

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
June 16, 2014
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, June 16, 2014, 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 present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 19, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on May 19, 2014, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien reported that this year's graduation was wonderful and gave kudos to all who made it possible.

Patricia Doyle reported that anyone planning to run for School Committee must declare it by June 25. She offered the required paperwork to anyone who needed it. Both Elizabeth Connor and Mrs. Doyle intend to run again.

Ann Hall has a conflict with the August meeting, but will wait until the July meeting to pick a new date.

Mr. Hicks reported that he received a draft of the final report on the special education monitoring and hopes to share the final copy with the School Committee in July. The representative from RIDE was amazed at the difference in five years; the non-compliance issues are gone and things are going well.

Mr. Hicks reported that the budget is looking a little more positive with one month left in this fiscal year, but some of that is because Guidance Counselor Betty Gomes has been on sick leave. She plans to work some hours over the summer, so next year's line item may go over. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the finance report through May 31, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Shannon Cotter Marsella, Julia Gasner, Mary Conant, and Andrew McGarry were present to report on the 7th grade sailing trip last week on the Harvey Gammage. Mrs. Marsella raised \$19,000 for this trip. On several days the weather was less than perfect and most of the students got seasick at some point. The students thought climbing the rigging was fun even though it was scary. They also learned about knots, went to the Whaling Museum in New Bedford, and met

students from Shelter Island who were sailing on a different ship. Each student wrote a short reflection on the trip that will appear in a future issue of the Block Island Times.

Mr. Hicks met with representatives from the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding the school building process and what is required to receive the 35 percent reimbursement. The building moratorium will probably be extended for at least another year, but the improvements to the building in the next several years (façade, roof, elevator, playground drainage) could fall under the health and safety exemption. This summer's work may qualify for reimbursement if we move rapidly. Mr. Hicks submitted a chart outlining the process and it begins with the submission of a Stage 1 application, which must be signed by the superintendent, school committee chair, and town manager. A building committee must be established and the new regulations require eight people, including the superintendent of schools, at least one member of the school committee, the local official responsible for building maintenance, a representative of the office or body authorized by law to construct school buildings in the municipality, the school principal from the subject school, a member who has knowledge of the educational mission and function of the facility, a local budget official or member of the local finance committee, and at least one member of the community with architectural, engineering and/or construction experience to provide input relative to the effect of the project on the community and to examine building design and construction plans for reasonableness. This item is on the Town Council's agenda for Wednesday evening, June 18 and Mr. Hicks will get back to the School Committee members when things are ready to go forward.

New Business

Mr. Hicks stated that an access to public records policy is a standard requirement for public agencies. This one was drafted by counsel several years ago, but never formally adopted. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the posting of Policy EAG: Access to Public Records for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

Our policy on administering medication to children in school has been updated with the help of the staff at the Medical Center and now includes information on diabetes self-management. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the posting of Policy GN: Administering Medication to Children in School for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

The Family and Medical Leave Act has been in place for quite a few years, but the New Shoreham School Department never adopted a formal policy. The one presented gives us a form and process to follow and was adapted from another district. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the posting of Policy HO: Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to establish a school building committee based on RIDE regulations and to include the superintendent of schools, at least one member of the school committee, the local official responsible for building maintenance, a representative of the office or body authorized by law to construct school buildings in the municipality, the school principal from the subject school, a member who has knowledge of the educational mission and function of the facility, a local budget official or member of the local finance committee, and at least one member of the community with architectural, engineering and/or construction experience, with

both William Padien and Christopher Willi representing the School Committee, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointments of Maura Cousins and Molly Nolan as the summer reading/math program teachers carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointments of the following people for the extended school year positions carried with a vote of 5-0.

- Victoria Carson – Special Education Teacher
- Martha Velie-Gass – Special Education Teacher
- Kate Mello – Special Education Teacher
- Jessica Pollard – Speech/Language Pathologist
- Kathleen Schlenz – Occupational Therapist
- Patricia O’Leary – Physical Therapist
- Katie Tarpey – Social Worker
- Henry Hewitt – Camp Aide
- Caitlin Dutson – Teacher Assistant
- Megan Hennessy – Music Teacher

Mr. Hicks recommended the appointment of Kelsey McRae as the new sixth grade teacher at step 1 with a Master’s degree. A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Kelsey McRae as the sixth grade teacher carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Padien stated that Ms McRae will be replacing Mrs. Lacoste, who has worked here many years and in many areas. He thanked her for everything she has done for the school and wished her a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Hicks stated that members of the New Shoreham Employees’ Association will receive raises in accordance with their contract, non-union salaries for certified administrators are recommended to follow the teachers’ contract, Mrs. Gutierrez’s salary was agreed upon last year because of contract differences, and Mrs. Reeves will receive a six percent increase because the salary has been stagnant due to turnover and she has done an exceptional job. Other non-union and non-certified employees will receive the same increase as the appropriate employees’ association. A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the reappointments of the following people carried with a vote of 5-0.

- Laura Breunig – Administrative Assistant
- Pamela Buol – Teacher Assistant
- Melanie Reeves – Finance Director
- John Canole – Co-principal
- Scott Comings – Educational Consultant
- Maura Cousins – Teacher Assistant
- Lynne Cunningham – Office Manager
- Sarah Deane – Food Service Helper
- Betsey DeMaggio – Bus Monitor
- Amy Dugan – Teacher Assistant
- Lynn Fletcher – Custodian
- Elizabeth Gomes – Guidance Counselor

- Marsha Gutierrez – Administrative Assistant
- Mark Hawk – Special Education Director
- Robert Hicks – Superintendent
- Bernice Johnson – Custodian
- Cindy Lasser – Teacher Assistant
- Kelsey McElroy – Teacher Assistant
- Kristine Monje – Co-principal
- Shannon Morgan – Cultural Activities Coordinator
- Scott Nelson – Custodian/Maintenance Supervisor
- Jill Seppa – Cultural Activities Coordinator

Calendar of Events

Kindergarten graduation is scheduled for 10:30 on Friday morning, June 20. Final exams for secondary students begin tomorrow and end on Monday, June 23, the last day of school. The next regular School Committee meeting has been rescheduled from Monday, July 21 to Monday, July 28.

Correspondence

Several pieces of correspondence were submitted to the School Committee including a thank you from Mrs. Greenaway and the senior class for the dinner at the Manisses, a letter from Bill McKernan of the American Legion Post 36 Block Island thanking the students who assisted in placing flags on the veterans' graves, and a letter from Attorney General Peter Kilmartin thanking Mr. Hicks for his assistance in bringing "Texting & Driving...It Can Wait" campaign to Block Island.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:04 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: July 28, 2014