

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
March 16, 2015
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, March 16, 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 (Hall, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 29, February 4, February 9, and March 5, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on February 9, 2015, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

William Padien reported that the boys' varsity basketball team won the Coastal Prep League championship this year. Approximately 150 people from Block Island cheered them on at the game.

The standing of accounts through February 28, 2015, was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks reported that we are about \$6000 to the good and he is optimistic that we will have a positive balance at the end of the year. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the finance report through February 28, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Kristine Monje reported that the School Improvement Team, which is made up of parents, teachers, community members, and students, has four main goals this year: to maintain and improve educational excellence in writing instruction, to nurture and support students' mental health, to increase communication among and between the school community, and to foster an engaging and challenging curriculum through the use of technology. The SIT sent a letter to the Town Council to offer its assistance in developing a feasibility study for a community recreation facility. In addition, the SIT has been instrumental in helping Mason Littlefield get his senior project a step closer to reality. He hopes to build a display case for the front entrance of the school. The SIT's requirement is that Mason return with updated plans if the project proves to be cost prohibitive.

Mrs. Monje reported that graduation will be held at The Atlantic Inn this year. Brad Marthens has agreed to the restriction of liquor sales while the school is using his facilities. Champ Starr is the contact parent and will be meeting with the parents soon to assign all graduation related tasks.

Mr. Hicks reported that PARCC testing began this week. A small number of families have chosen to not have their children participate, but he hopes parents will change their minds in the

coming years once we are more at ease with the test. In future years schools must have 95 percent of their students participate in the test or face sanctions from the department of education.

Old Business

The Town Manager's proposed budget to the Town Council recommended level funding the school within a town budget that utilizes the maximum increase of four percent, which is a reduction of \$137,258 to the school's budget. However, health care rates came in lower than expected (0.71 percent with a 9.05 percent increase in dental) and this resulted in a savings of \$34,040. Mr. Hicks submitted an updated revenue and expense summary, which now shows the shortfall at approximately \$86,000 when the Governor's increase in state aid is included (\$10,000). The proposed facilities manager position, which is still in formation, is 100 percent funded in the town budget, even though Mr. Hicks had budgeted \$45,000 for the school's share of this position. However, this does not mean there is a savings of \$45,000 because the day-to-day light maintenance will still have to be done by the custodians. This may call for an increase in the custodial staff, probably by as much as 20 hours per week. The added cost of this change would be in the \$20,000-\$30,000 range. Mr. Hicks did not want to make any recommendations to change the budget until there is a sense of where the town is heading. First Warden Ken Lacoste suggested that committee members attend the Town Council meeting on Wednesday evening to be part of the discussion regarding the job description of the proposed facilities manager. Mr. Hicks felt it would be bizarre to have a facilities manager that would not be responsible for the school. Christopher Willi agreed and stated that the school is a town asset; it is used as an emergency shelter and falls under the town's umbrella.

The previous superintendent search committee included the principal, two School Committee members, two teachers, and two representatives from the community. A notice was posted on the Block Island Bulletin Board requesting community representatives; Kate Butcher and Peg Montgomery expressed interest in serving on the committee. Judy Durden and Vicky Carson will represent the faculty. Principal Kristine Monje will serve on the committee and Marsha Gutierrez will be the clerk. A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint Chris Willi (chair) and Pat Doyle to represent the School Committee on the superintendent search committee carried with a vote of 5-0. A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint Kate Butcher and Peg Montgomery to represent the community on the superintendent search committee carried with a vote of 5-0. A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint Judy Durden and Vicky Carson to represent the faculty on the superintendent search committee carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

At the request of Patricia Doyle, the Guidelines for Home Schooling were submitted for committee review.

Paul Hemingway (boys' junior high basketball) and Rob Closter (girls' varsity basketball) requested additional stipends because they worked the entire season without assistant coaches. A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the request for an additional coaching stipend for Paul Hemingway and Rob Closter carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Nathaniel Shaw as head coach for varsity softball carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of John Tarbox as head coach for varsity baseball carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to consent to the appointments of Doug Michel and Matt Moran as assistant coaches for varsity baseball carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Mark Mollicone as head coach for junior high baseball carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 13.

Correspondence

A copy of the letter sent to the Town Council requesting its support for the solar energy grant was forwarded for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:36 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: April 13, 2015