

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
February 9, 2015
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, February 9, 2015, 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 (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 21, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mr. Hicks reported that the second quarter attendance was 93.5 percent and 94.3 percent for the first semester. The attendance rate for first semester in 2013-14 was 92.4 percent, 93.8 percent in 2012-13, and 93.1 percent in 2011-12.

Mr. Hicks stated that the finance report is very similar to last month's. Fuel oil is down from last year at this time and the retiree's severance is now included in the budget. A snow blower was purchased and will be stored in the medical center's garage. This should reduce snow removal costs and any overtime associated with it. The budget appears to be about \$20,000 to the good. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the finance report through January 31, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

At last week's meeting the School Committee was divided about its readiness to adopt the realignment and delete the part-time principal position. Mr. Hicks began tonight's review of the 2015-2016 budget with a compromise solution that he outlined in a memorandum. He suggested redirecting the retirement savings and support services to keep the part-time principal for 50 days, which is a reduction of the 75 days he will work this year. This would reduce the extra days for the superintendent and the guidance counselor. If the School Committee chooses to go this route he would like to have a discussion with the principals on how best to address this with the funds available. Patricia Doyle stated that the School Committee made a commitment to the taxpayers several years ago and feels it is time to make the transition to one full-time principal. She does not want to take anything away from student services. Elizabeth Connor stated that there are too many unknowns facing us right now to make this transition. Mr. Hicks is retiring and a new superintendent will begin next year. The Town would like to hire a facilities manager, but will have to go to the voters at the financial town meeting. If this is approved there is no guarantee that someone will be hired to fill that position by July 1. Mrs. Connor would like to keep the part-time principal at the reduced number of days to help with evaluations, facilities issues, etc. until all positions have been filled as hoped. Mr. Hicks feels the proposed compromise is a reasonable opportunity to recognize and address the concerns raised by the committee on the timing of the realignment. He also feels it would work within the bottom line

of the budget as it has been presented. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the bottom line number (\$4,906,628) as proposed for the 2015-2016 budget which is a 3.1 percent overall increase carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Mr. Hicks reported that Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust will be starting up the OPEB trust soon. He reviewed the minutes and found that no formal votes were taken to designate the teachers' co-share of their health benefits to the OPEB trust, although the funds have been set aside each year. A motion (Connor, Padien) to designate \$16,111 from FY 2010; \$14,929 from FY 2011; \$16,924 from FY 2013, and \$16,629 from FY 2014 to the OPEB trust carried with a vote of 5-0.

A copy of the correspondence received from Bonnie Swienton expressing her intent to retire at the end of the current school year was submitted for review. A motion (Hall, Connor) to accept with utmost regret the notice of intent to retire from Bonnie Swienton carried with a vote of 5-0.

Bids for lawn maintenance services (mowing) for the 2015-16 fiscal year were received from J. Cairo Lawns (\$210/cut) and Cottage Services of Block Island, LCC (\$250/cut). A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the bid submitted by J. Cairo Lawns in the amount of \$210 per cut carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the request from Scott and Greta Heinz to home school their son, Finn, from February 17-March 6, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from Michelle Leone to home school her daughter, Gabriella Alves, from February 11-19, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks stated that the last superintendent search committee consisted of the principal plus two members each from the school committee, faculty, and community. The committee suggested that members of the community contact Marsha Gutierrez if they are interested in serving on the search committee.

Calendar of Events

There will be an interim meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5. The next regular School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2015.

Executive Session

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

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 9:08 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

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

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 9:08 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: March 16, 2015