

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
September 15, 2014
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, September 15, 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 in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

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

Reports

Mr. Hicks reported that the 2014-2015 school year started with 117 students and includes more kindergarten students than projected. There were some frustrations in getting technology in place before the opening of school. The wireless project was delayed and five refurbished laptops, to be used for blended learning, did not work. There has been a surge in student participation in online learning, both blended and independent classes, which will probably run over budget by about \$5,000. The custodian/maintenance director is on medical leave and we are awaiting the results of the substitute's criminal background check prior to him starting to work.

Mr. Hicks stated that the heat/air conditioning issue in the ceramics and computer rooms may be put on hold until the engineering study, which is required for the state to reimburse construction costs, has been completed. The engineer would know if the proposal submitted by the company that services our HVAC system is the most effective way of handling this.

One of the water pumps is failing and the company working on the issue will submit proposals to repair or replace, with a cost range probably from \$10,000 to \$20,000. It was stated that the water pumps run constantly and are electrically inefficient. We may not be able to wait for the engineering study for this repair/replacement.

Mr. Hicks reported that the sign purchased for the front of the school has arrived and is smaller than he anticipated. A photo-shopped picture was submitted showing the size and possible placement. Neither Historic District nor Planning Board has an issue with the sign as we are designated an educational zone. School Committee members were not opposed to the sign and think that perhaps it will bring more people into the school for various activities/programs. It was suggested that wherever it is placed care should be taken to not block views for traffic.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum explaining the reading and math growth model data on Rhode Island schools and districts now found on RIDE's website. Growth data shows how much progress students make from year to year. Each school or district is represented by a dot, with the larger size dots being larger schools/districts. Achievement is reflected on the vertical scale

and growth on the horizontal scale. A dot placed higher and farther right is best. Mr. Hicks stated that Block Island has both high proficiency and growth. More information/data can be found at the RIDE website.

The proposed 2015-2016 school calendar, which follows those approved the past two years, was submitted for review. It is suggested that parents and staff have an opportunity to review the proposed calendar prior to adoption at next month's meeting.

Old Business

At the School Committee meeting last May, Mr. Hicks brought forward the idea of developing educational programs that would bring students and visitors to the island during the off-seasons, both short-term and for the entire school year. When initially discussed it was felt that this would entail community involvement. School Committee members are still enthusiastic about the idea. Mr. Hicks would like to meet with the group he discussed this with last year, but would also like to get a survey out to the community for input to see if anyone is willing to work on getting the program(s) up and running. It was suggested that the Block Island Times and Block Island Bulletin Board would be ways to get the information out to the public.

New Business

A motion (Hall, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Eileen Dinolfo Miller as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointments of Callum Crawford as the junior high head soccer coach, Tracy Heinz as the junior high assistant soccer coach, Lawrence Kikuchi as the varsity head soccer coach, Kirk Littlefield as a co-assistant varsity soccer coach, and Tim Keane as a co-assistant varsity soccer coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

Christopher Willi voiced his concern about the reduction of Camp Mohegan's use of the school by one week this summer. He stated that Camp Mohegan is very important to community members, as well as visitors, especially towards the end of the summer when college students leave and businesses are short staffed. Mr. Willi would like to see it go back to the nine weeks if at all possible. Mr. Hicks stated that Camp Mohegan was reduced by one week because the summer break was shorter (school ended on June 23rd and started September 2nd) and to allow the custodians time to get that section of the building ready for the new school year. Mr. Hicks stated that deviating from the maintenance schedule has a trickle down effect when teachers are trying to set up their rooms. He has checked with other towns and their summer camps move to non-school sites for the last week or two. Mr. Hicks is willing to look into the summer work schedule, but committee members also thought having the recreation department look for alternate sites was a good idea.

Mr. Willi brought up the cleanliness of the gymnasium, which has been much better with Scott Nelson as the maintenance supervisor. He stated that this area is the most used space in the school. The floor is swept by the volleyball players before and after their use, but the same pile of dirt is found sitting in the corner. William Padien also mentioned the cleanliness of the locker rooms. Mr. Hicks stated that this is an ongoing and chronic issue with staffing and finding substitute custodians.

Calendar of Events

The first Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 4:00 p.m. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 20.

Correspondence

Correspondence was forwarded from RIDE's Director of Student Community and Academic Supports congratulating New Shoreham for being 100 percent compliant on Indicator 11 for the 2013-2014 school year.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:21 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for a personnel issue carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:32 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

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

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:33 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: October 20, 2014