

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

February 3, 2009

6:30 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The following members were present: Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Shea Butcher was not in attendance. Leslie Ryan, Davida Irving, and William Anderson were also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 12 and 20, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

Reports

Annie Hall stated that she was resigning from the board of the Block Island Early Learning Center as the School Committee representative.

Sean McGarry volunteered, stating he would love an opportunity to serve on the board again. A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to appoint Sean McGarry as the School Committee representative on the Block Island Early Learning Center board carried with a vote of 4-0.

Sean McGarry stated that he had attended a meeting on management rights regarding case law and interpretations as it pertains to collective bargaining.

Mrs. Ryan reported on the following:

- Two new school clubs are being developed for the winter and into spring – web site design and hip hop dance.**
- The NECAP results are in and meetings will be held after the February break to discuss the results with parents. A presentation will be given to the School Committee at its next regular meeting.**
- Secondary teachers continue their curriculum work.**
- A request has been made by the seniors and their parents to change the date of graduation to Sunday, June 14 instead of Wednesday, June 17. The current law allows graduation to be held at any time after the 171st day.**

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to change the graduation date from Wednesday, June 17 to Sunday, June 14, 2009, per the request of the administration carried with a vote of 4-0.

- Mr. Anderson will begin training teachers and teacher assistants in crisis intervention after vacation.**
- The junior high girls' basketball team has only two games scheduled because most schools want to have games during the week day.**
- The outside lights have been repaired and connected to the timer.**
- Mrs. Ryan attended a high school reform meeting with over 200**

other administrators regarding the state proficiency based graduation requirements. Block Island currently has preliminary approval, but once our final information is submitted in May we hope to be fully approved.

- The Chinese administrators will be in Rhode Island beginning March 1. Mr. Yang is scheduled to visit South Kingstown and Block Island schools. Mrs. Ryan will visit Mr. Yang's school in April.**
- There may be an issue with meeting the required 180 school days each year with our student athletes missing full days of school for sporting events, particularly basketball because of the limited ferry schedule. A letter will be sent to Commissioner McWalters explaining the unique situation we face and requesting a waiver or proposals to keep us in compliance. Some suggestions were Saturday classes to catch up the athletes or providing tutors to work with the students while on the boat.**

New Business

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the tuition reimbursement request from Martha Velie-Gass for a course she is planning to take this spring pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers' Contract carried with a vote of 4-0.

A proposed calendar for the 2009-2010 school year was submitted for review, with the recommendation that the School Committee adopt it at its March meeting. Mrs. Hall suggested that the calendar not be adopted until we have heard back from the Commissioner.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of John Warfel as the head coach for the varsity girls' softball team for the 2009 season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Roberta Dailey as the assistant coach for the varsity girls' softball team for the 2009 season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of John Tarbox as the head coach for the varsity boys' baseball team for the 2009 season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Douglas Michel as an assistant coach for the varsity boys' baseball team for the 2009 season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Matthew Moran as an assistant coach for the varsity boys' baseball team for the 2009 season carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to accept with regret John Warfel's notification of intent to retire at the end of the 2008-2009 school year carried with a vote of 4-0. Mr. Padien stated for the record that Mr. Warfel has been everywhere and that, while they may not have always agreed, Mr. Warfel has acted in a professional manner. He is also

disappointed that his children will not have Mr. Warfel as a teacher.

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to accept the resignations of Maureen Flaherty, Susan Gibbons, Teri McCombe, Kristine Monje, and John Warfel from the Technology Committee carried with a vote of 4-0.

Old Business

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve Policy HE: Emergency Coverage during Periods When No Administrators Are Present carried with a vote of 4-0. Pursuant to School Committee Bylaws, this policy will be addressed at the next regular meeting because it was not a unanimous vote of all five members.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve Policy FBG: Honor Roll/Valedictorian and Salutatorian Eligibility as presented was later withdrawn after a lengthy discussion on the complexity of the policy and a request to the administration to rework it.

Mrs. Ryan reported that she and Dr. Irving met with Michelle Spero and Town Manager Nancy Dodge earlier in the day regarding the possibility of consolidating technology services with the town. She recommended the consolidation of services as the best option for the school because it would provide local geographic access with a company already invested in Block Island. Ms Spero, speaking from the audience, stated she has knowledge of Macs and PCs, but works with a host of other technology professionals who are more fluent in

Macs than she is. In addition, supporting any IT environment is an ongoing and ever changing entity and until she gets her “hands dirty” she would not know exactly how many hours would be needed at the school. A motion (Hall, McGarry) to consolidate with the town for IT services at a budgeted amount of up to \$700 per month carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to terminate the contract with the current IT provider carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) at 7:54 p.m. to open the public hearing on the 2009-2010 general operating budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

The changes made to the proposed 2009-2010 budget after last week’s meeting were explained. The half-time special education position was put back in the budget, the committee members’ wages was put in elementary supplies, and the athletic line item was adjusted. A discussion was held on the impact to the budget if coaches were to be paid as employees and not as consultants who receive 1099s. It was stated that there would probably be an increase of approximately \$250 for payroll services and about \$4000 in payroll taxes to make the coaches employees. John Warfel’s retirement will have little impact on the budget as he would be eligible for severance pay and health benefits, and the budget includes salary and benefits for a new teacher. The School Committee discussed reducing the electricity line item by \$5,000-\$10,000, increasing the special

education director's number of days per year to 80-90, and including any "extra" money for professional development. Also discussed was putting back \$2500 in the sports line item to make up for the money deleted from general education transportation. Committee members questioned whether \$5000 would be enough for professional development or for a math coach.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to amend the proposed 2009-2010 general operating budget presented this evening by adding \$4161.20 to Wages/Special Education Director (80 days/year), \$4000 to the Payroll Taxes, \$250 to Payroll and Accounting Fees, \$2231 to Sports, reducing Electricity by \$5000, and to include \$4509.87 in a new line item PD/Math Literacy, for a balanced budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) at 9:04 p.m. to close the public hearing on the 2009-2010 general operating budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (McGarry, Tretheway) to adopt the finalized 2009-2010 general operating budget as amended carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to authorize the Superintendent to transmit the School Committee adopted 2009-2010 general operating budget to the Town Manager as required carried with a vote of 4-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the month of February was submitted for School Committee information. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for March 16, 2009. An interim meeting may be held on Thursday, February 26 to address the non-renewal of teacher contracts if the state legislature does not change the required notification date from March 1 to June 1.

Adjournment

A motion (McGarry, Hall) at 9.06 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Date approved Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

****Double asterisk is used to define motions in the meeting for easier
ident**