

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

December 15, 2008

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, December 15, 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, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. William Anderson, Davida Irving, and Leslie Ryan were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve the sealed executive session minutes of the meetings held on June 16, August 18, and October 20, 2008, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mrs. Ryan reported on the following district issues:

- Financial aid night was held on December 4.**
- She attended a SORICO Superintendent's meeting on December 8 where a discussion was held on the consolidation of districts and**

services.

- **The Transition Team met for the first time on December 9 and discussed the status of the administrative roles, which need to be defined specifically for Block Island. The next meeting is scheduled for early January, at which time job descriptions will be submitted. This is in the very early stages of discussion.**
- **The music trip scheduled for December 11 for the high school bell ringers and the 5-8 band to perform at the State House in Providence was canceled because there was no guarantee that the last boat would run that day.**
- **The senior class trip (Close-Up) will take January 26-31. Four students have opted out.**

The following was included in the principal's report:

- **On November 19 a very successful meeting was held to discuss the lunch program. Information on a system to charge lunches was given to Dr. Irving and she will look into it.**
- **The School Improvement Team met on November 20 and will continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month to ensure that we are meeting the expectations and to update them as needed.**
- **A very successful book fair was held last week. Proceeds will support the yearbook.**
- **The holiday program is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17.**

The following special education report was given:

- **Dr. Anderson is reviewing the IEPs in preparation for the Department of Education monitoring in the spring.**
- **Two staff meetings have been held to discuss the implications of certain disabilities and student behavior. More professional development on special education issues will be provided.**

Following is the fiscal report:

- **Approximately 41 percent of the total budget has been expended as of the end of November 2008. In addition approximately 40 percent of the town support has been received and we seem to be in good shape.**
- **Mrs. Ryan explained that she has reduced the occupational therapist to one day per week at no more than seven hours per day. Families with children without IEPs who wish to have access to therapy can do so through their own health insurance.**
- **Mrs. Ryan met with the teachers to explain the move next year to a per-pupil cost for budgeting.**

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the fiscal report through November 30, 2008, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

The following discussion took place during the athletic report:

- **The Athletic Handbook and the Athletic Department Structure, listing which grades would be able to participate at the various levels for soccer, basketball, baseball and softball, were submitted. In addition, the Structure included a statement that fifth grade students**

would not travel to away games during the school day. The sixth grade students would not miss more than two full days of school for away games during the soccer and baseball/softball seasons, nor would they travel to away games during the school day during the basketball season. All students in grades 5-12 are welcome to attend daily practices. The school department does not currently have a written participation procedure or policy for students in grades 5-7. Mrs. Ryan stated that she met with Athletic Director Rob Closter. They discussed the various concerns voiced by the principal and teachers over the fifth and sixth grade students participating in sports and attending away games during the school day, and agreed with the statements included in the Structure (listed above). School Committee members felt that this should have taken effect when the discussion was held and not wait until approved by the School Committee. However, two sixth grade students, who were off-island with their parents, attended and participated in basketball games earlier this afternoon. School Committee members felt the superintendent needed to have another discussion with the athletic director on the disregard for the agreed upon procedure. It was suggested that if the handbook was approved this evening, a new policy addressing students in grades 5-7 would need to be developed or perhaps Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation could be changed to include them.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to accept the athletic handbook as presented carried with a vote of

4-0-1 with Annie Hall abstaining.

Mrs. Ryan reported on the following maintenance issues:

- A representative from Trane was on site today to inspect the unit ventilators and do some problem solving. A list of items that need attention was developed, but we do not know when the representative will be back.**
- The custodial staff plans to do a deep cleaning of the building during the Christmas recess.**
- In response to some complaints regarding the cleanliness of the lavatories, Amy Doran stated that they would work on that issue.**
- Money has been received from Interlocal Risk on our claim for damaged musical instruments, etc. because of the leaking roof.**

Annie Hall requested that something be done as soon as possible to remedy the lighting issue in the parking lot. The lights outside the kindergarten room need to be repaired because the timer no longer works. The street light located in the Faulkner lot has been turned to cover the street, which is a help. Shea Butcher has a timer he can donate if an electrician can repair the lights.

William Padien reported that he attended the proceedings of Ken Filarski's lawsuit against the town at the Washington County Courthouse, but was not called to testify. He received notice today that the proceedings have been postponed until the January.

Old Business

Last month the School Committee established a facilities committee to work on the required paperwork to seek the 30 percent reimbursement from the state. This committee included William Padien, Shea Butcher, Amy Doran Couet, and Mrs. Ryan. The Rhode Island Department of Education informed Mrs. Ryan that the building committee should consist of at least eight members and suggested that all five members of the School Committee be included, along with Dr. Irving, Amy Doran Couet, and the superintendent. A motion (McGarry, Padien) to add Annie Hall, Richard Tretheway, Sean McGarry, and Dr. Irving to the committee carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

An item of business that was to take place during the election of officers last month was the appointment of one committee member to coordinate requests for assistance from the appointed legal counsel. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to appoint the chairman, William Padien, to coordinate requests for assistance from the appointed legal counsel carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Robin Vila's request to home school her son, Clayton, so he can attend Waterville Valley Academy from December 1, 2008, through April 1, 2009, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the Kelly and John Leone's

request to home school their children (John – grade 12, Nicholas – grade 6, and Michael – grade 5) from December 15 through December 23, 2008, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Butcher, Hall) to approve the Julie and Howell Conant's request to home school their children (Melissa – grade 10, Howell ("Thomas") – grade 8, Richard – grade 5, and Mary – grade 2) from mid-February through mid-April 2009, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve Allison Brown-Padien's request to home school her daughter, Mikhaela (grade 1), from February 2 through February 27, 2009, and her son, Jameson (grade 5), from February 10 through February 27, 2009, carried with a vote of 4-0, with William Padien having recused himself.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Kate Butcher's request to home school her daughter, Julia (grade 1), from February 11 through February 23, 2009, carried with a vote of 4-0, with Shea Butcher having recused himself.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Augusta Grullon's request to home school her daughter, Stephanie (grade K), from December 22, 2008, through January 21, 2009, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to post Policy FBG: Honor Roll/Valedictorian and Salutatorian Eligibility for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to post Policy HE: Emergency Coverage during Periods when No Administrators are Present for the required 30-day period carried with a vote 5-0.

A proposed list of meeting dates for the 2009 calendar year was submitted for School Committee review. The January meeting was changed from the 14th to the 12th, February was changed from the 9th to the 3rd, and April was changed from the 20th to the 6th. A motion (Tretheway, Padien) to approve the regular monthly School Committee meeting dates with the three adjustments (January 12, February 3, and April 6) carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Tretheway, Padien) to change the time of the School Committee meetings from 7:00 to 6:30 p.m. carried with a vote of 3-2 with Shea Butcher and Annie Hall voting in the negative.

William Padien reported that the roof is and has been leaking and needs to be repaired as soon as possible at a cost \$13,745. A deposit of \$6800 is required to begin the job with the balance due at completion. This should complete the repair of the 1988 roof. Unfortunately, this amount was not budgeted and the money received from the insurance company is to be used to replace or repair the damage done to items inside the building. The School Committee asked Mrs. Ryan to work with Nancy Cole to find the money to fix the roof.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of December and January were submitted for School Committee information. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2009. A meeting of the renovation/building committee was scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on January 5, 2009. Budget work sessions/hearings were scheduled for January 12, 20, 26, and February 3, 2009.

Correspondence

Several pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 8:54 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Butcher) at 9:05 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

The following motion was made in executive session: A motion

(Padien, Hall) to confirm the School Committee's interpretation of Article X of the teachers' contract that a retiree's health benefits do not include dental coverage carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

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

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: January 12, 2009