

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

August 20, 2007

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, August 20, 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, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan was also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 16, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 7:05 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations and to include Nancy Cole and Jeff Wadovick carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 7:25 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the contract with the New Shoreham Teachers' Association and authorize the chair to sign the contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Nancy Cole presented the fiscal reports for the periods ending June 30 and July 31, 2007. She stated that at the end of June there was a fund balance of \$152,617 with the majority of the money coming from \$84,000 of unexpected grant funds. The July report showed nothing out of the ordinary with only one month into the new fiscal year. A discussion was held on the possibility of including grant funds when developing the budget each year. Auditor Jeffrey Wadovick stated that some school districts include the grants and others do not. He suggested that a five-year recap be done to see which grants are recurring and, if so, whether the amounts are similar each year. However, some School Committee members are hesitant to for budget grant funds and not receive them.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the fiscal report for the period ending June 30, 2007, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the fiscal report for the period

ending July 31, 2007, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Wadovick, from the district's auditing firm of James Nadeau & Company, presented the preliminary draft of the 2006-2007 audit report. He stated that there will be some changes because the phone bill had just been received, no recent invoices had been received from the attorney, and the state just reimbursed the school for the lunch program. A motion (Padien, Hall) to ratify the preliminary draft of the audit report as amended and that it be transmitted to the town's finance office carried with a vote of 5-0.

William Padien stated that he would like to re-appropriate monies from the fund balance to pay for the repair of the asphalt roof. This job was recently put out to bid and one proposal was received from Roofing Unlimited at a cost of approximately \$55,000. Mr. Padien was hoping the price could be negotiated down a bit. Mr. Wadovick stated that if the money was encumbered it did not have to be spent if things didn't work out. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to have Shea Butcher and Bill Padien negotiate with Roofing Unlimited to repair the asphalt roof and to encumber not more than \$55,000 carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that this expenditure will reduce the fund balance.

Annie Hall reported that the current playground is geared toward the younger elementary students, and as a member of the Wellness Committee, would like to see more age appropriate equipment for the middle school students to use during recess and/or after school.

Physical Education teacher John Tarbox suggested Landscape Structures' FitCore Fitness Circuit, Pinnacle, and Air Dancer at a cost of approximately \$15,000 plus installation. A motion (Padien, Hall) to encumber no more than \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of the fitness circuit, air dancer, and pinnacle carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Hall stated that she thought a barrier was going to be installed to keep vehicles out of the school field. It was reported that the poles and cement have arrived and Kirk Littlefield would dig the holes to install the chain.

It was reported that Rob Closter was willing to take care of the basketball court, but Mr. Padien reported that a lot of underground work is in and around the outside court. No one should be digging in the area where electrical, sewer, or water lines are located.

Richard Tretheway requested that the outside lights be turned on each night now that it will be getting darker earlier. It was suggested that lights with motion sensors or possibly solar lights be installed on the east side of the building to light the sidewalk leading to the parking lot.

Mr. Padien reported that Peter Blane was able to schedule the tech people to complete what should have been done two years ago. The magnetic doors at the top of the stairs in the high school wing have been installed and Mr. Blane has now signed off on the alarm system.

An agreement has been signed with Security-1 to test the fire alarms on a quarterly basis. The security cameras have been ordered. A-1 Sheet Metal is planning to be here on Wednesday morning to finish the duct system, etc. in the shop. John Warfel stated that the machines are in place, but he will leave a list in the shop and also speak with the representative from A-1. When the duct work is in place Howell Conant will finish the electrical work. The architect, contractor, and others will be at the school tomorrow to try and resolve the items on the punch list.

Matthew Moran was not available this evening to give the athletic report. School Committee members inquired on the status of the athletic handbook and whether last year's coaches were ready for the upcoming soccer season. It was stated that because of the work being done to renovate Heinz Field there would be no home games this fall.

Dr. Irving reported that she had spent the summer familiarizing herself with the inner workings of the school and is especially grateful to Marlee Lacoste for helping with the transition. She has been welcomed with open arms by everyone she has met and worked with this summer and as of Saturday will be a year-round resident.

Dr. Irving stated that the custodians have been working very hard to ready the school for the start of the new year. The back to school packets will be sent home at the end of this week. The first faculty meeting is scheduled for August 29 and the high school staff will

concentrate on the PBGR information. She plans to meet weekly with the Principal's Advisory Committee.

Joanne Warfel, Mrs. Ryan, and Dr. Irving have been working on the proficiency based high school requirements that go into effect with our upcoming senior class. Dr. Irving feels we have a good chance of going beyond the commended rating and start a new category of exemplary school because there are a lot of good things in place.

Mrs. Ryan reported that a lot of work has been done on the PBGR and she feels better than she has in the past. Each teacher will be given a packet of information at the work day scheduled for August 29. This packet will include information on the new contract, the health plan, spending protocol (reimbursement for out of pocket purchases, reimbursement for coursework), positions that are available, etc. Deborah Hart has been organizing the breakfast in lieu of going to the 1661 Inn.

Mrs. Ryan stated that the music teacher resigned and two interviews were held earlier today. However, she is not prepared to make a recommendation this evening. She is also hoping to hire a part-time teacher assistant before the beginning of the year.

New Business

Playground equipment for the middle school students was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Correspondence was received from Town Manager Nancy Dodge requesting a waiver of the facility use fee for town meetings held at the school until December 2007. A motion (Tretheway, Butcher) to waive the facility use fees for town meetings until December 2007 carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept with regret the resignation of Thomas Gregory as the K-12 music teacher carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Hall, Butcher) to accept with regret the resignation of Jill Closter as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Kathleen Mello as a part-time (0.4 FTE) elementary special education teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The School Committee's Annual Back to School Breakfast with the school staff will be held in the cafeteria at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, August 29. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 17.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Joanne Warfel referencing the lack of a reply to her correspondence dated June 7. Mrs. Ryan stated that she is hoping to change the senior dinner with the School Committee to a senior banquet, which would be put out to bid. No alcohol would be served at this event. Mrs. Warfel stated that her letter was meant as a springboard for the discussion of alcohol not being served at any school events regardless of who pays for it, but perhaps she didn't express herself well because changing the senior dinner to a senior banquet does not address her concerns. She feels it is time for a policy to be put in place that no alcohol will be served at any school sponsored events/functions.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 9:40 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: September 17, 2007