

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

January 8, 2008

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, January 8, 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. Leslie Ryan was also in attendance.

2008-2009 Budget Work Session

Mrs. Ryan reported that last night she attended a legislative meeting for Southern Rhode Island legislative members, school committee members, and superintendents. She has glad she attended, but not a lot was accomplished. School districts are looking for reimbursement for state mandates, but with the state facing a \$400 million deficit that probably won't happen. Also discussed was a statewide health plan for teachers and staff, regionalization, a statewide teacher contract, and the uniform chart of accounts.

Mrs. Ryan stated that she is anticipating the need for an additional full-time teacher to work with a special needs student whose program is changing. When an additional teacher has been proposed the cost

of a fifth step teacher is budgeted, which this year is approximately \$50,000 plus benefits. William Padien was concerned about the number of teacher assistants on staff and questioned whether any teachers or teacher assistants would be let go if a new special education teacher is hired. Mrs. Ryan stated she would have to look at the IEPs and schedule teachers and assistants accordingly. She explained that none of our special education students are in self-contained classrooms, but are mainstreamed in a regular classroom with support from a teacher assistant or, in some cases, a special education teacher.

Dr. Irving stated that the school needs a full-time technology person to work year-round. Gene Warfel's contract ends this month, but we will still need some outside technology help until Hank Woodward has received all the necessary training. The goal is to have Mr. Woodward take on Mr. Warfel's responsibilities. Sean McGarry was concerned that when something or someone is added to the budget, nothing gets deleted on the other side, which is "fluffing the budget."

Nancy Cole reviewed the items that were not budgeted, but have had to be included this year, such as a part-time special education teacher, a part-time adaptive physical education teacher, extra days for the superintendent, and stipends for faculty members who have student interns. Dr. Irving stated that she has been working with Mrs. Cole to gather the teachers' classroom needs for next year. She is

hoping to replace textbooks that are 10 years old.

Mr. Padien suggested that a prioritized list of capital items be available for Monday evening's meeting with the Town Council. The list will begin with items left over from last year's list.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 8:48 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: January 14, 2008