

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
July 28, 2014
(Rescheduled from July 21, 2014)
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, July 28, 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, Ann Hall, William Padien, Christopher Willi, and Patricia Doyle. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 16, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0 with Patricia Doyle not in attendance.

Reports

Mr. Hicks submitted the RIDE School Support Visit report. RIDE personnel were pleased by the progress made by our special needs education programs since their last visit five years ago. They noted strong gains in parent satisfaction, staff morale, and program development. Mr. Hicks thanked both the regular education and special needs staff for their efforts in making this possible.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo summarizing the work done over the past year regarding the Block Island School Futures. Visits were made to schools using blended learning (combination of computer-based and direct instruction) and others offering multi-age/grade classrooms. None of the models viewed were ideal for our school, but it was learned that research and visits matched up very closely. The other area discussed was the possibility of a school that would attract students to the island. However, this would require a community effort. It was decided that blended learning should be a key part of the school's future and, at the secondary level, we will use Edgenuity courseware to support existing classes and expand student offerings.

Mr. Hicks reported that our Spanish teacher will be leaving for a job teaching English in Mexico. We will advertise the opening on SchoolSpring tomorrow.

An unaudited finance report as of June 30 was submitted for School Committee review. The estimated statement is more positive than earlier because anticipated maintenance work was not done by June 30, textbooks were not purchased, technology money was held back because the server was giving us problems, consultant and supply lines were under spent, and there were some salary savings. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the unaudited finance report through June 30, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that the Town Council established a School Building Committee at its June 18 meeting and the Stage 1 approval was just received from RIDE. Mr. Hicks will send out a meeting notification once he has all of the email addresses of the building committee members.

Mr. Hicks submitted a draft of the procedure he would like to implement beginning September 1, 2014, regarding negative school lunch balances. There were several sizeable negative balances during the year and some that roll over from year to year. He reviewed several mainland school procedures and found them to be much stronger than the one he submitted. Some limited students with negative balances over \$20 to special lunches. Suggested ideas on what to do when parents don't pay included holding back report cards/records, asking the Mary D Fund for help, sending an application for free/reduced price meals, and having parents work in the cafeteria each week. A motion (Padien, Connor) to post Policy EBC: Negative Balance Procedures for the School Lunch Program as modified for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that a representative from the company that installed the dust collector will be out on Wednesday to see if there is an easy fix to the noise problem. In addition, Trane will be here on Thursday to see about putting heat in the ceramics room.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve Policy EAG: Access to Public Records as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve Policy GNP: Administering Medication to Children at School as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve Policy HO: Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint Marsha Gutierrez as the district's School Committee Clerk for the 2014-2015 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to reappoint Chris O'Neill as the district's Attendance Office for the 2014-2015 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint the firm of Asquith & Mahoney, LLP to provide legal services to the district on an as needed basis for the 2014-2015 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint the physician representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school physician(s) for the 2014-2015 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to reappoint the dentist representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school dentist(s) for the 2014-2015 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint Patricia Doyle as the delegate to Rhode Island Association of School Committees for the 2014-2015 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the designation of Bank of America and Washington Trust Company as official bank depositories carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the designation of the Block Island Times for any required advertising carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the designation of Chairperson and Secretary as the authorized signatories of checks for all accounts carried with a vote of 5-0.

Policy BAK: Policy Adoption and Amendment requires the School Committee to conduct a review of its policies at least once per year. It was suggested that committee members review the policies and notify Mr. Hicks if they feel any need to be amended or updated.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Donna Smith as a speech language pathologist for the extended school year and to share the position with the person appointed last month carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

A motion (Padien, Connor) to change the next regular meeting from Monday, August 18 to Tuesday, the 19th carried with a vote of 5-0.

Correspondence

Mr. Hicks submitted a copy of the letter he sent to Christopher Kearns of the Rhode Island Department of Energy Resources requesting that the cost effectiveness evaluation category be adjusted to factor in the cost of electricity and not just the kWh used when determining grant awards.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: August 19, 2014