

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**December 18, 2007**

**(Rescheduled from December 17, 2007)**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, December 18, 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, Sean McGarry, William Padien, Richard Tretheway, and Annie Hall. Leslie Ryan was also in attendance.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 19, 2007, as amended (vote for William Padien as School Committee chairperson was incorrectly recorded as 5-0 and should have been 4-0 with William Padien not voting) carried with a vote of 4-0 with Annie Hall not in attendance.**

## **Reports**

**Nancy Cole reported on the standing of accounts as of October 31 and November 30, 2007. She stated that four months into the fiscal year (October) the accounts should be at approximately 33 percent. She pointed out some of the items that were not budgeted, including**

**Mrs. Ryan's required participation in the state retirement system now that she is a full-time employee, the increase insurance premium with Interlocal Risk Management Trust, and the problems with the dishwasher. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to give Leslie Ryan permission to purchase a new dish washer if the old one can't be fixed carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**Mrs. Cole stated that we have been paying over \$400 per month for the photo copier lease, which expires at the end of June. For \$29 more per month and three months free we could keep the old copier and get a new, high-speed copier. However, we would have to accept this proposal by the end of the month. It was suggested that she check to see if GE would be willing to extend the deadline until the end of January and to check with someone at Town Hall to see who supplies their copier. Mrs. Cole also reported that payroll costs are up because we are charged every payroll on the number of checks cut. The extra bus for the month of December cost an additional \$1500. In comparing energy usage our cost were up \$327 while our consumption of energy was down for the same period last year.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal reports as of October 31 and November 30, 2007, carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**William Padien reported that he had a conversation with the First Warden about the PUC rate increase requested by Block Island Power**

**Company. It was suggested that the School Committee draft a letter to the Town Council requesting that they broach the possibility of a municipality or school rate with the PUC as other mainland communities receive municipal rates. A motion (Padien, Hall) to have the superintendent write a letter to the Town Council to be included in the PUC hearings requesting a school/municipal rate carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Mr. Padien stated that the Town Council has requested a letter from the School Committee with the thoughts expressed by those committee members in attendance at the November 1 meeting regarding the Faulkner and Thomas properties.**

**Dr. Irving reported on the following:**

- The Annual School Holiday Program will take place tomorrow morning, December 19, at 9:00.**
- The new one bus route has been sent to all parents indicating the starting date of January 2, 2008.**
- Thanks to the generosity of the Block Island School Friends, Kaleidoscope Theater performed B.U.L.L.Y. to all of our students and staff members on Tuesday, November 27. A BULLY Box is being set up to tell, not tattle, about any acts of bullying being experienced or observed. More performances are planned as fund-raisers over the summer.**
- Starting in January the Homework Club will be back. Socha Cohen has volunteered to work with students in grades 7-12 in the library**

**after school Mondays through Thursdays from 2:21–4:00 p.m.**

- **Dr. Irving plans to have lunch with each secondary grade once a month. She had lunch with the seniors last Wednesday and with the juniors last Friday. She will have lunch with the students in 10th grade tomorrow and with the 9th graders on December 20. She will also set up a Principal's Message Box for critiques, compliments, questions, concerns, etc.**
- **Faculty meetings will resume on January 8. One meeting per month will be devoted to informational business. The three remaining meetings of the month will be reserved for professional development.**
- **Math and English SAT review courses are being planned for the spring.**
- **On December 4 the Lunch Bunch toured the school and visited several classes. Dr. Irving hopes to have more intergenerational get-togethers in the future.**
- **Our 2007 CRP proposal has been approved by RIDE and we will receive \$25,657.00.**
- **Midterm exams are scheduled for January 15-18.**
- **Several fund raisers have been held over the last month. The Block Island School Friends sold holiday greens and sweatshirts/t-shirts, etc. The Yearbook sponsored the Scholastic Book Fair.**
- **The sixth grade students wrote letters to Joe Sprague asking him to install the basketball equipment on the outside court.**
- **The SALT Survey is scheduled for February 11-15.**
- **Several professional development opportunities have been provided including a discussion on Tourette Syndrome led by Social Worker**

**Laura Kelly. SORICO is sponsoring sessions on Alignment to Standard Setting which can be accessed by our Polycom. John Barry will provide MAC computer training on two afternoons in January, February, March, and April. A training session on our e-mail program will be held on March 4.**

**Superintendent Leslie Ryan reported that the School Improvement Team (SIT) has met several times and developed four goals. They hope that these goals will have corresponding action plans by the January SIT meeting.**

**Mrs. Ryan stated that at the close of this calendar year the school is moving forward in a good way on a number of fronts. She expressed thanks and gave kudos to Hank Woodward for his part in getting the technology piece up and running, to Shannon Cotter and Sue Shea for the calendar project, to Amy Dugan for a successful book fair, to Joanne Warfel and the other high school teachers for the work done on the PBGR, to Nancy Cole for her help in putting together a leaner budget, and to Marsha Gutierrez for finding coverage for absent teachers when no substitutes were available.**

**A motion (McGarry, Padien) to amend the agenda to address Old Business after New Business carried with a vote of 4-1, with Richard Tretheway voting in the negative.**

**New Business**

**To avoid any conflicts with coaching positions, it was recommended that all coaches receive an annual appointment. A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointments of the following basketball coaches for the 2007-2008 season carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Boys' Varsity – Dave Turner, Head Coach; James Murray, Assistant**

**Girls' Varsity – Rosemary Tobin, Head Coach; Kathleen Mello, Assistant**

**Boy's Junior High – Paul Cunningham, Head Coach; John Tarbox, Assistant**

**Girls' Junior High – Robert Closter, Head Coach; Roberta Dailey, Assistant**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointments of the following softball coaches for the 2008 season carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Varsity – John Warfel, Head Coach; Roberta Dailey, Assistant**

**Junior High – Kirk Littlefield, Head Coach; John Kisseberth, Assistant**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointments of the following soccer coaches for the 2007 season carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Varsity – Michael Meskill, Head Coach; John Breunig, Assistant (acting head for 2007 season)**

**7-9 – John Kisseberth, Head Coach; Alex Chapman, Assistant**

**5-6 – Kirk Littlefield, Head Coach; currently no assistant**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointments of the following baseball coaches for the 2008 season with the stipulation that the superintendent research whether the AD will be compensated when serving as a coach or an assistant did not carry with a vote of 2-3 with Shea Butcher, Sean McGarry, and Richard Tretheway voting in the negative.**

**Varsity – John Tarbox, Head Coach; Doug Michel and Matt Moran, Assistants**

**Junior High – Robert Closter, Head Coach; currently no assistant**

**A motion (McGarry, Hall) to table the baseball appointments until the research has been completed carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Correspondence was received from Tom and Kathleen Mitchell requesting that the attendance policy be waived for one day to allow their daughter, Megan, to miss six days of school while on a trip to London. Both Superintendent Ryan and Dr. Irving recommended that the policy be waived in this case. A lengthy discussion was held on whether the School Committee could grant or if the policy made provisions for a waiver. It was stated that if the waiver was not granted the student would meet with each teacher and request that she not be given zeroes on the sixth day of her absence. Marsha Gutierrez stated that when she spoke with the attorney last summer about the kindergarten admittance policy she was told that the School Committee, not the administration, could waive a policy. A**

**motion (Tretheway, Butcher) to grant the Mitchells' request for a waiver of the attendance policy carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A request was received from BICEP Coordinator Jill Connell for information on how to include a community service element in the high school curriculum. Mrs. Ryan reported that this aspect is covered in our health curriculum and suggested that Ms Connell contact Mrs. Carson.**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the request for a facility use fee waiver for the adult education programs (Latin dance, beginners Mac class, holiday wreath making) carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) approve the request by BICEP for a facility use fee waiver for the program held in September carried with a vote of 4-1, with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the 2008 School Committee meeting dates as amended (change February meeting to the 4th) carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve the proposed budget development timeline as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**In reviewing the School Committee goals and objectives Mrs. Ryan only changed goal #3 and its accompanying objectives. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the goals and objective as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **Old Business**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy IAA: High School Tardy as presented and posted carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Pursuant to School Committee bylaws, which state that 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 IA-2: Attendance (Grades K-7) was presented for a second vote. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy IA-2: Attendance (Grades K-7) as presented carried with a vote of 5-0. As stated at last month's meeting, this policy will go into effect at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.**

### **Calendar of Events**

**A calendar of events for the months of December and January was submitted for School Committee information.**

### **Correspondence**

**Various pieces of correspondence were submitted for School Committee information only.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 9:37 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: January 14, 2008**