

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

October 18, 2010

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, October 18, 2010, 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. Robert Hicks was also present.

William Padien stated that, with the upcoming election, this was the last regularly scheduled meeting with the current School Committee membership. He felt the committee accomplished a lot and moved the school forward. It worked well together with good and bad points and with agreements and disagreements. There will be two or three new members, depending on the Town Council outcome, and he thanked Rich Tretheway and Shea Butcher for their years of input and consultation.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, September 20, 2010, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mr. Hicks submitted a flyer describing the state's Race to the Top (RTTT) effort, which will have a substantive impact on Rhode Island's schools over the next four years. He hopes to have the RTTT work align with Block Island School's to the greatest degree possible. The state's \$75 million grant will be used to build support for student success in the following categories: Standards & Curriculum (use new standards to develop rigorous curricula for Rhode Island schools); Instructional Improvement (provide new training opportunities and classroom tools to teachers); Educator Effectiveness (new evaluation systems based on student achievement will support professional growth); Human-Capital Development (new data systems will provide teachers with both information and support where it's needed most); and School Transformation and Innovation (provide additional support to teachers and leaders in our state's most struggling schools). Our final plan is due at RIDE by November 14, but Mr. Hicks stated that the plan and grant are very prescriptive and the goals and activities are known.

Mr. Hicks submitted the results of the NECAP science assessments, which are given annually to students in grades 4, 8, and 11. Block Island School has no students below proficiency and the scores continue to exceed the state average. However, Mr. Hicks feels we should strive to be better with students scoring in the proficient with

distinction category.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo outlining the items that would be included when developing a policy regarding what online coursework Block Island School will provide to students so that it does not appear to be an arbitrary process. Mr. Hicks will continue to develop the policy and submit it to the School Committee later this fall so it can be in place for next year's course selection and budget development.

The standing of accounts as of September 30, 2010, was submitted for School Committee review. It was noted that the electrical usage was up in September and that there was an excess water/sewer usage charge for this past summer because of the garden. It was suggested that a letter be written to the sewer commission to see if the charges could be reversed or the fine removed because the water did not go into the sewer. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to accept the fiscal report through September 30, 2010, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that the installation of the skylight above the music room has been completed and there were no leaks during the rain storm. The new door locks have been installed and working well.

The main door is unlocked for 45 minutes in the morning to allow students in and then in the afternoon to allow parents in to pick up their children.

New Business

Policy IQ-1: Publication of Student Images, which includes under what conditions and with what permission student images can be published, was submitted for School Committee review. A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy IQ-1: Publication of Student Images for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

The Special Education Staffing Policy was submitted for School Committee review. New regulations were developed in 2007 that required a plan stating how the special education department would be staffed. When the staffing plan was removed from the teachers' contract, this policy became necessary. Bill Anderson began the process last spring and held open meetings for parents and community members to comment on the proposed policy. A motion (Padien, Hall) to post the Special Education Staffing Policy for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that the technology committee reviewed the technology plan and developed the update for the School Committee's consideration. He commended the members of the technology committee who worked diligently on this task. An up to date technology plan is required to access E-rate funds, which support half the cost of our Internet access through RINET. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to approve the Technology Plan as updated for 2011-2012 through 2013-2014 carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to accept the notification from James Rondinone of his intent to retire at the end of the current school year with thanks for his many years of service to the school carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Tretheway, Hall) to accept the resignation of William Anderson as Special Education Director with thanks for his service to the school carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hicks noted that Dr. Anderson's last day was October 7th.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Mark Hawk as the interim Special Education Director until a search for a permanent director has been completed carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Kristine Monje to the Progress Monitoring Teacher Leadership Position carried with a vote 5-0.

A motion (McGarry, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Victoria Carson and Joanne Warfel to the High School Graduation Teacher Leadership Position, which they intend to co-share, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of October and November was submitted for School Committee information. An interim meeting has

been scheduled with the auditor for 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2010. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 15.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including a letter informing us that Block Island School won second place in the Rhode Island Blood Center's annual High School Hero Challenge in the category of 0-100 seniors, and a letter from a parent regarding his continued concerns about the high school math program.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: November 15, 2010