent
Agenda –
Business*

15.1 Contracts

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Southampton Union Free School District of Southampton, NY, for health and welfare services. The term of said agreement shall be September 4, 2025 through June 26, 2026; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement.

15.2 Donations

- a. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept an anonymous donation of various costume and scenery supplies purchased for the annual Elementary Play.
- b. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept the donation of a Stryker Electric Stair Chair, valued at \$2,300, from the Shelter Island Ambulance, to be used to assist disabled students up and down stairs during emergencies.
- c. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept a donation of \$1,500 from Shelter Island Presbyterian Church for College Visit Field Trips; and authorize an increase to the budget line of Field Trips Transportation, A.5540.400.00.2110 in the same amount.
- d. Authorize the Shelter Island School District to accept the donation of a SPOT Vision Screener, valued at \$8,690, through the generosity of multiple community organizations for use in providing vision screening for our students and our community.

Motion carried unanimously.

Facility - None

Facility

Items for Consideration - None

*Items for
Consideration*

Old Business

Old Business

Revised Dress Code

The Board of Education discussed the revised Dress Code and agreed to leave it up to each individual teacher as to whether or not students are allowed to wear hats in their classrooms. With that agreement, the Dress Code is ready to be officially adopted at the March 16, 2026 Board of Education Meeting. There will be a Public Hearing at the beginning of said meeting at 5:30 pm, in the Conference Room.

Director of Athletics, Physical, Health, Wellness & Personnel

Mr. Gulluscio congratulated our High School Winter teams on a great season and congratulated the Seniors in the program who were honored at their last home games. Mr. Gulluscio also congratulated Evan Weslek who will be named All-County and to Jackson Rohrer, who will be Academic All-County. Mr. Gulluscio added additional congratulations to Evan Weslek for breaking the 1000-point barrier last month. Mr. Gulluscio noted that the High School Spring Athletic Registration opened today and the season will begin on March 9, 2026.

*Dir of Athletics,
PE, Health,
Wellness &
Personnel*

Mr. Gulluscio shared that The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act has been signed so now the calorie counts of meals will need to be recalculated to work it into compliance. Mr. Gulluscio stated that the federal government did not raise the allowable caloric intake on meals enough to simply add it in. Aramark is working on the solution to get whole milk to our school soon.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Rylott reported on the following:

*Assistant
Superintendent
Report*

- **NHS Induction Ceremony:** Dr. Doelger and Ms. Rylott attended the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the Ram’s Head Inn, where 11 students were inducted. The event was well attended, with current NHS members, newly inducted students, and their families present. Appreciation was extended to Ms. Mahoney for her organization of the event and to the Ram’s Head Inn for hosting.
- **Meetings with Christina Lesh:** Ms. Lesh will be meeting virtually with several groups this Thursday, including one-on-one meetings with teachers.
- **Elementary Science:** The district will continue utilizing Science 21 as the core (“spine”) program, with Mystery Doug and OpenSciEd serving as the only supplemental resources. OpenSciEd is a newly researched program being incorporated to support instruction.
- **Mathematics (Grades 3–7):** An analysis of student performance data in grades 3 through 7 is underway, with a focus on how the data aligns with and informs instructional practices.
- **ENL Annual Review:** The district recently completed its annual review meetings for English as a New Language (ENL) students. The meetings were well attended by parents and were conducted with the support of Ms. Baskin, Mr. Knipping, and Ms. Kotula.

Parent Katherine Rossi-Snook asked how Christina Lesh works with Science to re-develop the curriculum.

In responding, Ms. Rylott explained that curriculum and instructional programs were reviewed using multiple measures. The team relied on independent resources such as EdReports, in addition to analyzing district data. As a group, they examined gaps in student learning and considered key factors, including which programs were rated most highly, whether the structure was sound, and whether the scope and sequence supported a clear progression of skills across grade levels. It was emphasized that curriculum is a living, breathing document and not a static plan. Adjustments and refinements were made to ensure readiness for the science rollout in September. The administration also commended the elementary and middle school teachers for their strong instructional practices. The level of engagement between teachers and students, particularly through meaningful questioning and discussion, was described as phenomenal. It was noted that the district would continue to revisit and analyze results to guide future decisions. The focus remained on strengthening science instruction while expanding this reflective process to additional departments and grade levels to ensure continued alignment and improvement across the district.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Doelger reported on the following:

- **Faculty Meeting:** A recent faculty meeting included discussions on several important topics, including the Portrait of a Graduate initiative, dress code, upcoming testing, and the 2026–2027 budget.
- **Culture Committee Meeting:** The Culture Committee has distributed a staff survey and looks forward to sharing the results with faculty in the near future.
- **Cost Savings Meeting:** Sam Schneider, the District’s business consultant, met with the administrative team to continue brainstorming potential cost-saving measures.
- **Science Fair:** The Superintendent commended the Science Department, under the leadership of Dan Williams, for an outstanding Science Fair. Student projects were impressive, and the awards ceremony was beautifully organized.
- **Meeting with East Hampton:** The Superintendent met with Sam Schneider and Adam Fine to explore additional opportunities for inter-district collaboration aimed at achieving further cost efficiencies.
- **NHS Induction Ceremony:** The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held Sunday afternoon at the Ram’s Head Inn. The event was described as beautiful and meaningful, celebrating the academic excellence, leadership, service, and character of the newly inducted members. Appreciation was extended to the faculty and families who helped make the event special.
- **End of Second Quarter:** The Superintendent noted that last week marked the conclusion of the second quarter.
- **Senior Nights – Winter Athletics:** Senior Night for the Boys Basketball team and cheerleaders was held Tuesday evening, followed by the Girls Basketball Senior Night on Friday. The Superintendent recognized these events as meaningful celebrations of student-athletes and school pride.

- **Portrait of a Graduate:** A Portrait of a Graduate meeting was held last week. The proposed portrait aligns closely with the NYSED framework while reflecting the district’s values and goals for students.
- **SpongeBob Musical:** The upcoming production of *SpongeBob the Musical* will be performed Thursday evening, with a school-day performance scheduled for Friday. The Superintendent expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication of students and staff involved.
- **February Break:** Schools will be closed for February break from February 16 through February 20.
- **Revised School Calendar:** Due to limited use of snow days this year, school will now be in session on May 22.

Superintendent Report (continued)

Board Member Reports

Visitor Comments

Adjournment

Board Member Reports

Ms. Karina Montalvo stated that she commends the student and staff awareness for what the school stands for.

Mr. Anthony J. Rando reported that he is working with Dr. Doelger and Mr. Michael Dunning in identify hazards in the community. He stated that the school is the main shelter and needs to be assessed with possible recommendations for upgrades. Mr. Rando added that there could possibly be Federal funding for such projects.

Ms. Molly Kendall noted that her child loves our music program, especially Jazz Band. She stated that we have such dedicated teachers and students in all areas of the school and noted that she would like the community to see how early and/or late the dedicated teacher are at school to support the students in their activities.

Visitor Comments

Community member and parent Katherine Rossi-Snook shared that she would be sending an email to Dr. Doelger and Mr. Williams to commend the outstanding Science Fair. She expressed how much she enjoys serving as a judge each year and noted that Shelter Island students are exceptionally well prepared for public presentations and responding to questions. She remarked on the high level of organization demonstrated by both students and teachers and stated that she was particularly impressed with the students’ ability to clearly explain their projects, thoughtfully answer questions, and engage in meaningful discussions. Ms. Rossi Snook also offered special recognition to Ms. Zumpol, describing her as incredible and praising her contributions to the event’s success.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Molly Kendall, seconded by Anthony J. Rando, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Maryann Impastato
District Clerk Pro Tem

There is a Budget Workshop scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2026, at 5:30 pm, in the Conference Room. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District is Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5:30 pm, in the Conference Room.