

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE INTERIM MEETING

Block Island School

April 27, 2009

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, April 27, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Leslie Ryan, Davida Irving, and William Anderson were also in attendance.

2009-2010 School Calendar – Review/Update

At the meeting held on April 7, correspondence was received from members of the teachers' association requesting that the committee take a second look at the 2009-2010 school calendar. William Padien understands and respects the teachers' concerns about the calendar, but he does not completely agree with some of them. A motion (Padien, Hall) to reject the 2009-2010 school calendar adopted at the March meeting and accept the original draft but include Monday, February 22 as part of the winter recess with the last day of school being June 18 was later amended (Padien, Tretheway) to remove February 22 from the winter recess with the last day of school being June 17 carried with a vote of 5-0. William Padien stated that a future calendar may have students starting school before Labor Day.

2008-2009 Budget – Reopen to Transfer Monies

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to reopen the 2008-2009 budget for the purpose of transferring money between line items carried with a vote of 5-0.

It was reported that several line items are showing a shortfall. The capital changes include increasing building improvements by \$92 and creating a \$2000 grounds improvement line item for a total shortfall of \$2092. It was suggested that money be moved from administration supplies (\$892), student insurance (\$420), and ed/training conferences (\$780) to address the shortfalls in capital expenses. A motion (Hall, Padien) to transfer the monies as listed above carried with a vote of 5-0.

In the operating expenses there are shortfalls in postage (\$500), copier lease/maintenance (\$1500), and building maintenance (\$3850) for a total shortfall of \$5,850. It was suggested that money be moved from insurance (\$1,758), telephone (\$2,242), and equipment maintenance (\$1,850) to address the shortfalls in operating expenses.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to transfer the monies as listed above carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Padien requested that the 2009-2010 proposed budget be reviewed to see if any of the line items now being tapped have been over budgeted.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to close the 2008-09 budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

Appoint Members to Superintendent Search Committee

Letters were sent to the New Shoreham Employees' Association and the New Shoreham Teachers' Association requesting that members be chosen to serve on the superintendent search committee. The following suggestions were made: William Padien or his designee, Davida Irving, Marsha Gutierrez, Nancy Cole, Maureen Flaherty, Marlee Lacoste, and a member of the community. Mr. Padien suggested that the resolution be changed to include two school committee members, reduce the number of teachers to one, and not include a representative from the employees' association. The school was operating under site based management when the resolution was first drafted for a superintendent search, but now the principal can represent the entire staff. Several teachers argued that the elementary and secondary teachers come from different philosophies and would have different concerns with input coming from all aspects of the school community. Everyone brings a different perspective to the table and the more at the table the better the choice will be. In response to a School Committee member commenting that they were not looking for a superintendent who would be "chummy" with the teaching staff, John Warfel replied that the teachers were not looking for someone chummy, but someone who can do the job. Committee members agreed to include a second teacher to the search committee. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to amend the resolution to include two school committee members, one teacher, the principal, and one member of the public did not carry

with a vote of 1-4 with Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway voting in the negative. A motion (Bill, Annie) to amend the resolution to include the chair or his designee, a second school committee member, one member from the general public, two teachers (one high school and one elementary), and Dr. Irving carried with a vote of 5-0.

It was reported that two community members (Pat Doyle and Lisa Sprague) had expressed interest in serving on the search committee. School Committee members felt that it would be a difficult decision to choose one over the other and suggested that both be included on the search committee. A motion (Butcher, McGarry) to amend the resolution to include two community members carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint Sean McGarry, Richard Tretheway, Davida Irving, Maureen Flaherty, Marlee Lacoste, Pat Doyle, and Lisa Sprague to the superintendent search committee carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. McGarry will serve as the search committee chairperson.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including the letter to Commissioner McWalters addressing Block Island School's plan for athletes to meet the 180-day requirement. Also received were letters from Gene Warfel and John Warfel addressing previous correspondence from

the superintendent regarding the computer network.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:26 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(1) for a discussion related to job performance and (2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0. William Young was asked to attend the executive session.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:55 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

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

A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept the resignation of Benjamin Bentrup for personal reasons effective at the end of the 2008-2009 school year and that he will be on a paid administrative leave for the remainder of this school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Butcher, Padien) to pay Leslie Ryan \$3500 for the days she worked above and beyond her contractual requirements pending verification from the fiscal clerk that the money is in the budget carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:58 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: May 18, 2009