

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
July 18, 2011
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, July 18, 2011, 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: Elizabeth Connors, Patricia Doyle, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 13, 2011, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

The School Committee received a copy of the preliminary report issued by Johnson Controls under the Washington County Regional Planning Council energy project. Due to our size, the report consolidates all the town buildings into a single project. The Town Council authorized proceeding with the investment grade audit as a unified town project, so a separate School Committee authorization was not required. Numerous potential projects were included for the school, but it will take data from the investment grade audit to determine which ones have a sufficient payback to warrant pursuing.

Mr. Hicks reported that the RFP to repair the solar power system has gone out and proposals are due on August 1. He hopes to have the School Committee award the bid at the August meeting.

New Shoreham will be working with eight other southern Rhode Island school districts and the Dana Center at the University of Texas to develop and implement a K-12 mathematics curriculum, with funding provided by Race to the Top. There will be three teams: elementary (grades K-3), middle (grades 4-7), and secondary (grades 8-12). The first year will focus on developing curriculum and the second year will focus on implementing the curriculum. Teachers on the teams will need to commit to and attend 14 days throughout the school year, while administrators will be required to attend five days over the course of the year.

Mr. Hicks reported that the "Open Meetings" law was amended recently and school committees are no longer required to publish their agendas in a newspaper of general circulation. A lot of districts have just simply stopped advertising, but Mr. Hicks would prefer to include a notice on the August agenda that future agendas will no longer be advertised, but available on the school's website.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation as written carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy HJ: Professional Staff Hiring and Placement as posted, but with the grammatical changes discussed, carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint the Town's auditor to complete the district's 2011-2012 annual audit carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Marsha Gutierrez as the district's School Committee Clerk for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in negative *because a performance evaluation has not been completed.*

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Chris O'Neill as the district's Attendance Officer for the 2011-2012 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappoint of Asquith & Mahoney, LLP to provide legal services to the district on an as needed basis for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint the physician representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school physician(s) for the 2011-2012 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint the dentist representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school dentist(s) for the 2011-2012 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint Sean McGarry as the delegate to the Rhode Island Association of School Committees for the 2011-2012 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the designation of Bank of America and Washington Trust Company as official bank depositories carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the designation of the Block Island Times for any required advertising carried with the vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the designation of Chairperson and Secretary as authorized signatories of checks for all accounts carried with a vote of 5-0.

According to Policy BAK: Policy Adoption and Amendment, the School Committee is required to conduct a review of policy at least once per year. It was recommended that the School Committee review its policies and notify Mr. Hicks of any policies that may need to be amended and/or updated. It was suggested that perhaps Mr. Hicks could read through the policies and include one or two revised policies on each regular meeting agenda.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Karen Kurzman as the summer reading teacher carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Kurzman will be compensated at the rate of \$60 per hour.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Kayla Bourn as the secondary math teacher pending receipt of her Rhode Island certification carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Bourn, who has a BS from University of Vermont (major in mathematics/minor in special education), will be placed on Step 1 of the Salary Scale.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Karen Kurzman as a consultant to provide 30 days of professional development during the 2011-2012 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Kurzman will be compensated at the rate of \$500 per day, which will be funded by the district's Title I money.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Renee Meyer's employment contract and authorize the chairperson to sign it carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 2011.

Correspondence

A copy of the grant application/letter sent to the Champlin Foundations was forwarded for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Connor, Padien) at 7:58 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: August 15, 2011 (as amended)