



# Shelter Island School Board of Education BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING *Monday, May 11, 2026* MINUTES



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

**Others Present:** Brian Doelger, Superintendent;

Todd Gulluscio, Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel; Maryann Impastato, District Treasurer; Julie Lane, Shelter Island Reporter; 14 faculty/staff/students and 9 community residents

**Absent:** Jacqueline Dunning, District Clerk; Jennifer Rylott, Assistant Superintendent; Leonardo Napoles, Student Liaison

## 1. Call to Order

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Lynch

## 2. Executive Session

Executive Session

A Motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Molly Kendall, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby votes to go into an executive session at 5:01 p.m.

The members of the Board of Education came out of Executive Session at 5:29 p.m.

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance

President Lynch led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

## 4. Shelter Island School Mission Statement: Engage, Explore, Empower

Mission Statement

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.

## 5. Public Hearing- Dress Code

Public Hearing Dress Code

- a. Brief overview of the proposed Dress Code revisions
- b. Public will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the proposed Dress Code revisions.

### **Discussion:**

Opened the public hearing to discuss the proposed dress code policy before board consideration and adoption; superintendent provided a brief policy overview and summarized changes. Board and administration to implement a revised dress code policy intended to be clearer, fairer, and less subjective, with student input incorporated through multiple meetings.

Policy elements (highlights of the proposed changes):

Dress must be safe and not disrupt class; undergarments fully covered with outerwear (shoulder straps exception applies); pants worn at waist level; shorts/skirts must provide full coverage when sitting or standing; tops must have shoulder straps or sleeves and extend to cover waistband when seated or standing; transparent or mesh garments require opaque coverage underneath; headgear in classroom at teacher discretion; no vulgar or discriminatory messaging; no promotions of alcohol/tobacco/illegal drugs; no wearing dark sunglasses unless prescribed.

Differences from prior policy: straps allowed; crop tops permitted only if the shirt touches the defined line.

## **Public comments:**

A parent urged the district not to police female bodies, called for fair, non-discriminatory enforcement, and questioned anonymous reporting and student dignity during enforcement challenges. Emphasis on equity, bodily autonomy.

Board stance and next steps: Members expressed appreciation for student-administration-parent collaboration and discussed potential future refinements; the policy moved toward adoption and was framed as a fair and objective improvement with room for revisiting in the future based on experience. The dress code policy was discussed at length with community input; the board signaled continued commitment to equitable, objective standards and planned to proceed with adoption.

## **6. Public Budget Hearing**

Public Hearing  
Budget

### **6.1 School Budget 2026-2027**

a. Brief Budget Overview- Dr. Brian Doelger

b. Public will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the School Budget for the 2026-2027 school year

Budget Hearing and Overview:

The district seeks to exceed the cap to protect today's programs and fund ongoing needs, including early learning.

#### **Key numbers:**

Total budget increase: 2% (from \$13.298 million to \$13.573 million).

Tax levy (property taxes): proposed increase of 6.78% to \$12.538 million.

State aid: projected to be flat (uncertainty due to state budget negotiations).

Fund balance/reserves: significant reductions over time; AFB (appropriated fund balance) reduced from about \$900k to \$176k (64% decrease) to promote long-term financial health and reduce reliance on reserves.

#### **Expenditure categories (highlights of changes/focus):**

Board of Education and administration changes; facilities and insurance adjustments; general and special education; clubs/athletics; transportation; benefits; debt service; transfers to other funds.

#### **Savings and cost-control measures (historical):**

Eliminated positions through attrition (e.g., social worker, tech assistant) and reduced administration from four to three.

Transportation savings by moving to an Ed. Hamden partnership; bus contract escalations mitigated by the shift.

#### **What happens if the budget is not approved:**

The board would need to reduce the proposed budget by the amount necessary to stay within the cap, potentially cutting programs (extracurriculars, athletics, cafeteria, field trips) or staff.

#### **Voting and logistics:**

Budget vote date: next Tuesday (May 19, 2026)

Voting location: gym; hours extended 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. for expanded access.

Absentee ballot process: straightforward; contact Deputy District clerk at Ext 110, Mallory Clark for forms, fill out the ballot, seal it in the envelope, and hand it right back. You can also email the District at the following address: [district.clerk@shelterisland.k12.ny.us](mailto:district.clerk@shelterisland.k12.ny.us)

## **7. Visitor Questions (Specific to the agenda)**

Visitor  
Questions

Community member had questions on specific voluntary cuts involving personnel compensation and to inform the District on how corporate sector companies contribute to health insurance. District responses included an explanation of how Negotiated Union Contracts are currently in place and District employees have payroll deductions of 20 percent of the annual health premium per year. Board member responses concurred and further commented about teachers who are so talented and valuable to the students and travel a distance each day that the school needs to retain to ensure the academic growth and student success of all who attend here. Our success depends upon the gifted staff who currently teach our kids. The Board also commented on how the current teacher contract only has a variable 1 to 2 percent increase each year. The same community member asked about the District's plans to replace the newly announced resignation of our Administrator, Todd Gulluscio, who is the Director of Athletics, PE, Health and Wellness. The District responded that we will act fiscally and creatively as possible to fulfill such a grand role in the District.

## **8. Correspondence: None**

Correspondence

## **9. Student Liaison Report –None - Leo Napoles was absent**

Student Liaison

## 10. Presentations

### Presentations Not Requiring Approval

#### a. Michelle Yirce and Elementary Professional Development:

##### Program and Student Highlights:

Building Thinkers curriculum (Elementary)-- Collaboration among administration, elementary teachers, and Christina Lesh to create a cohesive, standard-aligned curriculum from pre-K to 5th grade. Integrated ELA and science; data-driven decisions; ongoing deep dives into student data; emphasis on learning targets and observable progress.

Results observed: increased engagement and rigor, aligned instruction across grades, higher achievement, and stronger collaboration among teachers.

Examples by grade: preschool play-based units; K–2 literacy tied to science; 3rd grade read-think-talk-write approach; 4th grade poetry; 5th grade leadership/social studies; strong evidence of authentic learning across the elementary and secondary levels

#### b. James Theinert and the New York City Trip--success of the 3rd year of the district

New York City trip (High School)

Third year of the district trip; grades 9–12 travel via Hampton Jitney to multiple educational sites (American Museum of Natural History, Metropolitan Museum of Art, USS Intrepid, 9/11 Memorial & One World Observatory, with optional stops).

Progressive planning approach: pre-teaching periods, grade-level preps, and a structured day to maximize learning and safety.

Student leadership and feedback: students played a growing role in planning and execution; high attendance (58 of 60 students over two grades); 97% agreement to participate, overall trip rating around 8.34/10.

Costs and logistics: average cost about \$150.92 per student; suggested budgeting includes meals, souvenirs, and tips (district cannot fund tips); anticipates continued growth as students experience authentic learning outside a classroom.

Long-term value: helps students develop urban navigation skills and real-world application of skills learned across the curriculum.

#### c. Todd Gulluscio and the basketball team Sportsmanship Award:

Mr Gulluscio announced that our District Boys Basketball Team was awarded by the Eastern Suffolk Basketball Association with the James P. Clark Sportsmanship Award. This is awarded to one singular varsity team in their jurisdiction for their display of good sportsmanship. We couldn't be more proud of them and the coaching. The athletes earned it not once but twice in 4 years which is not a thing that normally occurs in that time frame. The team was very competitive this year and they fought with a lot of spirit to stay competitive in the games.

## 11. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

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

### 11.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting of April 20, 2026 Addendum BP11.1.A
- b. Special Meeting of April 21, 2026 Addendum BP11.1.B

Motion carried unanimously

## 12. Consent Agenda Personnel

Consent Agenda  
Personnel

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Molly Kendall, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Personnel actions: 12.1 to 12.3

12.1 To amend a motion 12.3 from the Board of Education Meeting of 4-20-26:

FROM:

Poll Workers for Annual Meeting/Budget Vote on May 19th 2026 at a rate of \$153.00 per day

- a. Angela Corbett
- b. Lew Corbett

- c. Lois Corbett
- d. Shirley Ferrer

TO:

12.1 Poll Workers for Annual Meeting/Budget Vote on May 19th 2026 at a rate of \$170.00 per day

- e. Angela Corbett
- f. Lew Corbett
- g. Lois Corbett
- h. Jane Ritzler

12.2 Additional Substitute Teacher for the 2025-2026 School Year at \$125 per Day

- a. Cass Egan; pending fingerprint clearance Addendum BP12.2.A

12.3 Resignation of Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness and Personnel

- a. The Board hereby accepts the resignation of Todd Gulluscio from the position of Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness and Personnel, effective June 30, 2026. Addendum BP12.3.A

Motion carried with 1 recusal from Anthony Rando

Dr. Doelger had a heartfelt and emotional farewell to the district's athletic director, Mr Todd Gulluscio. Reflections highlighted Todd's leadership, transformative impact on athletics, health and wellness initiatives, transportation partnerships, and overall district culture. We are excited for him and his move to a larger role and express gratitude and affection for the impact he has had on the Shelter Island community. He is a trusted colleague and loyal friend.

President Lynch expressed that we have to fill a dozen shoes and we are not sure how to do that. She reflects on his accomplishments at the District. Mr Gulluscio single handedly revamped our school cafeteria, oversaw our health and wellness, the gardens, reduced transportation costs in a collaboration with East Hampton Schools, and takes teams to their games so they do not miss the dual sports programs. He is also our Personnel Director and has inspired our students to do great things. The list of accolades goes on and the Board expressed the same sentiment.

Mr Gulluscio reflected back when he first started as a 17 year old Teaching Assistant sitting in the same office as he is in right now ordering boxes for athletics and wondering what it would be like one day to hold that position. He remembers his time as a substitute, custodian, coach, elementary leave replacement teacher, District's first permanent substitute, and a part PE teacher. To come back as an administrator made him proud in addition to the tangible improvements we made together over the last 12 years. He thanked the District for its trust, partnership and support. He leaves with nothing but gratitude and continued pride in this District, which has always been his home.

### 13. Consent Agenda Program

Consent Agenda  
Program

A motion was made by Dawn Medberg, seconded by Anthony Rando, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:  
The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Program Action:  
13.1 to 13.3

13.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations for the 2025-2026 School Year

- a. Committee on Preschool Special Education Addendum BP13.1.A
- b. Committee on Special Education

13.2 CPSE Recommendations for the 2026-2027 Summer Services

- a. Committee on Preschool Special Education Addendum BP13.2.A

13.3 CPSE/CSE/504 Recommendations for the 2026-2027 School Year

- a. Committee on Preschool Special Education Addendum BP13.3.A
- b. Committee on Special Education
- c. 504 Committee

Motion carried unanimously.

### 14. Consent Agenda Finance

Consent Agenda  
Finance

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 Finance Actions:  
14.1 to 14.2

14.1 Financial Reports

- a. Appropriation Status Report Addendum BP14.1.A
- b. Revenue Status Report Addendum BP14.1.B
- c. Claims Auditor's Report April 2026 Addendum BP14.1.C
- d. Payroll Audit Report April 2026 Addendum BP14.1.D

14.2 Budget Transfers and Journal Entries

Accept and Approve Journal Entries and Budget Entries for the period of March 27, 2026 through May 4th 2026, that in accordance with Board Policy, the Superintendent has approved, as well as transfers that need specific Board approval. Addenda BP14.2.A.1, BP14.2.A.2

Motion carried unanimously.

**15. Consent Agenda Business**

Consent Agenda  
Business

A motion was made by Molly Kendall, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:  
The Board of Education hereby accepts the recommendations of the Superintendent on the following Business Action:  
15.1

15.1 Contracts

- a. Approve the agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and Comprehensive Therapy Services, PLLC of Sag Harbor NY for student services. The term of said agreement is July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; and authorize the Board President to execute said agreement. Addendum BP15.1.A
- b. Approve the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District and the Town of Shelter Island for the management, maintenance and repair of the playground located on School Street, Shelter Island, New York. The term of said agreement is May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2036. Addendum BP15.2.B

Motion carried unanimously.

**16. Facility – None**

Facility

**17. Items for Consideration**

Items

- a. Proposal to change the meeting day for the Board of Education Meetings- 2026-2027 School Year
- b. Proposal to move the June 8th Board of Education Meeting to June 1st or June 15th.
- c. Discussion to adopt Board Meeting schedule for the 2026-2027 school year

**18. Old Business – None**

Old Business

**19. Director of Athletics, Physical Education, Health, Wellness & Personnel Report**

Director of  
Athletics Report

This is the last week of Athletics for High School. Thank you to SIPD for providing the Celebrating Safely presentation to our High School students for Prom. In addition, they have been providing opioid lessons to our 11th and 12th Grades as well as upcoming presentations on dangers of vaping to 8th and 9th grades.

This week:

- JV Baseball home vs. Hampton Bays tomorrow and Friday at 4:30 pm
- JV Softball home vs. Bayport Blue Point Friday at 4:30 pm
- Varsity Girls Track @ East End Invitational 10:00 at East Hampton High School
- Junior High Boys and Girls Track will wrap their season up on June 1st at Southold

Upcoming List of Events:

- Dare Graduation is tomorrow
- June 3rd: Elementary Bike Day
- June 5th: Elementary Field Day
- June 16th: Athletic Awards Ceremony
- June 18th: 6th and 7th Grade PE Trip to Top Golf
- June 22nd: 6th and 7th Grade PE 3K and Beach Day

**20. Assistant Superintendent Report : Jennifer Rylott was absent**

Assistant  
Superintendent  
Report  
Superintendent

**21. Superintendent Report:**

Over the past few weeks, we have had many wonderful events and accomplishments across the district.

I hope all of our mothers and families had a very happy Mother's Day.

Our Junior/Senior Prom was a tremendous success. I shared with the Board a thoughtful email from Mrs. Pryor, who relayed a compliment from the DJ. He noted that he works many events throughout Eastern Long Island and described our students as, by far, the nicest group he has worked with. We are very proud of the way our students represented our school community.

State testing and AP exams have continued to run smoothly and efficiently thanks to the efforts of our faculty and staff.

The Reporter Forum was held two weeks ago and was a very successful event with strong community participation and turnout.

Since our last Board meeting, our school play was performed and it was absolutely fantastic. Congratulations to all of the students, directors, and staff involved for an outstanding production.

Looking ahead, our Secondary Concert will take place this Wednesday, and our Elementary Concert is scheduled for next Tuesday.

OCEs will be held throughout next week.

There will also be a PTSA meeting this Wednesday.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the district budget vote will take place next Tuesday. We encourage all community members to come out and vote.

## 22. Board Member Reports:

President Lynch stated the the school play was outrageous and "out the charts!"  
Molly Kendall stated "everything is great!"

Board Member  
Reports

## 23. Visitor Comments:

Community member stated that we have a student that was nominated for the TEENY Award and our school is on their Poster. Of a pool of two thousand students, we are up against schools with kids who are exclusively "theatre kids" doing 3 to 4 productions per year who are competing for a nomination; it's gigantic and she explodes with pride!

Visitor  
Comments

## 24. Adjournment

Adjournment

A motion was made by Margaret Colligan, seconded by Karina Montalvo, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Education hereby adjourns the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Maryann Impastato  
Deputy District Clerk

The next meeting of the Board of Education of the Shelter Island Union Free School District for June 8th, is pending a rescheduled date.