

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**February 12, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 12, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Secretary Annie Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and Richard Tretheway. Shea Butcher and William Padien were not in attendance. Leslie Ryan was also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 10, 16, 22, and 31, 2007, carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings held on January 8, 10, 16, 22, and 31, 2007, carried with a vote of 3-0.**

## **Reports**

**Annie Hall reported that seven applications were received for the principal position although two applicants later withdrew. The search committee interviewed one terrific candidate and Mrs. Hall asked if the School Committee wanted to interview the candidate or**

re-advertise the position. Committee members were not uncomfortable with just one candidate and suggested March 3 as the date when all would be available. Marsha Gutierrez will contact the candidate to set up the interview.

Mrs. Ryan reported that she was informed that a larger concrete pad is needed for the dust collector. She was not aware of any work being done in the shop. Sean McGarry will speak with John Warfel on the status of the room.

Everett Littlefield submitted a written report on the elementary classrooms floors. He has researched several flooring options (polyurethane, epoxy, and carpeting) and suggested that carpeting be put back in the rooms because it is easier to maintain. He also suggested that students not be allowed to eat in the classrooms. Mrs. Ryan feels that eliminating food in the elementary rooms would be very hard because it is the culture of what goes on during various classes. All elementary classes have a snack each morning and it would take a lot of additional time to go to the cafeteria for the snack. The issue of allergies was raised and it was felt that hardwood floors would be easier to keep clean than carpeting. Mrs. Ryan will speak with the teachers, but a decision does not have to be made immediately.

Athletic reports for the months of January and February were submitted by Matthew Moran. Committee members had several

questions and asked that Mr. Moran attend the next meeting.

Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:

- Mid-term exams for students in grades 8-12 were held from January 23-26 and report cards were sent home on February 2.
- Mrs. Lacoste chaperoned the senior class Close-Up trip to Washington, DC. She hopes to have the students attend a future meeting for a “show and tell.”
- On February 2 representatives from RIDE worked with the secondary faculty on state regulations.
- On February 6 a parent/student meeting regarding next year’s senior exhibition and graduation requirements was held.
- On February 8 ten students from the junior class were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- On February 9 representatives from the National Center for Education Statistics administered the NAEP to students in grades 4 and 8.
- The book Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Block Island School Staff but Were Afraid to Ask, which was written by the 11th and 12th grade English students, is available to borrow from Mrs. Greenaway and/or the school library.
- Representatives from Bradley Hospital were here today to work with staff on special education issues.
- Vicky Carson is reviewing the new health regulations to see what impact they will have on current school policies.
- The new shelving in the library was donated by Building Blocks.

- February vacation begins this weekend and some will probably leave earlier than expected because of the anticipated bad weather.

Mrs. Ryan reported that Sharon Lee and Rosemary Burns worked with the high school teachers on the PBGR regulations. More information will be submitted to RIDE in May and we will be formally reviewed in November. Mrs. Ryan stated that a policy is being developed by Joanne Warfel and Sue Gibbons that spells out exactly what is required of our students before they can graduate. Mrs. Ryan stated that about half of the junior class and their parents attended the informational meeting on February 7.

Mrs. Ryan reported that Bradley Hospital sent a behaviorist and a psychologist out to work with elementary teachers and assistants on developing plans for students with behavior disorders.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve Policy GA: HIV Infected Students and Employees and the Proposed Universal Precautions Procedures as written and posted for the required 30 days carried with a vote of 3-0. This policy will be addressed again next month because the full committee was not present this evening.

Richard Tretheway reported that he did a walkthrough with the security company that provides cameras, etc. for Interstate Navigation. Cameras, buzzer systems, entry systems, and alarm

**systems for various doors were all discussed and included in a proposal, which will help us develop a bid for the various components.**

**Mrs. Ryan explained the revisions made to the goals and objectives. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the goals and objectives as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A motion (McGarry, Tretheway) to adopt the 2007-2008 general operating budget of \$3,999,688.80 as corrected (should read 2007-2008, not 2006-2007) and authorize the Superintendent to transmit the budget document to the Town Manager as required carried with a vote of 3-0.**

### **New Business**

**Policy HJ: Professional Staff Hiring was updated by Attorney Denise Myers and presented for review. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to post Policy HJ: Professional Staff Hiring for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**A copy of the letter sent to Judith O'Keefe-Durden notifying her that her teaching contract will not be renewed at the end of the 2006-2007 school year was submitted for School Committee information. The School Committee voted in November to terminate site based management and move forward with the traditional management of superintendent and principal. Because of this change Mrs. Lacoste,**

at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, will be returning to her former position as third grade teacher, which is Mrs. Durden's current teaching position. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to not renew Judith O'Keefe-Durden's teaching contract as of the end of the 2006-07 school year carried with a vote of 3-0. It was stated for the record that this does not reflect in any way on the performance of this teacher, but was done strictly because of policy.

### **Calendar of Events**

A calendar of events for the months of February and March were submitted for School Committee information.

### **Executive Session**

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) at 7:59 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **Open Session**

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) at 8:37 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 3-0.

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Hall, Tretheway) at 8:37 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote 3-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: April 9, 2007**

**\*\*Double asterisk is used to define motions in the minutes for easier identification.**