

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
May 18, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, May 18, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, and William Padien. Christopher Willi was not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 13, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

**Reports**

William Padien reported that this year's financial town meeting went well and there were no problems or questions about the school's budget. Patricia Doyle thought the insert regarding the school was very informative and others could take a lesson on how to present at the financial town meeting.

Mr. Hicks reported that energy savings measures on the island have fallen behind mainland communities because of the island's ineligibility for rebates and incentives generated by National Grid. Representatives of the State Energy Office visited in the fall and indicated a desire to find a solution to support Block Island. An energy evaluation and analysis was conducted over the winter and the results, which showed significant opportunity for saving money and energy, were recently provided to the town. Projects related to the school include replacing the current lighting with LED fixtures, replacing pumps and motors with variable speed versions, and changing the older boiler to a more efficient burner. The energy office located separate funds to provide an incentive for these projects and can support 31 percent of the costs town-wide. The Town Council expressed its support at its May 12 work session and Mr. Hicks recommended that the School Committee do so as well. Mr. Hicks suggested that the school use the state's master price agreement, which would provide for securing three price quotes from approved vendors for projects of our size. Mr. Hicks explained the options for financing: paying cash, a municipal finance option with an interest rate just over three percent, or an anticipated state revolving loan fund. He is leaning toward the revolving loan fund, which he feels would be the safest and most conservative route. Committee members agreed that we should move forward if there is a possibility of saving \$60,000 per year in energy costs and a payback of less than three years. A motion (Padien, Hall) to support the energy projects as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

It was noted that the budget is about \$27,000 more to the positive this month, which is due mostly to increased savings in heating fuel and electricity. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the finance report through April 30, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy DDB: Energy Conservation as written carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted the revised 2015-2016 budget based on the financial town meeting. It includes the new health and dental rates, the facilities manager position completely funded by the town, and the administrative reorganization. A motion (Connor, Hall) to accept the updated budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Hicks explained the administrative organization proposed for next year. He recommends retaining the part-time principal for 60 days, a reduction of 15 days. The consultation and support line, added to provide support for the principal to compensate for the loss of the part-time principal, was reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,900. The cost associated with scheduling student classes was reduced from \$2,700 to \$1,000 and will be a stipend position for a full-time faculty member instead of extra days for the guidance counselor. The savings from the teacher retirement was included to support the recommendation. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the administrative organization as presented carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **New Business**

A motion (Connor, Doyle) to approve the 2015-2016 dental contract with the Block Island Medical Center carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the request from Jessica Howarth and James Murray to home school their son, Thorin Shade, for the remainder of this school year carried with a vote of 4-0.

The following staff members were recommended for reappointment for the 2015-2016 fiscal/school year. Members of the New Shoreham Employees' Association will receive raises in accordance with their contract (2.5 percent). Non-union salaries for certified administrators will follow the teachers' contract which includes a one percent increase. Other non-union and non-certified employees will receive the same increase as the appropriate employees' association.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Laura Breunig as an administrative assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Pamela Buol as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of John Canole as a co-principal (60 days) carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Lynne Cunningham as office manager carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Sarah Deane as the food service helper carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Betsey DeMaggio as the bus monitor carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Lynn Fletcher as a custodian carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Elizabeth Gomes as the guidance counselor carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Marsha Gutierrez as an administrative assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Mark Hawk as the special education director carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Megan Hennessy as a cultural activities coordinator carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Bernice Johnson as a custodian carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Cindy Lasser as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Kelsey McElroy as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Eileen Miller as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Kristine Monje as a co-principal carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Shannon Morgan as a cultural activities coordinator carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Kathy Mulshine Lemle as a teacher assistant carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Scott Nelson as the maintenance supervisor thru September 30, 2015, and custodian carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Melanie Reeves as the finance director carried with a vote of 4-0. It was noted that the following changes will be made to Mrs. Reeves' contract: reduce the annual hours from 1820 to 1700; work no less than 35 hours per week from September through June; work no less than 20 hours per week in July and August with the exception of working no less than 35 hours during the week prior to the first day of school for student; and a three-year salary agreement with annual increases of five percent, six percent, and six percent to phase in the adjustment and recognize continuing service.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the reappointment of Frank Tito as the computer technician carried with a vote of 4-0.

### **Calendar of Events**

The annual School Committee/Senior Class dinner was scheduled for Tuesday, June 2. Superintendent interviews will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Town Library. The next regular meeting has been scheduled for Monday, June 15.

### **Correspondence**

A Resolution on Gun Free Schools was received from the Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee. This will be an agenda item for the June meeting.

A listing of all the colleges and universities where the seniors applied and the outcomes was submitted for School Committee review. It was noted that 100 percent of our seniors are headed to college in the fall.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Connor, Padien) at 8:03 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: June 15, 2015