

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

December 21, 2009

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, December 21, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Robert Hicks was also present.

Recognition of Antonio Almonte

The School Committee wanted to recognize the efforts of Antonio Almonte for all of the work he did on the building, but, unfortunately, because of the bad roads he was unable to attend this meeting. The school department provided the paint, but Mr. Almonte donated his time scraping, repairing, and painting the school's front façade, the other wood trim on the 1933 building, and the cupola. The School Committee thanked him profusely for the wonderful job he did. It is hoped that Mr. Almonte will be able to attend the next meeting so he can be thanked in person.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meetings held

on November 16 and December 7, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the executive session minutes of the meetings held on October 19, November 16, and December 7, 2009, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien reported that the first negotiation session was held with the New Shoreham Teachers' Association. He also stated that negotiations with the New Shoreham Employees' Association will begin shortly as that contract is entering its final year.

Several School Committee members and Mr. Hicks attend the Town Council meeting on Wednesday, December 16 for the annual pre-budget conversation. Mr. Hicks provided the council, Town Manager, and Finance Director with a memo highlighting the anticipated revenue parameters, the plan for the utilization of allocated federal funds for the current fiscal year, and several capital budget requests that had previously been submitted to the town.

Mr. Hicks highlighted some items in the fiscal report as of November 30, 2009, including the possibility of losing approximately \$2000 in state aid, moving \$706 from general state aid to stimulus funds, and another proposed pension change. In addition, Mr. Hicks explained some of the line items that are running a little high. A motion (Padien,

Hall) to accept the fiscal report through November 30, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks explained that the IRS is requiring that all contracted service providers, except those who do not perform services on site, those whose work is not under the control of the school, or those who are employed by another organization with which the school contracts, must be compensated through payroll. This also applies to any supplemental payments made to employees. He has asked Fiscal Clerk Yordanka Martin to make this change right away. Questions arose regarding whether consultants would now be our employees and how this would affect reimbursement for travel, or if personnel could/should become members of unions, etc. Mr. Hicks will research some of the concerns.

Mr. Hicks proposed a process for developing the 2010-2011 budget, which will be done this year following the Uniform Chart of Accounts. The budget will be presented in a template developed by Mrs. Martin, which is similar to a fiscal report. There will be summary pages with various layers of supporting documentation. The budget must be submitted to the Town Manager by March 1. School Committee members decided that budget work sessions will be held on January 11, 19 and February 2, with adoption at the regular meeting scheduled for February 8 or February 22, if necessary.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve Policy DEA: Application for Use of School Facility as written and posted carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements as written and posted carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve Policy HC: Athletic Compensation as written and posted carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve Policy HF: Travel Reimbursement as written and posted carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum on Administrative Structure, which included several recommendations. The current, interim model of sharing the principal position is working well and worth continuing even though there are a few weaknesses, including the 90-day limit for retirees that creates a hole of 20-30 days of work, especially in the summer. William Padien suggested that the recommendations be looked at one at a time.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to ask the current interim principals to remain for the balance of the school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to post and advertise for two part-time principals to share the position, with the ideal pairing of elementary

and secondary experience with one having middle grades experience as well and that these positions begin July 1 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) that the posting leave open the opportunity for one person to fill both positions, which would not foreclose the possibility that the “right individual” would surface for a full-time leadership role carried with a vote of 3-2 with Sean McGarry and Richard Tretheway voting in the negative.

A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to expand summer secretarial coverage to limit the summer coverage and administrative functions to those expected of a principal while improving our response capacity carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to engage the teachers in a discussion to create faculty capacity to a) cover the 20-30 day coverage gap with existing faculty, and b) create within the faculty instructional leadership opportunities that would supplement the identified weakness of our split model by strengthening the teacher role in instructional improvement through professional development and provide continuity through the expected administrative turnover carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Correspondence was received from CPI Qualified Plan Consultants regarding the need for the adoption of a written plan arrangement for

403(b) accounts. The IRS has delayed the requirement to have a written plan document in place by January 1, 2009, but this will not delay the other requirements to operate this plan in accordance with the final regulations. CPI Qualified Plan Consultants forwarded a Certificate/Resolution that needed to be approved by the School Committee and returned to them as soon as possible. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the resolution provided by CPI Qualified Plan Consultants, Inc. regarding the school's 403(b) Plan carried with a vote of 5-0.

There is a chronic leak in the skylight over the music room and various options, such as attempting another repair, replacement with a new skylight, and roofing over, have been discussed. For various reasons, including cost, uncertainty of success, and esthetics, all of these proved problematic. The idea of placing insulation and roofing fabric over the current skylight was examined. It appears to be cost-effective, reversible if skylight replacement becomes fundable, and provides a reasonable certainty of success. Quotes were solicited from companies who regularly do work on the island and prices were fairly close together, indicating commonality of understanding of the job. Specifications include securing one inch of insulation to the skylight covered by rubber roof membrane, brought down to and seamed with the existing roof. Mr. Hicks recommended awarding the job to Island Construction of Wakefield, Rhode Island, who submitted the lowest price (\$4,100). Mr. Hicks also thanked Maintenance Supervisor Amy Doran for following through on this

idea, including research and securing quotes. Mr. Padien was in favor of replacing the skylight at a price of \$23,500, but currently funds are not available for this. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the repair of the music room skylight as stated above and award the job to Island Construction at the quoted price of \$4,100 carried with a vote of 5-0. A motion (Padien, Hall) to revisit this item if, between now and the beginning of the repair job, the town comes through with the funds needed to help us replace the skylight carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Schools are required to have a policy on teen dating violence with preventive steps that include student and staff training. The Rhode Island Department of Education has suggested that comprehensive policies be developed that include harassment and bullying. Mr. Hicks stated that work began on this policy last year, but was never completed. Policy GK: Respectful and Peaceful School Community, which will replace the original Policy GK: Sexual Harassment, GM: Hazing, and GM1: Bullying, was developed by combining the work done last year, RIDE guidance, and model policies from other districts. A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy GK: Respectful and Peaceful School Community for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request was received from Alba Santana to home school her son, Hector, from December 21, 2009, through January 22, 2010, while they

are out of the county visiting family members. A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the request received from Alba Santana to home school her son, Hector, from December 21, 2009, through January 22, 2010, carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative and Shea Butcher having recused himself.

Mr. Hicks solicited information/prices from three different companies providing telephone notification systems. He found that TRZ Communications Services, Inc. of Kent, Ohio would be the best fit for Block Island. The cost for a three-year contract is \$1.50 per primary phone number per year or approximately \$275. A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to consent to a three-year contract with TRZ Communications Services, Inc. for a telephone notification system carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the facility use fee for the Recreation Department sponsored adult indoor soccer program on Sunday afternoons carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A list of proposed School Committee meeting dates for the 2010 calendar year was submitted. It was noted that all of the meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month with the exception of January, February, and April because of the Martin Luther King Day holiday and the winter/spring recesses. It was suggested that the December meeting be changed from the 20th to the 13th. A motion

(Padien, Butcher) to approve the 2010 meeting dates as amended (changing December's meeting to the 13th) carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept the resignation of Matthew Moran as the head coach for the junior high boys' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Paul Cunningham as the head coach for the junior high boys' basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Douglas Michel and Matthew Moran as co-assistant coaches for the varsity baseball team carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that the co-assistant coaches will share responsibilities and the stipend.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Greg Peterson as the head coach for the boys' varsity basketball team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to consent to the appointment of Tracy Muller as the bus monitor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve Lisa Robb's request for an extension of her maternity leave through the end of the Christmas

recess carried with a vote of 5-0.

After evaluating our psychological services, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued. Three proposals were received and analyzed from service and cost perspectives and RIDE was consulted on the requirements of certification for specific services. Mr. Hicks recommended that the RFP be pulled and not acted upon and to keep the current service delivery and provider in place for the remainder of the year. He also recommended that the upcoming budget include a one-day provider for next year and to bring in specialists when necessary. This item will be discussed further during the budget process.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2010.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:09 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations and possible litigation carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:55 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.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 9:56 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 12/21/2009