

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
January 22, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 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, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

2013-2014 Budget Work Session

Mr. Hicks explained the adjustments made to the budget since last week's meeting. The Governor's proposed budget has an increase in state aid that now reflects our high cost special education aid (\$8256 in increased revenue). Next year's contribution rates for the state pension system have been received. While the municipal rate has gone down from 8.38 to 8.08 percent, a savings of \$980, the teacher rate is increasing from 10.72 to 11.68 percent or an increase to the budget of \$21,346. Corrections were made to the School Committee stipends and the longevity stipends as some teachers were incorrectly listed. This resulted in savings of \$10,765 and \$3,407 respectively. The net impact of the above is a reduction of \$2,062.

A motion (Padien, Willi) to remove the School Committee stipend from the budget, but to hold it in an "extra file" for the time being carried with a vote of 5-0.

A discussion was held on the capital budget and how projects could fit with the reserve funds. The repair of the façade (\$80,000) and replacement of the membrane roof (\$74,300) have already been submitted to the Planning Board to be included in the town's projects. Last year the town set aside \$20,000 to repair the façade. Mr. Hicks reported that the school is working with the police department to seek ways to improve security, with priorities being the front entry and locksets. It is hoped that grant money will be available for building security. In addition, the chair lift will need to be repaired, or replaced with a stairway lift, and this project has been estimated at \$10,000. The auditors have recommended a cushion of 3-3.5 percent of the budget be kept in reserve. It was suggested that 3.25 percent be used for the reserve amount and that approximately \$37,000 be set aside for the roof.

Mr. Hicks submitted memos on the breakout of responsibilities for the administrators' positions and how this translates into the reduction of the superintendent's time by 15 days. William Padien stated he had learned from experience that a new person coming in without experience can be a problem and was uncomfortable reducing the superintendent by that many days. He suggested adding five days for some leeway and a little peace of mind because so many new things are happening in the state. Patricia Doyle felt strongly that the superintendent's original recommendation of reducing his time from 90 to 75 days should be followed as it shows the committee's fiscal responsibility and additional days, if necessary, could come from the surplus.

It was decided that the budget work session scheduled for Monday, January 28 was not need. The next work session is scheduled for Monday, February 4.

Adjournment

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

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 11, 2013