

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
September 16, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, September 16, 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.

**Teacher of the Year Recognition**

Mr. Hicks presented Mark Mollicone to the School Committee as the students' choice as teacher of the year. In their recognition of Mr. Mollicone, our technology education teacher, the students noted the great impact he has had on their lives, from widening their knowledge base to coaching basketball. He has been more than just a teacher; he has been a successful coach and a good friend.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 19, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Reports**

Members of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force were in attendance to request that the funding for the Student Assistance Counselor (SAC) be shifted to the school. Over the years, major reductions in funding for these programs have occurred and the Task Force is hoping the school would be willing to take up this responsibility. Some funding was available through Drug-Free Schools, but this money has also dried up. Mr. Hicks stated that linking the work of the task force with the work of the school he feels could leverage the efforts and make them more effective and efficient. However, what the focus will be and how that funding comes through should be a larger community discussion and involve the Town Council. Jill Seppa, Coordinator for the Task Force, stated that they were notified in August that funding would be cut and they are seeking \$7900 for the SAC to continue working in the school 1.5 days per week. She thought perhaps some money might be available because new teachers were hired at lower steps. Everything Elizabeth Connor has heard about the Task Force and its programs have been positive and should be supported, but she requested a job description for the SAC, including how the Task Force sees the position in the future with the school's involvement because she is unfamiliar with the position. She would also like to see a more concrete request or proposal that includes the dollar amount and how that money would be used. It was suggested that this item be tabled and watch the budget over the next few months to see if there is any wiggle room. The budget process for the next fiscal year starts in January and it appeared that committee members were in general agreement that the funding for this position could be included.

Mrs. Monje informed the committee that a new dismissal procedure has been implemented. Each child is now required to have a form on file indicating whether he/she is allowed to walk home, must take the bus, or can be released to specifically named adults or student drivers. In addition, students must now assume responsibility for checking in the office for items they may

have left at home. Classrooms will no longer be interrupted to notify students that items have arrived.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Hicks submitted a draft of the resolution regarding Bandwidth Communication for review. He mentioned that a letter with the same information as the resolution was sent to the PUC with copies to various government officials. He recently received correspondence from the PUC and Senator Reed regarding the hopes of expediting the process to increase bandwidth once estimates for the cost of the cable are obtained. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the resolution and forward it to the Town Council carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **New Business**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the request from Pam Gasner to home school her daughter, Julia, from September 20-26, 2013, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the request from Jeana Rachels to continue the home schooling program for her son, Zach, for the 2013-2014 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from Bryan Wilson to home school his three children (Maya, Ezekiel, and Amira) from September 30-October 7, 2013, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted the contract/agreement with East Bay Educational Collaborative to continue the professional development services in ELA Common Core that it provided last year.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the contract/agreement with EBEC carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Calendar of Events**

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2013.

### **Correspondence**

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including notification from RIDE that New Shoreham had 100 percent compliance for Rate of Compliance for Indicator 11 for 2012-2013. Also received was the correspondence noted above regarding the need for additional bandwidth.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Doyle) at 8:16 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: October 21, 2013