

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

October 5, 2006

2:30 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Thursday, October 5, 2006, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 2:34 PM. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan was also in attendance.

Site Based/School Management and School Improvement Team

William Padien handed out an organizational chart he developed from various sources: the staff's task force, a chart developed by Richard Tretheway, one received from the attorney, and information gathered during the work sessions held this summer. He feels we should stay with a part-time superintendent and hire a full-time principal. However, he would like an "internal" advisory team to work with the principal, which would be different than the "external" school improvement team (SIT). The advisory team, which would address student-based (teaching and learning) issues, would include a teacher representing the elementary, middle, secondary, and allied subject areas, plus the special education director, guidance, athletic director, and a support staff member. The SIT would deal with more

global issues or initiatives. There would still be a collaborative atmosphere at the school.

Mr. Tretheway stated that he thought the goal was to change or improve site based management, but the end product has gotten off that track. The SIT would include parents and students, but not have any management duties. He stated that he felt some progress was made, but with many needs on all sides, nothing would satisfy everyone.

Faculty members stated they were not opposed to this management structure, but they spent many hours trying to tweak the current site based management system. It was stated that the reason we went with site based management originally was because the part-time superintendent with a full-time principal system was not working. In addition, because of high administrative turnover the staff members have learned to think outside the box. It was hoped that whatever plan is chosen all staff members would continue to be able to voice opinions.

Mr. Padien stated that we have a new facility, a new superintendent, a new outlook, and we are now looking forward, not backwards. Annie Hall stated that with a principal in place it would take a lot of weight off the teachers' shoulders so they can concentrate on teaching. Sean McGarry assured the audience that no one was trying to alter the philosophy of the school. Mr. Padien stated that he, too, was not

thinking of changing the philosophy, but hoped we could find “someone who would meld with our philosophy.” Mr. Tretheway felt that having a principal would create accountability, but also agreed that he did not want someone who had a “his way or the highway” mentality. Mrs. Hall stated that she would definitely not be looking for a principal with a “top down” management style.

It was suggested that discussion of this item be continued to the October 17 meeting. If there are questions or concerns, the faculty/staff should address them to Mrs. Ryan before the 17th.

Use of Gymnasium by Recreation Department

This item was included on the agenda at the request of Mr. McGarry, who had met with Recreation Director Rob Closter and Superintendent Leslie Ryan regarding the scheduling of the gymnasium for school basketball practices and recreation department activities. Mr. McGarry stated that he had spoken to several coaches and the biggest concern they had was with the awkward practice schedules, which seemed to change almost daily. He was hoping to remedy the situation by having a set practice time for each team. Mr. Closter would like to begin most of the adult programs at 7:00, but Mr. McGarry had scheduled team practices until 8:00 P.M. Mr. Padien stated for the record that school activities take precedence over the recreation department’s use, but traditionally the recreation department has had the use of the gym every afternoon immediately after school for approximately an hour for practices and

on one additional afternoon during the week for the younger children's games. He further stated that the gym is large enough with the curtain closed for more than one activity to take place at the same time. Mr. Padien suggested that all future requests for the use of school facilities go to Marsha Gutierrez, as they have in the past, with only an occasional request going to the School Committee when necessary. Mr. Closter withdrew his requests for the use of the gymnasium, except for those activities that will take place in October, and will resubmit them when a practice schedule has been developed and/or a compromise can be reached.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 3:30 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 10/17/2006