

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
July 7, 2015  
5:30 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 June 15, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 25, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 4-0-1, with Patricia Doyle abstaining. Mrs. Doyle registered a complaint, stating that she was unaware of the June 25 meeting until she read the minutes in her packet. Apparently, a group email was not sent regarding an interim meeting and she was not one of the School Committee members who was polled regarding the date and time of the meeting. She was assured that it would not happen again.

A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on June 15, 2015, as written carried with a vote of 4-0-1, with William Padien abstaining.

**Reports**

William Padien stated that this was Mr. Hicks' final meeting with the School Committee and thanked him for his unbelievable work; the committee appreciated all the work he did for the school during his six years of service. He presented Mr. Hicks with a three-panel photograph of an owl. Mr. Hicks thanked the committee members for the photograph and stated that the years have flown by; Block Island is an amazing place to work and he will miss it very much.

Mr. Padien reported that the Facilities Manager review committee held its first meeting. There will be four interviews and it is hoped that the process will be completed by early August.

**New Business**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint Marsha Gutierrez as the district's School Committee Clerk for the 2015-2016 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint Chris O'Neill as the district's Attendance Officer for the 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint the physician representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school physician(s) for the 2015-2016 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint the dentist representative(s) of the Block Island Health Services as the school dentist(s) for the 2015-2016 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to reappoint Patricia Doyle as the RIASC delegate for the 2015-2016 fiscal year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the designation of The Washington Trust Company as the official bank depository carried with a vote of 5-0.

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

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the designation of Chairperson and Secretary as 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 policy at least once per year. It was recommended that committee members review the policies and notify the superintendent if any need to be amended or updated. They are available on the school's website ([blockislandschool.net](http://blockislandschool.net)). A motion (Padien, Hall) to have the superintendent continue to review the policies and update them as needed carried with a vote of 5-0.

Because the new superintendent will not be available until August 3, Mr. Hicks recommended that the Finance Director be authorized to submit purchase orders through July 31, 2015. This would prevent a backup and assure a timely arrival of supplies and materials. A motion (Hall, Connor) to authorize the Finance Director to submit purchase orders consistent with School Committee adopted budget allocations through July 31, 2015, carried 5-0.

Nathaniel Shaw (varsity softball) requested an additional coaching stipend because he worked the entire season without an assistant coach. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the additional stipend request submitted by Nathaniel Shaw carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks updated the School Committee regarding the information he received from Attorney Denise Myers on the security issue discussed at the last meeting. Her opinion is that the superintendent has the right to limit access to the school when a parent violates the safe and peaceful schools policy. However, it would be difficult to restrict access to or prohibit a parent from the public property surrounding the school. It was suggested that documentation be forwarded to the police chief and town manager to see if the town solicitor can find legal standing regarding this issue. If the parent "disturbs the peace" the police can be notified and intervene. Signs have been placed on the doors reminding everyone that students are not permitted to open the doors to anyone. We should strictly enforce the safe and peaceful school policy and send a copy of it home to parents with the back to school information. It was also

suggested that perhaps a police presence could be provided during random times throughout the school day. If another incident occurs all must be informed, including telling parents and community members as much as can comfortably and legally be revealed.

**Calendar of Events**

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17, 2015.

**Adjournment**

A motion (Connor, Padien) at 6:21 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: August 17, 2015