

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

March 17, 2008

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, March 17, 2008, 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 and Davida Irving were also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Reports

Nancy Cole submitted the fiscal reports for the months of January and February 2008. She noted that the cost of most everything is going up and over 90 percent of the supplies line item has already been spent. William Padien questioned whether it would be more cost effective to purchase workbooks instead of teachers copying pages for each student. Dr. Irving is willing to research this, but it may take a year or two to figure out. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to accept the fiscal report through January 31, 2008, carried with a vote

of 4-0.

Mrs. Cole stated there was nothing out of the ordinary from the January to the February report. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to accept the fiscal report as of February 29, 2008, carried with a vote of 4-0.

Matthew Moran submitted an athletic report for March 2008 and highlighted some of the items, including the girls' varsity basketball team finished its season with a 1-8 record; the girls' junior high team had a 2-6 record for the season; and the boys' junior high team finished its season with only six players. The boys' varsity basketball program was suspended because of inappropriate behavior by some of the team members. Practices for both baseball and softball have started.

Dr. Irving reported on the following:

- The most recent Students of the Week were Charlotte Ehrmantraut and Shannon McCabe.**
- The Block Island School Friends sponsored the performance of a West African drummer. He also worked with our students during their music classes.**
- Two more excellent days of Mac training were held for the faculty and staff.**
- On February 29 Atwater and Donnelly performed and also provided dance workshops for the students.**

- On the March 4 professional development day teachers worked on aligning GLEs and GSEs.
- On March 6 training was provided for the First Class e-mail system.
- On March 10 a meeting was held for the parents of the 11th grade class to discuss the poor results of the NECAP test. A meeting for the parents of the students in grades 3-8 will be held on March 20.

Mrs. Ryan attended a workshop on the uniform chart of accounts, a new accounting system, that all districts will be required to have in place by July 2009. She has learned that RIDE has \$16,000 earmarked for New Shoreham to help with the conversion.

Mrs. Ryan reported that a team from Family Services of Rhode Island visited the school in February to meet with the high school students and then met with the teachers regarding attitudes and behaviors of our students. She stated that the School Improvement Plan, which is in the development stage, includes a section on mental health and making sure our students get the best services on and off Block Island.

Old Business

A copy of the proposed school calendar for 2008-2009 was submitted for School Committee review. Various changes to the calendar were discussed, including checking whether school can be in session on the state primary and general election days, extending the February vacation by one or two days, or having a two-week vacation in

February or March and eliminating the April recess. Dr. Irving spoke against lengthening the vacations because there are many students who do not go away and being “stuck” on Block Island for longer than a week can be very hard on them. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to table the vote on the 2008-2009 school calendar until the next meeting carried with a vote of 4-0.

New Business

Offshore Framing & Renovation, LLC submitted the only bid in the amount of \$3,728 for the installation of the outdoor basketball structure. School Committee members remarked that the bid was high. Shea Butcher felt it would have been more reasonable if it included the cutting of the asphalt. Members questioned whether there was money available for this project. Annie Hall stated that money for this project can be taken from the \$25,000 that was restricted for the playground last August. A motion (Hall, Padien) to have Bill Padien and Shea Butcher negotiate the bid with Offshore Framing & Renovation, LLC carried with a vote of 4-0. A motion (Padien, Hall) to re-appropriate no more than \$3,728 from the \$25,000 that was earmarked for outdoor recreation for the middle school carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Patricia Balles as the administrative assistant to the Special Education Director and the Guidance Counselor carried with a vote of 3-0, with Shea Butcher having recused himself. It was noted that she

will be compensated at the rate of \$18.00 per hour.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Matthew Moran as the head coach for the varsity baseball team carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Mrs. Ryan reported that Rob Closter has been working as the junior high baseball coach for several years without an assistant. The advertisement seeking an assistant coach will continue in the Block Island Times. However, if no applications are received by end of the season, she will be recommending that Mr. Closter receive part of the assistant coach stipend. School Committee members were not opposed to addressing this issue at the end of the season if no assistant coach is appointed.

A request was received from James and Marion Ortel to home school their daughter during the fourth quarter of the current school year. Mr. & Mrs. Ortel plan to follow Block Island School's seventh grade curriculum and have met with Dr. Irving and the middle grade teachers. A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the request from Mr. and Mrs. Ortel to home school their daughter, Brooke, for the fourth quarter of the 2007-08 school year carried with a vote of 4-0.

The School Committee reviewed the facility use forms submitted by the Recreation Department for its programs scheduled for this spring and summer. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to waive the facility use

fees for 4v4 Spring Volleyball League; Indoor Soccer League; Fundamental Baseball Skills Clinic; Karate; Pepsi Pitch, Hit, and Run; Junior Olympics; Block Island Shad Bloom 10K Trail Run; Camp Mohegan; Block Island Soccer Camp; Block Island Mini Kickers Camp; Youth Summer Basketball League; Women's Summer Basketball League; Adult Summer Basketball League; Block Island LAX Camp; Little League; Karate Camp; MLS Soccer Camp; Champion Baseball Camp; Block Island Basketball Camp; Multi Sport Camp; Sports Squirts Camp; Top Dawg; and Block Island Soccer Classic carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative. It was noted that the School Department hopes to get a load of top soil from the Recreation Department for the school field. Rob Closter offered to move all equipment off the gym floor at the end of Camp Mohegan so the floor can be refinished. He also plans to continue to track the indoor use of the facility as requested in the past. Mrs. Ryan stated that the School Committee has been very generous in the past to waive the facility use fees for both the recreation department activities and adult education. She feels that \$25 per hour may be too much money, but some should be collected to defray the cost of the utilities. Sean McGarry agreed with Mrs. Ryan, adding that the School Committee can not continue cutting educational programs to help the town fund its programs.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve Greta Heinz's request for a maternity leave beginning April 28, 2008, carried with a vote of 4-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of March and April was submitted for School Committee information.

Correspondence

Correspondence was submitted for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: April 8, 2008