

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
June 13, 2011
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 13, 2011, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Patricia Doyle. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 16, 2011, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Patricia Doyle not in attendance.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on May 16, 2011, as written carried with a vote of 4-0 with Patricia Doyle not in attendance.

Reports

Sean McGarry reported that he, along with Pat Doyle and Marsha Gutierrez, attended the open meetings workshop on Thursday, June 9 at Town Hall. He learned that the open meetings law is much stricter for school committees than what is required of other town committees. He stated that the agenda can be amended 48 hours prior to the meeting as long as notification is placed on the agenda as to where the updated information can be found.

Annie Hall stated that a lot of students will be leaving for mainland schools next year. She suggested that an exit interview be held with the students and/or parents to determine why they are leaving.

William Padien reported that another beautiful graduation was held on Saturday, June 11. Mrs. Doyle stated that it was one of the finest things she has attended and felt she has missed something by not attending in past years.

Mr. Hicks submitted the attendance procedures he developed with help from the principals. He stated that the next step would be to create a job description for the truant officer. It was suggested that this document be sent to parents with the Back to School information in addition to being included in the Student Handbook and being placed on the web site.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum regarding Federal Funds for the upcoming fiscal year. Allocations have been received and they are slightly higher than what was actually budgeted, but within \$50.

Mr. Hicks reported that the standing of accounts as of May 31, 2011, had some very small changes that translated into \$8,000-\$9,000 to the good, but nothing out of the ordinary. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the standing of accounts as of May 31, 2011, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Mr. Hicks revised Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation to bring it into compliance with the state's revised regulations. The new regulations offer the option of a Regents Commended Diploma if the committee would like to take advantage of it. Mr. Hicks reported that the biggest change is in Section E – Role of State Assessments, which is now reflective of what the state requirements are. Mr. McGarry took issue with this section because aggregate data is not available to the district because of its small class sizes. He wondered how the committee could set graduation requirements if it does not know a problem exists and cannot initiate a policy to correct the issue or has the ability to affect the outcome. Others found the appeal process listed in sections E5 and K vague and confusing. Mr. Hicks stated that he would report this information back to RIDE. A motion (Connor, Hall) to advertise Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation for the required 30-day period as amended with the changes discussed carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Mr. Hicks updated Policy HJ: Professional Staff Hiring and Placement to make it consistent with both the teachers' collective bargaining agreement and the BEP. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to post policy HJ: Professional Staff Hiring and Placement for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

Policy GG-1: Police, School, and Students is a new policy required by law regarding student rights when questioned by police while at school. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to post Policy GG-1: Police, School, and Students for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

Policy GR: Student Search and Seizure is another new policy spelling out how to protect student privacy and protect administrators from accusations of improper behavior. A motion (Padien, Hall) to post Policy GR: Student Search and Seizure for the required 30-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the appointments of special education teacher Victoria Carson, special education teacher Martha Velie-Gass, speech/language pathologist Donna Smith, occupational therapist Kathleen Schlenz, and physical therapist Patricia O'Leary as extended school year staff carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Patricia Balles as the First Class Administrator carried with a vote of 5-0. This newly created position comes with a yearly stipend of \$2000.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Virginia Collins as a food service helper for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the reappointment of Jeffrey Foley as a food service helper for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the reappointment of Shannon Morgan as a cultural activities coordinator for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Tracy Muller as the bus monitor for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Jill Seppa as a cultural activities coordinator for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Hank Woodward as the technology specialist for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

Last year's watering of the community garden resulted in the school paying large water and sewer charges and penalties. Steps were taken to reduce the water usage, but after the costs had been incurred. The community garden group would like to be able to water the garden using school water again this summer, but has a plan to reduce the usage. It would cost approximately \$1200 to purchase, install, and use a reverse meter; otherwise, the cost of the overage in water and sewer would be \$1700. School Committee members were not comfortable approving this request without knowing where the money would come from in the budget. Mrs. Doyle stated she would ask the Farmers' Market if it would be willing to fund the watering of the garden. Other funding sources included the REAP grant and the Block Island School Friends. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to allow the school/community garden to use up to but not exceed 25,000 gallons of water, to direct the superintendent to find the money in the upcoming budget to pay for the water use, and that any fund raising done by the garden group would be used to alleviate the cost of watering carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 18, 2011.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including thank you cards from the kindergarten for supplying the bus for a field trip and from the senior class for the dinner at the Manisses.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 9:13 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: July 18, 2011