

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
March 18, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, March 18, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Annie Hall reported that she had attended a local special education advisory committee meeting. The agenda included protocols, confidentiality, and IDEA grant ideas. The advisory committee was curious as to when the new standardized test (PARCC) would be administered. Mr. Hicks stated that NECAP will be continued into the fall of 2014 with PARCC administered in the spring of 2015 and thereafter. However, it is not yet known which test will be used for graduation requirements.

The standing of accounts as of February 28, 2013, was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks reported that next month's report will include the changes related to the two retirements. Mrs. Hall stated that more padding is needed on the gym walls and the padding around the outdoor basketball poles needs to be replaced. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the finance report through February 28, 2013, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks gave an update on grades, attendance, and saved time in school as it relates to the schedule in place this year (longer school day Monday-Thursday and a shorter day on Friday). He looked at the grade point averages for students in grades 9-12 and found a small increase, but could not attribute it to just the schedule change. There is no evidence that the schedule encouraged families to move mainland appointments from Mondays and Thursdays to Fridays. The attendance rate on those days was lower this year than last year, so any impact on attendance related to the new schedule seems to be small. There is, however, clear data that time in school has improved. There have been 45 class periods saved over last basketball season. Pat Doyle questioned teacher attendance, citing a recent report that Rhode Island ranks near the bottom. Mr. Hicks stated that a lot of our teacher absences are related to professional development and curriculum work on the mainland.

The annual enrollment report from NESDEC, a regional organization supporting New England school districts, was submitted for School Committee review. It is still showing a decline in enrollment over the next ten years. Mrs. Doyle initiated a conversation regarding the possibility of combining grades.

Mr. Hicks asked if the School Committee had any issues with allowing the BIELC to participate in our robo-call system. BIELC will reimburse us for the added cost at \$1.50 per student. Since there were no objections Mr. Hicks' intention was to consent to the request.

Old Business

According to School Committee Bylaws, policies require action by a majority of the School Committee at two successive regular meetings or a unanimous vote of all five members at a regular meeting. Policy BAK: Policy Adoption and Amendment was presented for a second vote because only four members were present at last month's meeting. A motion (Padien, Willi) to approve Policy BAK: Policy Adoption and Amendment as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that because no bids were received for administrative housing he has been negotiating with John Leone, the owner of the administrative house, to extend the contract at the current price. A motion (Padien, Connor) to extend the housing contract for up to three years, renewable annually, carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Policy GS: Physical Restraint/Crisis Intervention was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks stated that we have been complying with this policy, which is required by RIDE, but it has never been formally adopted. A motion (Padien, Connor) to post Policy GS: Physical Restraint/Crisis Intervention for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to consent to the appointment of the following coaches for the 2013 baseball/softball season carried with a vote of 5-0.

- John Tarbox – head coach varsity baseball
- Doug Michel – assistant coach varsity baseball
- Matthew Moran – assistant coach varsity baseball
- Mark Mollicone – head coach junior high baseball
- Kirk Littlefield – head coach varsity softball
- Nathaniel Shaw – head and assistant coach junior high softball

Mr. Hicks submitted two calendar options for the 2013-2014 school year. Option A followed the calendar as it was approved the previous two years. Option B was suggested by the teachers and included a two-week vacation at Christmas. A third option that included a March vacation with no vacations in February and April was suggested. The School Committee will discuss the various options at next month's meeting.

Chris Willi shared his concern regarding the maintenance and safety of Heinz Field and questioned the school's liability if it is in disrepair for home baseball and softball games.

Calendar of Events

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to change the next regular School Committee meeting from Monday, April 8 to Tuesday, April 23 carried with a vote of 5-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:30 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations and 5(a)(3) building security carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:13 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:17 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Elizabeth Connor, Secretary

Date approved: April 23, 2013