

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

October 15, 2007

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, October 15, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Padien) to approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on September 17, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on September 17, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Reports

Nancy Cole gave fiscal reports for August and September 2007. She stated that she does not see anything out of the ordinary, but explained that some line items have more money expended due to the

ordering to begin the school year. She also stated that the town was a bit behind in transferring money into the school's account. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to accept the fiscal reports dated August 31 and September 30, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Jeffrey Wadovick of Nadeau & Company, the district's auditing firm, was present to review the 2006-2007 audit report. He pointed out the changes made since his previous report in August, including the amount set aside for the roof and playground. He stated that because bills continued to trickle in over the summer, the fund balance was reduced by \$12,000. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to accept the audit report as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

William Padien reported that within five to six weeks the town will be going to arbitration with H.V. Collins Company. The last walk-through was very successful with quite a few items being resolved, but several items on the punch list will not be completed by the contractor. There are still a few things to finish in the shop, but they should be completed shortly.

Mr. Padien ordered a motion-detector solar light for less than \$50 that will be installed, with the help of Shea Butcher, on the east side of the building near the parking lot. If this provides enough light in that area perhaps more can be ordered for other spots.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to recommend to the Town Council the

payment of Saccoccio & Associates' Invoice #33 in the amount of \$3,178.58 carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Matthew Moran submitted a written athletic report. The teams are playing very competitively, win or lose. The 5-6 soccer team's record is 1-2 and the 7-9 soccer team is presently 2-2. The 7-9 girls' soccer team lost their first game 6-2, but won the game against Rocky Hill 4-2. The varsity soccer team is 4-3. Mike Shea has agreed to run the York rake across the field.

On October 1 Mr. Moran attended a Coastal Prep League meeting with other ADs to schedule basketball games. There are eight boys' teams, up from five last season, and four girls' teams. He is now scheduling non-league games. On October 11 he attended a meeting of private middle school athletic directors at Moses Brown to schedule junior high games. He is still working on updating the athletic handbook and hopes to have it ready for basketball season.

On October 9 Mrs. Ryan, Dr. Irving, and Mr. Moran conducted a meeting for the coaching staff to establish protocols for various situations.

When asked about a girls' volleyball team, Mr. Moran stated that it is a fall sport in Rhode Island. Students would have to choose between

volleyball and soccer and presently there is not enough interest among the girls.

Dr. Irving submitted a written principal's report that included the following:

- The Open House was a huge success.**
- The Principal Advisory Committee (PAC) is reviewing the school's emergency procedures.**
- Student of the Week is into its fourth week.**
- Picture Day was September 26.**
- Chris O'Neill from the Block Island Fire Department presented a fire safety program to students in grades K-4.**
- NECAP testing is in its third week with make-up tests being administered next week. The PSATs will be administered to students in grades 10 and 11 on October 17.**
- An Open House will be held on October 18 to showcase the photos taken by students in grades 6-8 of places on Block Island they want to last for the next 20 years. This project was done in conjunction with the Block Island Conservancy.**
- On October 5 representatives from RIDE provided professional development to the PAC on the Rhode Island curriculum.**
- The Garden Dinner, held on October 2, was very successful. Seniors Hope Desmarais, Anna Edwards, Kathryn Helterline, and Missy Milner were commended for having demonstrated professionalism and maturity throughout the evening.**
- On October 4 Empire Theater owner, Gary Pollard, invited students**

in grades 7-12 to a special showing of The 11th Hour, a movie on global warming.

- Officer Tom Pennell spoke to the students earlier today about hunting safety.
- On September 25 Liz Jorgenson spoke to middle and high school students about alcohol and drug abuse and the development of the teenage brain. She also met with parents that evening.

Mrs. Ryan reported that a very successful meeting was held with the coaching staff. She felt that this type of meeting should be held more often as everyone seemed to benefit from it.

Mrs. Ryan stated that she had been contacted by the Island Free Library about the possibility of holding adult education classes here. She feels the school should open its doors for this type of use. Amy Dugan has been hired by the library as the coordinator for this year's program.

Mrs. Ryan, upon reading that Governor Carcieri planned to visit as many high schools as possible to promote the new diploma system, sent an invitation to him to include Block Island School as he developed his itinerary.

The first School Improvement Team meeting was held on October 11 and was attended by one student, two administrators, two teachers, and three parents. At that meeting Mrs. Ryan explained the purpose

of a School Improvement Team and what their tasks would be. She hopes to meet twice a month with the next meeting scheduled for October 25.

Mrs. Ryan reported that correspondence had been received from Assistant Fire Chief Kevin Hoyt requesting the use of the gymnasium from 9:30 p.m. on October 26 until 7:30 a.m. on October 27 to house 24 emergency management personnel who will be on island for a meeting and training sessions. She requested that the School Committee waive the facility use fee. Sean McGarry stated that the \$25 per hour fee does not cover the cost of janitorial supplies, hot water, or paper products. The school is on a very tight budget that is always being cut. He stated that all federal agencies have money for this type of gathering and when you work the numbers it comes to \$10 per person. He stated that we are not a charitable organization, but have to supply education to our children on a tight budget. With the school's limited budget everyone has to help. Annie Hall stated that if they wanted to make a donation towards their housing that would be one thing, but she could not vote to charge them to sleep in the gym. A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the facility use fee for the emergency management gathering carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative. It was stated that the floor would need to be covered before any gear is set up and the rest of the facility should be locked.

Old Business

Correspondence was received from Recreation Director Robert Closter requesting a fee waiver for recreation department events to be held at the school for FY08. In addition, the facility use forms for 12 programs/events were submitted for review. A motion by Annie Hall to waive all facility use fees for recreation department programs/events was not seconded. She stated that the community agreed to pay \$8 million for the facility and the School Committee should support the community events that take place here by not charging a facility use fee. She was afraid that fewer people would participate if the cost of the programs had to increase to cover the fees. Shea Butcher stated that he did not second the motion because he was not in favor of a blanket waiver. He preferred to vote on each individual application. Sean McGarry stated he was uncomfortable waiving the facility use fees when the committee is looking for additional funding for school programs. A motion (Butcher, Padien) to waive the facility use fees on all the applications presented this evening (karate, karate, toddler and elementary time, badminton and indoor soccer, 6v6 volleyball, Friday night games, high school open gym, youth basketball practices, youth basketball games, alumni game/pot luck, women's volleyball and basketball, and 4v4 volleyball) carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

William Young was in attendance to update his request for additional funding for the Close-Up trip scheduled for January. He reported that one student has decided not to attend and he has made different transportation arrangements. The School Committee paid the deposit

of \$4500, which was due October 1. One fund raiser, a fish fry, brought in \$750. Mr. Young is hopeful that the letter sent to local businesses seeking donations will be successful. He is now requesting an additional \$4896, which is \$2716 less than his original request. A motion to allocate any and all funds raised by facility use fees to fund the Close-Up trip was made by Sean McGarry, but not seconded. Mr. Padien felt that a motion was not needed this evening, but polled the members who agreed that whatever money is required after the fund raisers have been completed will be covered by the School Committee. Mr. Young agreed to return next month with another update.

New Business

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to post Policy II: Kindergarten Admission for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to post Policy GQ: Alcohol Free School for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to post Policy IA-2: Attendance (Grades K-7) for the required 30-day period and to send it to the attorney for her perusal carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Katherine Dietz as a teacher assistant at the Block Island

School/Early Learning Center carried with a vote of 4-0. Ms Dietz will work 25 hours per week and be compensated at the rate of \$14.39 per hour for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of John Breunig as the acting head coach of the varsity soccer team in the absence of Mike Meskill for the 2007 soccer season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve Rick and Robin Vila's request to home school their son, Clayton, so he can attend Waterville Valley Academy from December 1, 2007, through April 1, 2008, carried with a vote of 4-0. It was noted that the academy teachers will be responsible for attendance, administering the materials, and grading Clayton's performance, but will follow the Block Island School 11th grade curriculum.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of October and November was submitted for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 9:00 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: November 19, 2007