

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**April 9, 2007**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, April 9, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Richard Tretheway was not in attendance. Leslie Ryan was also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2007, as written carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 12, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Butcher) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on March 12, 2007, as presented carried with a vote**

**of 4-0.**

## **Reports**

**Nancy Cole presented the fiscal report through the end of February and stated that most line items are right on target. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to accept the fiscal report through February 28, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**Annie Hall reported that the Early Learning Center was defending its budget in front of the Town Council at the meeting currently being held in the cafeteria. The outcome is crucial as to how BIELC would operate next year.**

**Sean McGarry reported that he would be attending a RIASC meeting on Saturday, April 21 regarding the differences between Rhode Island and federal special education regulations and how they can be reconciled.**

**William Padien reported that Howell Conant is close to finishing the electrical work in the tech ed room. Once A-1 Sheet Metal installs the duct work, which should be within the next week, the next step would be to install the dust collector. He hopes this will all be completed by the end of spring vacation. Mr. Padien is working with Joe Sprague to get the sidewalk, handicap ramp, and basketball stanchions finished. Mr. Padien is still trying to get a lock installed on the door to the upstairs.**

**Matthew Moran reported that the spring sports programs have started with games scheduled for after vacation. He is still looking for an assistant coach for the junior high baseball team. The renovations on Heinz Field have not begun so several home softball and baseball games can be scheduled. Due to the soft ground on and around the school field, Mr. Moran has requested that there be no parking by the dumpster. Cars are leaving the area full of ruts. He also requested that the rearrangement of coaching stipends for the soccer programs be retroactive to last season. He feels it worked very well to divide the large junior high team (grades 5-9) into a 5-6 team and a 7-9 team. Mr. Moran suggested that because Paul Cunningham did not have an assistant coach for the junior high basketball team that he be paid the assistant stipend as well. Mr. Padien requested some further information on whether a coach ever received both stipends.**

**Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:**

- Orrin Starr was the Block Island School representative to the state spelling bee and made it about halfway through.**
- Students in grade 11 completed the last round of New Standards tests during six sittings. Starting next year they will join grades 3-8 in taking the NECAP assessments.**
- Grade 7 attended Teen Institute on March 16-19. On April 5 the class attended a Holocaust exhibit of artwork by children and was able to fit in a visit to the IMAX Theater for a movie on Hurricane Katrina.**
- Grade 8 attended the BICEP sponsored Roots and Wings program**

**with a trip to New York City.**

- **Students in grades 9 and 10 will attend Project Adventure, another BICEP sponsored program, at Springfield College on April 23 and 24.**

- **The Pennies for Patients drive organized by Deborah Hart brought in about \$400 to donate to the Rhode Island Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.**

- **Block Island School Friends sponsored Whale Day on March 20. The Audubon Society has an inflatable life-size fin whale that allows children to see how large these animals are.**

- **A lock-in was held on March 30 for students in grades 5-7. This has been organized by the middle grades teachers once every three years. As part of the experience students took turns all night dribbling a basketball to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation.**

- **On Wednesday morning, April 4 secondary and allied arts faculty members worked on assessment rubrics for the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements.**

- **Third quarter ended on Friday, April 6 and report cards will go out at the end of the week.**

- **Dental screenings for our students continue. The upper classes will be seen on Friday, April 13.**

- **Five of the seven seniors have made their decisions on which colleges they will attend. The list is on the bulletin board in the lobby.**

- **David Stephenson has met with most of the students in grades 9-11 to look at potential course selections. Sue Gibbons has started to draft the student schedules for 2007-2008.**

- **Kindergarten screening will be held on Friday, April 27. Incoming kindergarten students will be allowed to visit on either May 7 or 8.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that the responsibilities for PBGR have been divided up among the staff. She will write the policy regarding what a student must do to receive a diploma from Block Island School and submit it to the School Committee at the May meeting. This policy, which must be in place before the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, will be included in the Student Handbook. Mrs. Ryan stated that there will be serious implications if a student does not comply with these requirements. On a related note, Mrs. Ryan reported that the work day on April 4 went well. A lot of work was accomplished on curriculum alignment.**

**Mrs. Ryan stated that she is in the process of re-writing the guidance counselor job description to include some of PBGR requirements. The guidance counselor will need to take an active role with the students. She hopes to present the updated job description at the May meeting.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that she has completed 12 teacher evaluations so far this year. She also made some unannounced visits to classrooms.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that unless other ideas are received for the Champlin Foundations Grant she hopes to submit a proposal for a**

**green house to provide students with authentic growing experiences. However, regardless of whether this proposal comes to fruition, Martha Velie-Gass would like to plant a small vegetable garden this spring. It was suggested that Mr. Padien work with Ms Velie-Gass and Mrs. Hart to find a suitable area.**

### **Old Business**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Policy HJ: Professional Staff Hiring as written carried with a vote of 4-0. This policy will be addressed again next month because the full committee was not present this evening.**

**When Policy ID: Extra-curricular/Athletic Participation was discussed in September and October 2006 it was decided that it would remain as is for at least a year, but that it would be revisited in the spring. A lengthy discussion was held on the pros and cons of changing the policy. The secondary faculty submitted correspondence strongly urging the School Committee to keep the policy as is. The feeling among the faculty is that if the policy is weakened, academics will be weakened as well. Currently eligibility is determined by the quarter grades as shown on report cards, but one suggestion was to include the mid-quarter progress report. If that were the case, grades would be reviewed approximately every five weeks to determine if a student is eligible to play on a team. Other suggestions were to allow a teacher to reinstate a student to a team if the student improved his/her grade; allowing a student to participate in the fall sports if**

he/she failed a course during the fourth quarter, but passed for the year; and allowing students to practice with the team after attending homework club/tutoring sessions, but not playing in or attending any home or away games. Jiffy Blansfield stated that children work much better when they are active. Mrs. Hall, as a member of the Wellness Committee, agreed that kids should be as active as possible. She also stated that self-esteem is a huge issue when kids are excluded from a team. William Young stated that students were aware from the first day of school what the policy entailed and with small class sizes it is difficult to fail a course. The School Committee should not forget about a student's personal responsibility. Mr. Padien stated that he would like to talk with the coaches, as a group or individually, regarding their concerns, if any, of allowing students to attend practice, but not having them play in any games while academically ineligible. It was suggested that the faculty take another look at the policy and update it with some of the suggestions made this evening.

At the School Committee meeting held on January 16, 2007, the Facility Use fee was changed from \$5 to \$25 per hour. At that time Town Manager Nancy Dodge requested and received a waiver until July 1 for all town functions held at the school because no money was budgeted for facility use fees this fiscal year. School Committee members stated that waivers can be requested and would be addressed on a case-by-case basis, including the town's recreation department, which will be charged the facility use fee beginning July

1. Recreation Director Rob Closter referenced Mr. Augeri's recommendation in 1998 to waive all fees for town/recreation functions held at the school because the town fully funds the school department annually through the budgetary process. He stated that no motions had been made to change that practice. Mr. McGarry's opinion is that this particular motion was for one fiscal year. Mr. Closter also stated that the Recreation Board recently passed a motion that all fees for the use of Heinz Field and the van be waived for the school department and was hoping the School Committee would do the same for recreation programs. He further stated that he would have to charge each program participant an additional \$35 to cover the facility use fees. It was decided that records would be kept on the recreation department's actual use of the school facilities and submitted to the Finance Director on a monthly basis so the town is aware of the cost to provide recreational programs.

Mr. Padien stated that in 2003 a study was completed by Gifford Design Group regarding the possibility of using the Faulkner property for an athletic field. Their report stated that both a high school soccer field and a baseball field could fit on the property, but the study/project went no further. Mr. Padien would like to appoint a subcommittee to develop a comprehensive plan to present to the town. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to form a subcommittee to develop over the next six months a comprehensive proposal to submit to the town regarding the use of the Faulkner property as an athletic field carried with a vote of 4-0. It was suggested that the committee

include two school committee members, two parents, and a coach. John Gasner and Bryan Wilson have expressed an interest in being part of this committee. Shea Butcher and Sean McGarry agreed to represent the school committee. A motion (McGarry, Padien) to appoint Shea Butcher as chair of the Faulkner property use committee carried with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Moran will put the word out to the coaching staff to see if anyone is interested in serving on this committee.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the 2007-2008 school calendar as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **New Business**

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept Everett Littlefield's resignation as maintenance supervisor with deep regret effective at the end of June carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Marlee Lacoste as the sixth grade teacher for the 2007-2008 school year while Brandon Pineo is on a leave of absence carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of John Warfel as the head coach of the varsity softball team carried with a vote of 4-0.

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Roberta Dailey as the assistant coach for the varsity softball team carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of John Kisseberth as the head coach for the 7-9 soccer team retroactive to the 2006 season carried with a vote of 4-0.**

### **Calendar of Events**

**A calendar of events for the months of April and May 2007 was submitted for School Committee information.**

### **Correspondence**

**Several pieces of correspondence were submitted for School Committee review, including a request from SORICO for signatures on a petition to allow schools to remain in session during statewide primary days. SORICO will consolidate the information and forward it to southern RI representatives and senators.**

### **Executive Session**

**A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 9:30 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(1) for a discussion of job performance and pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for possible litigation and contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.**

## **Open Session**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 10:15 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 4-0.**

## **Administrative Appointments**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Dr. Davida Irving to the position of principal of the Block Island School effective July 1, 2007, carried with a vote of 4-0. It was suggested that an informal get-together be held some evening in May or June for the faculty and staff to meet Dr. Irving. It was stated that Marlee Lacoste will do whatever she can to make the transition as smooth as possible.**

## **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 10:20 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: May 21, 2007**