

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
June 17, 2013
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 17, 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.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 20, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on May 20, 2013, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien reported that this year's graduation ceremony was fabulous and gave kudos to the staff members who put it all together.

Ann Hall stated that the Local Advisory Committee, at its most recent meeting, discussed professional development. It is hoped that a representative from RIPEN can come out to educate parents on what an IEP is. Also discussed was mental health support and she hopes to include this on all LAC agendas.

Mr. Hicks reported that we will end the year better than first anticipated. There were some changes since last month, with a slight decrease in revenue for Medicaid and food service and some of the technology hardware was moved to a grant. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the finance report through May 31, 2013, carried with a vote of 5-0.

In Mr. Hicks' memo to the School Committee regarding VHS classes he reported that students have been taking various classes since the 2009-2010 school year and, for the most part, they are doing well. The overall GPA for VHS courses is 85 and approximately half of the grades are A's; there were a couple of withdrawals/failures. He stated that the number of courses is growing, but students are not signing up for courses we offer in-house.

Mr. Hicks reported that the comparative attendance rates are a little lower than last year, but close to overall averages.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo to the School Committee regarding the possible process he would like to use to investigate and discuss the future path of Block Island School. He sees organization and technology as two major areas of research. Grade organization and configuration are fairly well researched. The Middletown School District recently opened a multi-grade instruction school and has offered to come to Block Island to share its experience.

Fishers Island has embarked on a similar program and also offered to share experiences. Mr. Hicks stated that the interface of technology, learning, and face-to-face instruction, which is going through significant shifts, will need to be explored regardless of our organization. His goal is to think outside the box and involve as many groups as possible.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks reported that the budget adopted at this year's financial town meeting was less than requested and he recommended that the School Committee reduce the budget to bring it into compliance with the one adopted by the voters. A motion (Connor, Hall) to reduce the Town transfer from \$4,501,733 to \$4,489,293 for a revenue reduction of \$12,440 by reducing the health insurance line from \$521,050 to \$512,442 and the dental insurance line from \$34,676 to \$30,844 carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements was revised to make travel issues easier for students who wish to pursue concurrent enrollment. A motion (Padien, Connor) to post Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A draft calendar for the 2014-2015 school year, which is consistent with the one adopted for the upcoming year, was submitted for School Committee review. The motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the calendar as presented was withdrawn when Mr. Hicks suggested that the committee wait until next month to give staff and parents a chance to think about it. He also noted that we do not have any data on the impact of next year's calendar.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve Nathaniel Shaw's request for an additional coaching stipend for junior high softball because no assistant coach was appointed carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve Mark Mollicone's request for an additional coaching stipend for junior high baseball because no assistant coach was appointed carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to accept the resignation of Shannon Booth as the secondary social studies teacher with regret carried with a vote of 5-0. Ms Booth was thanked by the School Committee for her hard work and dedication to the students; she will be missed.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Victoria Carson as a special education teacher for the 2013 extended summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Martha Velie-Gass as a special education teacher for the 2013 extended summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Donna Smith as the speech/language pathologist for the 2013 extended summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Kathleen Schlenz as the occupational therapist for the 2013 extended summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Patricia O’Leary as the physical therapist for the 2013 extended summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Amy Dugan as a teacher assistant for the 2013 extended summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Henry Hewitt as an aide at Camp Mohegan for the 2013 summer program carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Nathaniel Shaw as the summer math tutor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Molly Nolan as the summer reading tutor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to rescind the non-renewal notice and consent to the appointment of Stacy Henshaw as an elementary teacher (grade 2) carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Connor, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Elizabeth Wall as an elementary teacher (grade 4) carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Lisa Robb as the K-12 art teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Melanie Reeves as the Finance Director carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that that Ms Reeves’ annual salary will be \$47,950 and prorated for her start on July 8.

Prior to recommending the following appointments for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, Mr. Hicks stated that members of the New Shoreham Employees’ Association would receive raises in accordance with the recently signed contract. Non-union salaries for certified administrators were recommended to follow the teachers’ contract, which includes no increase. Mrs. Gutierrez, who typically follows the New Shoreham Employees’ Association, was recommended at 1.5 percent each year for the next two years as equitable due to contract differences. Other non-union and non-certified employees would receive the same increase as members of the employees’ association.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Marianne Brown as the bus monitor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Laura Breunig as an administrative assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Pamela Buol as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Virginia Collins as a food service helper carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Scott Comings as an educational consultant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Lynne Cunningham as the office manager carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Sarah Deane as a food service helper carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Amy Dugan as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Lynn Fletcher as a custodian carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Betty Gomes as the guidance counselor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Marsha Gutierrez as an administrative assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Mark Hawk as the special education director carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Bernice Johnson as a custodian carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Cindy Lasser as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Shannon Morgan as a cultural activities coordinator carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Scott Nelson as a custodian and maintenance supervisor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Jill Seppa as a cultural activities coordinator carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Hank Woodward as a technology specialist carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve Kristine Monje's Principal Contract as presented and to authorize the chair to sign carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

This item is included to assist with the scheduling of School Committee events/meetings. The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 15.

Correspondence

A copy of the letter sent to Mr. Hicks from Kathryn Ritter-Smith was submitted for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Hall, Connor) at 8:14 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: July 15, 2013