

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

January 14, 2008

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, January 14, 2008, 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 not in attendance. Davida Irving was also present.

Joint Meeting with Town Council

William Padien stated that this meeting was being held to discuss the budgetary forecast and for a pre-budget consultation pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 16-2-21 et al. In attendance were First Warden Kim Gaffett, Second Warden Ray Torrey, and Town Council members Ken Lacoste and Dick Martin. Also present were Town Manager Nancy Dodge and Finance Director Amy Lewis. Mr. Padien told the Town Council that he had a “wish list” of items developed with the help of Amy Doran that ranged from exterior lighting to top soil for the field to installation of more solar panels to the repair of the front façade. Another item would be to develop the Faulkner property into an athletic field. Also mentioned was to re-seam the old roof, repair the rotting window casements on the south side of the

building, and to fix the drainage around the playground. Nancy Dodge suggested that the School Committee contact Jennifer Brady-Brown because the Planning Board is developing a five-year capital plan. Kim Gaffett explained that everyone is constrained by the five percent cap on the budget this year, but the Town hopes to have the state representatives come out to Block Island for a discussion, including the state's unfunded mandates.

Mrs. Dodge reported that arbitration with H.V. Collins Company is scheduled for March 8, 9, and 10. The Town would like to schedule a settlement conference before going to arbitration, but there has not been much of a response from H.V. Collins. The Town's attorney, Bill Poore, has had a lengthy discussion with the chosen arbitrator and is comfortable with him. When the Town agrees to the arbitrator it must send \$5,000. It has been suggested that the Town pay as much as possible to avoid any interest that may be charged due to the arbitration, which looks like the current balance minus the items on the punch list.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on December 18, 2007, and January 8, 2008, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Nancy Cole reported on the standing of accounts as of December 31,

2007. She sees no need for concern at this point. However, she has noticed the addition of a “fuel surcharge” on most of the invoices. In addition, she reported that even though our electrical usage is down, the costs are up. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal report through December 31, 2007, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Padien reported that he recently attended a meeting between the Town and the pre-school advisory committee to discuss the possibility of the Town taking over the operation and expense of the pre-school. He felt it was a good discussion, but doesn't expect any movement on this for several years.

Dr. Irving reported on the following:

- The holiday program, held on December 19, was delightful and Megan Hennessy whetted our appetites for more musical programs.**
- Lisa Schaller's student teacher program was completed in December and she is now serving as a long-term sub for Kate Mello.**
- The senior class took mid-term exams last Thursday and Friday before departing on Saturday for the Close-Up program in Washington, DC.**
- Students in grades 8-11 will begin their mid-term exams tomorrow and will have open campus privileges for the rest of the week.**
- Anthony Almonte and Gregor Smith have been the two most recent Student of the Week.**
- A representative from Interstate Navigation was here last Friday to take pictures of our staff members for the commuter cards, which are**

being reinstated beginning in March. They have agreed to work with us to develop a commuter card for the students that can double as a Block Island School student ID.

- Socha Cohen is ready to begin the Homework Club on January 22 and will be introduced to the students earlier in the day.

New Business

Correspondence was received from Graduation Coordinator Maureen Flaherty requesting that the graduation ceremony be changed from Saturday, June 14 to Friday afternoon, June 13. According to state regulations, graduation can not be held until after the 180th school day, but Becky Wright, a representative from RIDE, has approved the change. This request originated with the parents because that particular Saturday is the beginning of race week. Ms Flaherty reported that the faculty and staff do not foresee any problems with the date change. A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to change the date of graduation from June 14 to June 13 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to accept with regret the resignation of Katherine Dietz as a teacher assistant effective February 1, 2008, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence was received from Jeffrey Wadovick of Nadeau & Company explaining that the engagement letter dated June 1, 2007, needs an addendum to include the new auditing standard requirements. A motion (Hall, Butcher) to authorize the chairperson

to sign the addendum carried with a vote of 5-0.

The bid deadline for propane gas, school bus transportation, mowing, air fare, and freight delivery was noon today. A motion (Padien, Hall) to table the award of bids until next week carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

At last month's meeting the School Committee tabled the appointments of the baseball coaches until research was done on why two assistant baseball coaches were being appointed and whether the AD would receive additional compensation when appointed as a coach. The athletic compensation policy (HC), which was approved last July, lists two assistants under baseball, each receiving a stipend of \$1,125 for the upcoming season. The athletic director's job description states that the AD may be appointed to two coaching positions with the advice and consent of the School Committee and that compensation would be pursuant to the athletic compensation policy. Dr. Irving stated that she had spoken to John Tarbox earlier in the day and he requested, for personal reasons, that he not be appointed as the varsity baseball coach. A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint Robert Closter as the head coach of the junior high baseball team for the 2008 season and to advertise for an assistant coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to table the varsity baseball appointments until next week carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to seek bids to complete the outside basketball court carried with a vote of 5-0.

The draft budget submitted by Mrs. Cole has been level funded with the exception of contractual items. This budget, which does not include approximately \$12,000 of additional expenditures that were not budgeted last year, is in the red by \$15,148.21. It also does not include the full-time special education position discussed at last week's meeting that would cost approximately \$66,000.

Dr. Irving submitted a computer/printer inventory and a breakdown on the network costs for next year. The cost of the firewall, spam filter, e-mail program, Internet access, technology coordinator, and network administrator was listed at \$55,900. It is her understanding that if a computer is more than five years old it should be replaced, not repaired. She pointed out that the current trend is away from PCs and toward Macs and the technology committee has suggested the purchase of 12 mini Macs to replace the PCs in the elementary/middle computer lab because it is important for our students to be fluent in the Macs.

Matthew Moran provided an athletic budget for 2008-2009 and requested an increase in the AD and coaches stipends from \$225 to \$230 per point. Sean McGarry stated that the increase for next year is approximately \$800. School Committee members requested a

comparison of this year's and next year's budgets.

It was suggested that for next week's meeting the administration figure out what can be level funded and where the shortfalls will be. In addition, any items requested for next year that can be purchased with this year's funds would help with the budgeting.

Calendar of Events

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

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:07 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 4, 2008