

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

January 26, 2009

6:30 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, January 26, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Richard Tretheway was not in attendance. Leslie Ryan, Davida Irving, and William Anderson were also in attendance.

Old Business

Mrs. Ryan reported that she and Dr. Irving will meet with Michele Spero, the town's IT person, on February 3 to discuss the possibility of consolidating technology services. While the meeting will not include the technology committee, members are encouraged to submit questions to Ms Spero in advance and she will have the answers available at next week's meeting. Town Manager Nancy Dodge reported that Ms Spero will be available to attend the School Committee that evening to answer any questions from the School Committee or audience.

William Padien reported that the money the School Committee transferred on January 20 into the capital line item would provide the

funds necessary to complete the repair of the roof. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the proposal submitted by Roofing Unlimited, Inc. in the amount of \$13,754 to finish the repairs to the existing roof carried with a vote of 4-0.

Nancy Cole reported that she took a closer look at the lunch program revenue and reduced the anticipated revenue by \$16,390. She explained the changes made to the proposed budget because of suggestions and/or decisions made at last week's meeting. The travel line in education was reduced by \$2500 because this money was included in the sports line. In the capital department the grounds improvement line item was increased to \$11,710. Fuel oil and propane each has its own line item now.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to delete the \$1150 from the Wages/School Committee line item carried with a vote of 4-0.

Athletic Director Rob Closter handed out several sheets of information including a breakdown of the requested amount for coaches, officials, transportation, uniforms, lodging, etc. Mr. Padien suggested that the coaches' points remain the same but increase the multiplier, which has been the procedure over the last several years. Mr. Closter stated that he suggested an increase in the points for several coaches based on the number of weeks in the season. A motion (Padien, Hall) to increase the multiplier by \$3 (from \$230 to \$233) and to keep the coaching points the same as the current fiscal

year was defeated by a vote of 1-3 with William Padien voting in the affirmative.

Sean McGarry stated that if other employees' wages were to be increased by three percent he feels the coaches should receive the same increase, which would change the multiplier from \$230 to \$236.90. Mr. McGarry also suggested that perhaps several items in the sports budget could be funded at last year's level or reduced in the proposed budget. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to increase the multiplier for the coaches' stipends by \$6.90 which is a three percent increase and to ask the AD to reduce transportation, uniforms, and officials for a line item of \$80,887 for athletics carried with a vote of 3-1 with William Padien voting in the negative.

A lengthy discussion was held on the suggestion to reduce the special education staff by a half-time teaching position. Audience members wanted to know if this reduction was based on a needs assessment of the current and incoming students. Mr. McGarry stated that the School Committee would like to have more specifics on the special education budget, but because of student confidentiality that is difficult. The committee depends on the information given to them by the administrators. It was stated that 3.6 FTE teachers currently service 12 IEP students, making the ratio about 4:1. On the mainland the student/teacher ratio is closer to 30:1.

Special Education Director William Anderson stated that the Block Island School has a totally inclusive setting which is positive and

unique. Everyone goes to school together and special education students are included simply because they have been. There is a comfort level here. On the mainland students are pulled away from their peers and put into self-contained classrooms. Mr. Anderson continued that the school has a philosophical and monetary responsibility. As challenges get more complex you have to look at the financial implication. He stated that the Block Island School has a high incident rate of students with autism spectrum disorder. Mrs. Ryan stated that the reduction in teaching time was not done in a cavalier fashion, but based on declining enrollment. She increased the budget for consultants/specialists to provide services for our students.

Mr. McGarry suggested that money be included for math coaches to help raise the school's NECAP test scores. Dr. Irving would be happy with any increase in the professional development budget.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to put the \$1150 deleted from Wages/School Committee into the Supplies/Classroom – Elementary/Middle line item carried with a vote of 4-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 8:26 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 4-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 9:20 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 4-0.

The following motion was made in executive session: A motion (McGarry, Padien) to authorize the chairman to sign the contract with William T. Anderson with changes to item 4 (add: as to prevent the performance of duties) and 5D (add: The evaluation, which will be conducted by the superintendent, an administrator, and a staff team to included two special education teachers and two general education teachers using an agreed upon tool, will include a self-evaluation by the Special Education Director and presented to the Committee for codification.) to be approved by our attorney before being signed by Mr. Anderson carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 9:21 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: March 16, 2009