

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**March 12, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, March 12, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, and William Padien. Sean McGarry and Richard Tretheway were not in attendance. Leslie Ryan was also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**This item was table until the next meeting because two of the three members present were not at the meeting on February 12, 2007.**

## **Reports**

**Nancy Cole presented the standing of accounts as of January 31, 2007. She reported that the budget seems to be right on target and currently doesn't foresee any problems. A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the fiscal report through January 31, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**William Padien reported that the school is working with Pro Lock in Westerly to get a lock for the door at the bottom of the stairs near the**

tech ed room. Everett Littlefield spent 6.5 hours working with the reps from Trane to fix the heaters, but some issues still remain. There is still a lot of leakage during torrential rainstorms. We have asked for an estimate to repair the old roof above the middle grades. Matt McPhillips from Saccoccio & Associates was on Block Island Saturday and gave the go ahead for the tech ed duct work to be ordered and installed. There was a hold put on the project for a couple of days because they were making a few changes were made that needed approval by an engineer and Marc Tillson. Mr. McPhillips made notes and took photos of issues that have yet to be addressed.

Mr. Padien met with Debby Hart, Derek Van Lent, and John Warfel about the plans for the brick walkway. Mr. Warfel is hoping to involve the CAD students in the design process. The drainage issue must be addressed before the walkway is installed.

Matthew Moran submitted the statistical breakdown for the basketball season. He reported that there were few cancellations this year because of weather. He stated that this year had the lowest participation rate since 1991 or 1992. Coaches worked hard to retain the students, but some still quit for various reasons. Mr. Moran also reported that Mike Shutusky will not be available to coach softball this year. However, John Warfel has expressed an interest in moving up to head coach.

**Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:**

- **The bad weather before February vacation created travel concerns and some families departed early.**
- **The 11th grade students will begin six days of English language arts and math testing using the New Standards Tests tomorrow. This particular group of students has taken the PSATs, SATs, and a three-day pilot test for the NECAPs in ELA and Math. In the spring they will also complete, along with the fourth and eighth grade students, a two-day pilot NECAP science test.**
- **David Stephenson has started meeting with the high school students and their parents regarding course selections for next year.**
- **All of our seniors have applied to colleges and six have received at least one acceptance notification. The updated list is on the guidance bulletin board.**
- **Debby Hart has organized a “Pennies for Patients” drive to raise money for the RI Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Last year Block Island School was in the top ten for funds raised.**
- **The school’s annual spelling bee for students in grades 4-8 will be held tomorrow to determine our representative to the state spelling bee.**
- **The students in grade seven will attend Teen Institute at the Alton Jones Center this coming weekend. They will work on decision making skills and ways to give back to the community. Last year the students painted the mural outside the cafeteria.**
- **Ben Bentrup has been working on a new draft of the Student Handbook to make it more user friendly. It should be ready for next**

**school year.**

- **Shannon Cotter, John Warfel, and Brandon Pineo are working with a group of students in grades 8-12 to build a robot to compete in the First Vex Challenge on March 31. The met earlier today via PolyCom with other participants at New England Tech.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that she met with seven superintendents last Friday and participated in a “learning walk-through” of the Peace Dale Elementary School. After the walk-through they discussed what they saw and compared notes. She found this to be extremely worthwhile and hopes to participate on other occasions.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that Alex Hart has agreed to give a tour of the school to a group of superintendents who are coming out to Block Island on June 8. Teachers will be notified in advance if they are going to visit classrooms. This is a good chance to show off what Block Island School has to offer.**

**Mrs. Ryan stated that a progress report on our PBGR work was submitted to RIDE on March 1; the final report is due in May. Several teachers, but most notably Joanne Warfel, have been working on this.**

**Mrs. Ryan will submit a policy shortly that addresses the new graduation requirements, which will have to be in place before the beginning of the 2007-08 school year. This policy will spell out exactly what the students must do to receive a diploma.**

**A letter was received from David Abbott, Deputy Commissioner of Education, mentioning that a great deal of time and effort was put into New Shoreham's Article 31 Professional Development Plans. Mrs. Ryan gave kudos to Marlee Lacoste and Nancy Cole for their work on this report.**

### **Old Business**

**Pursuant to School Committee Bylaws, policies require action by a majority of the School Committee at two successive regular meetings or a unanimous vote of all five members at a regular meeting. Policy GA: HIV Infected Students and Employees and the Proposed Universal Precautions Procedures were presented for a second vote. A motion (Hall, Butcher) to approve Policy GA: HIV Infected Students and Employees and the Proposed Universal Precautions Procedures carried with a vote of 3-0.**

### **New Business**

**Policy IAA: High School Tardy was updated by the secondary faculty and approved by the Core Team prior to being presented to the School Committee. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to post Policy IAA: High School Tardy for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**Correspondence was received from Henry Lemoine expressing his intent to retire at the end of this school year and requesting that he be permitted to collect his severance pay even though the deadline for**

notification has passed. Mr. Lemoine offered to wait until July 2008 for his severance pay, which would allow the School Committee to budget for this expense. Committee members expressed sadness at the news of Mr. Lemoine's retirement, but wished him well and thanked him for his many years of service. A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the contractual requirement of notification by February 1 of intent to collect his severance pay with the stipulation that the money not be awarded to Mr. Lemoine until July 2008 and that a memorandum of understanding be written and signed by all parties stating that this is not setting a precedent carried with a vote of 3-0. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the resignation of Henry Lemoine at the end of the 2006-2007 school year with great regret carried with a vote of 3-0.

Brandon Pineo submitted a request for a leave of absence to allow him to travel during the 2007-2008 school year. It was stated that Mr. Pineo is a very valuable member of our school and a highly cooperative and collaborative teacher. The school community will miss him. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to grant the request of Mr. Pineo for an extended leave of absence for the 2007-2008 school year per the terms and conditions listed in the teachers' contract carried with a vote of 3-0.

A draft of the 2007-2008 school calendar, which includes the new RIDE regulations that will go into effect next year, was submitted for School Committee review. It was reported that graduation must be

**scheduled after the 180th day and, because of the lack of housing after the middle of June, the teacher work day is being proposed for the Wednesday before Labor Day. It was suggested that the School Committee take a few weeks to review the calendar and adopt it at the regular meeting in April.**

**Mr. Padien reported that Dr. Davida Irving had two very successful interviews; one with the Principal Search Committee and one with the School Committee. Many references were checked and all were positive. Dr. Irving has a background in curriculum work and teacher mentoring. She currently oversees 40 teachers and is knowledgeable in the new high school regulations. A motion (Padien, Hall) to offer Dr. Davida Irving the job of principal at the Block Island School beginning July 1, 2007, carried with a vote of 3-0.**

### **Calendar of Events**

**A calendar of events for the months of March and April was submitted for School Committee information.**

### **Correspondence**

**Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including a letter from Building Official Marc Tillson approving the installation of a water vending machine in or near the gymnasium.**

### **Executive Session**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:30 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 (Padien, Hall) at 8:55 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 3-0.**

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

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 8:56 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 3-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: April 9, 2007**