

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

June 11, 2012

(Rescheduled from June 18, 2012)

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 11, 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, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 4-1 with Elizabeth Connor abstaining.

Reports

William Padien reported that graduation was fantastic and well attended. Patricia Doyle would like to see more community members attending this wonderful event.

Cultural activities coordinators Shannon Morgan and Jill Seppa were present to answer School Committee questions about the program and how it might change for next year because of the new schedule. The program provides an alternative to athletic activities and trips will continue to be on Fridays, leaving mid- to late-morning. This year the coordinators worked to make each trip more cultural. It was thought that the trips would be spread throughout the school year instead of just during "basketball season". Mr. Hicks stated that if the program were redesigned to include all students even more class time would be missed. Students will have to make a choice between athletics and cultural activities. Sean McGarry questioned whether the program was needed in light of the fact that the school schedule has changed to lessen the amount of time students miss for athletics. Others felt that providing an alternative to athletic activities is important, but students will still have to choose. The coordinators did mention that when a game had been cancelled some of the athletes participated in an on-island trip and suggested that perhaps it could be looked at trip by trip. William Padien stated that the program is still in its early stages, but he feels it is moving in the right direction.

Mr. Hicks attended the Town Council meeting on May 21 when the Energy Audit Report was received and reviewed. The school is the largest town building and the largest consumer of energy. Several of the projects listed have paybacks that are extremely long (more than 10 years) and much longer than would be economically feasible. Mr. Hicks is looking into why lighting controls were eliminated from the report even though this was an area identified as a need.

The May 31, 2012, finance report was submitted for review. Mr. Hicks reported that there have been no significant changes from last month. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the finance report through May 31, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

An adjustment to the 2012-2013 school budget was needed to bring it into balance with the one approved by the voters at the financial town meeting, which is \$31,871 less than requested. Mr. Hicks originally suggested using \$14,687 from reserves and the \$20,000 received from the sale of the SORICO building to make up the difference. However, more information on health care rates, state aid, salaries, etc. has been received and less money will be needed to balance the budget (\$28,769). Sean McGarry made a motion to open a public hearing to discuss the superintendent's recommendations; this was seconded by Ann Hall, but she later withdrew her second. Committee members questioned why a public hearing was needed. Mr. McGarry felt that it was required by law and School Committees are held to a higher standard. Mr. Hicks stated that he could find nothing in RI law, School Committee policies, or town ordinances that supported this requirement. In addition, the School Committee voted last year to update the budget without a public hearing. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the superintendent's recommendation to revise the 2012-2013 budget as presented in the memo dated June 5, 2012 (attached), and to include \$28,769 from undesignated reserve funds carried with a vote of 4-0-1 with Sean McGarry abstaining. Mr. McGarry stated that he would address this with the Attorney General because he felt it was an illegal vote of the School Committee.

New Business

Mr. Hicks updated Policy FBA: Special Instructional Programs to change archaic language regarding the education of students with special needs and to add the required commitment regarding the education of English Language Learners. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to post Policy FBA: Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations for the required 30 days carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to consent to the appointment of Henry Hewitt as the 2012 extended school year camp aide carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hewitt will be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per hour.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Donna Smith as the 2012 extended school year speech language pathologist carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Smith will be compensated at the rate of \$65 per hour.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Stacy Henshaw as an elementary teacher (grade 4) for the 2012-2013 school year only carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Henshaw will be placed on Step 1 of the salary scale and receive a stipend for her master's degree.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointment of Karen Kurzman as a professional development consultant for the 2012-2013 school year carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Kurzman will work 30 days and be compensated at the rate of \$500 per day.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to accept the resignation of Kayla Bourn from her position as secondary math teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Stacy Henshaw's request for a leave of absence from her position as a teacher assistant for the 2012-2013 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 23, 2012.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Doyle) at 8:25 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: July 23, 2012

**BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL - NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 FROM: ROBERT HICKS
 DATE: JUNE 5, 2012
 RE: 2012-2013 BUDGET

As discussed at the last meeting, an adjustment to the 2012-2013 school budget is required to bring it into balance with the appropriation of the voters at the Financial Town Meeting. At the FTM voters approved the school transfer recommended by the Town Council. Such was \$31,871 less than requested, however the committee discussed applying the \$20,000 in SORICO funds and \$14,687 from reserves to offset the loss, which would still retain a reserve of 3 percent of operations.

Since that time we have been updating the budget. Updated expense information includes final health care rates that dropped to a 6% increase* and all salaries in accordance with School Committee action at the last meeting, the expense budget is revised to \$4,613,922. Using a state aid amount of \$72,292 based on the House Finance Budget proposed last week and adjusting Medicaid and Lunch Program revenue consistent with current projections, establishes a revenue budget which requires a transfer from available reserves in the amount of \$28,769, which is slightly less than anticipated. This will create a balanced revenue and expense budget as detailed below.

It is recommended that the 2012-13 New Shoreham School Department budget be revised as presented and to include a transfer of \$28,769 from undesignated reserves.

Recommended Revised 2012-2013 Block Island School Budget				
2012-13 Revenues	Adopted	Revised	Change \$	Change %
Local Appropriations	\$4,449,732	\$4,417,861	\$(31,871)	-0.7%
Food Service sales	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$-	0.0%
State-match lunch program	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$(5,000)	-33.3%
General State Aid from RIDE	\$74,987	\$72,292	\$(2,695)	-3.6%
Application of Reserve		\$28,769	\$28,769	
Medicaid reimbursement	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$5,000	14.3%
Total Operational Revenues	\$4,619,719	\$4,613,922	\$(5,797)	-0.1%

2012-13 Expenses	Adopted	Revised	\$Increase	% Increase
Central Office	\$189,837	\$188,645	\$(1,192)	-0.6%
Student Support Services	\$92,604	\$92,760	\$156	0.2%
Superintendent's Office	\$162,803	\$159,600	\$(3,203)	-2.0%
School Committee	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$-	0.0%
Athletics Department +	\$90,763	\$104,692	\$13,929	15.3%
Guidance and Social Services	\$73,779	\$73,909	\$130	0.2%
Financial Department	\$92,800	\$92,907	\$107	0.1%
Building Operations	\$452,396	\$448,460	\$(3,936)	-0.9%
K-7 Grades	\$2,085,359	\$2,055,399	\$(29,960)	-1.4%
8-12 Grades	\$1,236,477	\$1,254,649	\$18,173	1.5%
Tuition	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$-	0.0%
Total Expenses	\$4,619,719	\$4,613,922	\$(5,797)	-0.1%

* This year the Interlocal Trust, carrier of our health insurance, issued an RFP for claims management. The RFP detailed the claim experience of Trust participants and asked responders to provide their discounts on those claims as well as administrative expenses charged to administer the plan. As a result of the RFP process the Trust was able to secure a reduced administrative claims charge that provides for an across the board 2% rate reduction for all participants. This reduction along with the Trust's earlier offer to reduce our credibility charge result in a 6% net increase, slightly more than the 5% budgeted, but significantly less than the original 12% notification.

+ The increase in the Athletic Department budget results from a reclassification of several extracurricular stipends in conformance with UCOA requirements. These stipends were formerly in the grade level programs.