

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**February 4, 2008**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 4, 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, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan and Davida Irving were also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the open session minutes of the meetings held on January 14, 22, and 28, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held of January 28, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.**

## **Reports**

**Matthew Moran submitted a written athletic report and highlighted some of the recent events. On January 10-12 he attended the World Baseball Coaches convention in Connecticut, where he attended**

**sessions on handling a pitching staff. John Warfel attended the softball portion of the convention on January 12. Mr. Moran intends to participate in the meeting on Thursday, February 7 to schedule junior high baseball games.**

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

- The most recent Students of the Week were Tadhg O'Neill in fifth grade and Julia Butcher in first grade.**
- On January 31 Michelle Spero visited the school to get a look at the inner workings of our technology. In addition, First Click, another IT management firm, will be visiting us on Wednesday, February 13. We are looking forward to their input in helping us decide the direction we'll take in providing our school with appropriate technology management.**
- On January 28 and 29 John Barry provided Mac workshops for the staff and will return on February 25 and 26 to provide additional professional development.**
- We received preliminary approval for our 2008 High School Diploma System, based upon alignment, access and opportunity, literacy, and personalization. In 2010, the Commissioner's Review will result in districts receiving full approval if they meet the criteria, which will require further implementation beyond the requirements for 2008.**
- Kudos to Ben Bentrup for providing the Chess Club as an extra-curricular activity to our students. James McNerney and Jon McCabe won first and second place respectively in the mini-tournament.**

- **Martha Velie-Gass and Kathryn Helterline organized a movie and pizza night to help fund the school garden and greenhouse. It was a huge success and student behavior was exemplary. Dr. Irving would like to see more activities like this take place at the school, regardless of whether they are billed as fund-raisers.**
- **On February 8 Cori Black, Tim Buol, Will Gasner, Allie McCabe, Clayton Vila, and Aisha Wilson will be inducted into the Block Island Chapter of the National Honor Society.**
- **During the week of February 11, the SALT Survey will be administered to our students. The survey will help us direct our efforts to make Block Island School the best possible.**
- **On February 29 Atwater & Donnelly will be visiting Block Island School for a school wide performance. They also intend to provide four half hour lessons to various age groups throughout the day.**
- **On March 6 workshops will be held on our First Class e-mail program. Dr. Irving hopes teachers will attend during their planning periods.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that over the weekend she attended a workshop in Connecticut with 30 other superintendents from two states where budgeting was the top concern. While there it was announced that the state would level fund us next year. Mrs. Ryan also mentioned that Rhode Island is trying to move toward statewide health care benefits for all teachers.**

**Mrs. Ryan reported that New Shoreham is one of the districts that**

received approval for our work on the proficiency based graduation requirements. Kudos to the staff, and in particular Joanne Warfel, Susan Gibbons, and Dr. Irving, for their hard work on our PBGR.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to formally open the public hearing on the 2008-2009 budget carried with a vote of 5-0. Mrs. Ryan went through each page of the proposed budget once again pointing out various changes made during the budgetary process. Sean McGarry wanted to be sure that even though funds are included for an increase in the guidance counselor's wages, negotiations with that individual will take place towards the end of this school year. Mr. Padien questioned the funding for an additional special education staff member. Mrs. Ryan explained that while she referred to a new staff member, it is for a new program to maintain a special needs student. She further explained that no current staff member can manage the program changes or she would have re-arranged schedules to accommodate this student's program.

Peter McNerney questioned why the bid to provide propane gas was awarded to Littlefield & Sons. He has submitted the lowest bid for the past four years and has never been awarded the contract. Mr. McGarry stated that he had raised the same question, but staff members spoke in favor of the immediate repair service provided in the past by Littlefield & Sons, often at no cost. The difference in price for the two bids was approximately \$126, and on that basis Mr.

**McGarry voted to accept the higher bid. It was felt by other members that a degree of loyalty was owed to Littlefield & Sons. Mr. McNerney stated that when he submits a bid each year he can not bid on loyalty or past service. This year he coupled his bid with free freight delivery if he were awarded the propane gas contract. Committee members stated that the free freight delivery as listed was unclear to them. Mr. Padien felt that if Mr. McNerney were offering free freight delivery he should have submitted a freight bid and not incorporated into the propane bid. Mr. McNerney was assured that the committee would continue to look at his bids in the future and Mr. McNerney promised to make his bid clearer next year.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to close the public hearing carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Butcher) to adopt the 2008-2009 general operating budget in the amount of \$4,234,356.00 and to authorize the Superintendent to transmit it to the Town Manager as required carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **New Business**

**Facility use forms for the current adult education programs (cooking, mosaics, beginning Latin dance, and computer) were submitted with a request to waive the use fee. Also submitted was a request to waive the facility use fee for a karate program sponsored by the Recreation Department, which is scheduled to run from February 28**

through March 27, 2008. A motion (Tretheway, Butcher) to waive the facility use fees for the five applications presented carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative. Mrs. Ryan stated that now the adult education program is up and running she is prepared to charge a facility use fee in the future. She suggested that perhaps a per person or a per program fee could be charged instead of \$25 per hour.

A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to consent to the appointment of William Sellar as the teacher assistant assigned to the Block Island Early Learning Center carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that Mr. Sellar will be compensated at the rate of \$14.00 per hour.

A proposed calendar for 2008-2009 was submitted for School Committee review. The Committee will vote of the calendar at its regular meeting in March.

### **Calendar of Events**

A calendar of events for the month of February was submitted for School Committee information.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from Millie McGinnes, President of Block Island Health Services Board, regarding its intent to sell the Thomas property and hoping for the committee's support.

## **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 8:22 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: March 17, 2008**