

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
April 9, 2012
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, April 9, 2012, 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, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 19, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien reported that several School Committee members and teachers attended the Town Council budget work session last week. He suggested that it would be nice if staff members and other committee members could attend upcoming sessions in support of the school's budget.

Mr. Hicks reported that he feels we will finish the year in the black, but he continues to be very conservative. He received a check for \$20,000 in the mail today from the dissolution of SORICO and the sale of the building. There may be another payment when everything is completed, but that is not a certainty. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the finance report through March 31, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks stated that he has been trying to conceptualize different budget scenarios depending on the outcome of the Town Council budget work sessions and how much of our request they are willing to fund. As of this writing, \$76,000 will be needed to balance our budget. It was suggested that reserve funds could be used to cover some one-time expenses for next year (sabbatical, math support).

New Business

Mr. Hicks reported that The Trust responded to our request to recalculate our health care rates and offered us several options. He explained that Block Islanders access health care differently and our claim rate per month, which has remained relatively stable over the last several years, is 35 percent lower than the rest of the state. It was suggested that we don't go over the 50/50 credibility, which would increase our rates eight percent instead of the original 12.8 percent. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to authorize the superintendent to notify the Town Council to accept the 50 percent credibility for our health care rates from The Trust carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence was received from Patricia Balles resigning from her position as First Class Administrator and to forgo the stipend. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to accept the resignation of Patricia Balles as the First Class Administrator carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence was received from Michele Spero terminating her current contractual relationship effective June 30, 2012. Mr. Hicks explained that this stems from the need for us to go in a different direction because of all of the requirements coming from RIDE and has nothing to do with

what she has or hasn't done for us. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to accept the resignation of Michele Spero and her company, which provides technology support, effective June 30, 2012, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence was received from Amy Doran resigning from her positions as custodian and maintenance supervisor effective at the end of this school year. Mr. Hicks stated that Ms Doran is a hard worker, goes above and beyond what is in her job description, and will be missed when she moves to the mainland. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to accept with regret the resignation of Amy Doran from her positions as custodian and maintenance supervisor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Victoria Clark Gustafson as the assistant coach for varsity softball carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that in the past we have been able to respond to RIDE's technology initiatives and requirements manually, but this is becoming harder and harder to do and beginning to strain our infrastructure. Over the course of this year the Technology Committee has been investigating a potential partnership with another school district and requests were sent to all of the superintendents and technology directors in each district. Responses were received from North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Westerly. Several discussions were held with North Kingstown School Department and a proposal, which works within our current budget, was developed and agreed upon by both districts. We can buy into their student information system at approximately the same price we pay for our current system. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the North Kingstown technology partnership carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the months of April and May was submitted for School Committee information. Wednesday is the last Town Council budget work session with adoption scheduled for Monday, April 16. The next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2012.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Michael Lunney, Assistant Director of Rhode Island Interscholastic League, notifying us that our girls' varsity basketball team was awarded the RIIL Sportsmanship Award for the past season.

Adjournment

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

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: May 21, 2012