

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
September 21, 2015  
7:30 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, September 21, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Judith Lundsten was also in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Hall, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 17 and September 8, 2015, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Reports**

Mrs. Lundsten reported that the 2015-2016 opening of school went well. Unfortunately, the bus had some mechanical problem and was not available on September 9 and the morning of September 10. Mrs. Lundsten was pleased that the parents pitched in and got the children to school.

The reroofing project has been completed. The flashing was installed over the weekend. Architect Mark Saccoccio has been contacted for the final inspection, but the roof has been inspected and approved by the town's building official. Mrs. Lundsten was happy to report that there were no leaks observed during or after last week's torrential rainfall. The drywall repair/replacement has not been done, but Jack Savoie has been contacted to complete that project.

The Town Council supports our solar project, but questioned the feasibility of using the Faulkner property as the location for the array and directed the School Committee to investigate other sites around the school (field, parking lot, medical center, Thomas property). Orange PVC piping has been used to identify possible locations and the size of the arrays (28 feet x 265 feet). Chris Warfel will provide cost factors for the different locations. School Committee members were very interested in using the parking lot and suggested that this location be seriously pursued. As long as the number of arrays doesn't change we would not have to amend or update the grant. Once all the data is available the council will meet with the committee. A motion (Connor, Hall) to ask for an extension on the grant carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mrs. Lundsten reported that the leasing documents for the lighting project have arrived, the materials have been ordered, and we are awaiting a timeline for the installation from the electrician.

The architect has been contacted for an estimate on a more secure entrance at the front of the building. The awards case in the front lobby is slated for completion between December 1 and 16. All of the materials except for the glass have arrived. Committee members requested that

Block Island Recycling Management be contacted for dumpster locks in the hopes of preventing summer visitors from throwing their garbage in our dumpsters.

Mrs. Lundsten stated that she submitted two fast track grants (burner booster and resealing walls) to RIDE by the deadline of September 10. However, after submitting the grant requests the deadline for submission was extended to September 25, although RIDE is still committed to the award notification timeline of the first week in October.

The Tech Ed/Industrial Arts position remains open. It is currently being posted on SchoolSpring and has been advertised in the Block Island Times and the Providence Journal, which includes 30 days on the web. One interested applicant is not certified in this area, but is willing to take the necessary coursework to become certified if the school would seek an emergency certification for him. Before RIDE grants an emergency certification we must verify that we have done everything possible to find a certified teacher. William Padien expressed his displeasure with the long, drawn out process and hoped that we do not lose this candidate. Mrs. Lundsten will bring a recommendation to the committee at the regular meeting in October.

The full-time day custodian will be taking medical leave beginning September 29. It was suggested that an ad seeking a full-time substitute be placed on the Block Island Bulletin Board.

The unaudited standing of accounts as of June 30, 2015, was submitted for School Committee review. The fund balance has been reduced from last month because we recently received an unexpected invoice for some electrical work that was completed in May and June. There were substantial saving in electricity and heating fuel largely because of decreased usage and a decrease in the fuel adjustment cost. The savings in heating fuel were because of lower prices.

### **Old Business**

A chart showing the fiscal impact and budget implications (deficit of \$51,203.73) of new staff members, a summer custodian, and an agreement with Sargent Center was submitted for School Committee review. Some suggestions to cover the deficit included using the funds in this year's budget for a piece of equipment that was purchased last year, using maintenance supplies and parts for the summer custodian's wages, savings in the salary line because a Technology Ed teacher has not be hired, taking some money from the stipend for an ASD specialist, and possible savings in electricity and heating fuel because those costs have been down.

### **New Business**

The Town Manager has requested that all capital budget items for fiscal year 2017 be submitted by October 9. Mrs. Lundsten asked the committee how she should proceed. It was suggested that she include anything that RIDE doesn't fund with a fast track grant, whatever projects not completed (door locks and security), plus any project already requested in the capital budget. It is hoped that RIDE will notify us about the grants prior to the October 9 deadline.

Mrs. Lundsten stated that that there are some high school students who would like to use the weight room before and/or after school. However, there must be adult supervision and anyone who agrees to provide supervision should have the appropriate certifications. A volunteer was found, but Mrs. Lundsten is not comfortable with a volunteer unless he/she is supervised by one

of our staff members. Finding money in the budget to compensate a supervisor has become an issue and it was suggested that perhaps the wellness coalition would be willing to fund a grant. Legislative grants, Block Island School Friends, and other fund raisers were suggested until this position can be included in the general budget for future years.

A draft of the 2016-2017 school calendar, which follows the same format as the previous two years, was submitted for School Committee review. Mrs. Lundsten reported that she sought input from the union and the administrators on the calendar with various suggestions from both. The union requested two work days at the beginning of the year with students starting on Wednesday, September 7, a half day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, and a full school day on Friday, February 24. This model would move the last day to up to Friday, June 16. The administrators preferred to have the students begin on Tuesday, September 6 and were not in favor of two work days in September. Mrs. Lundsten suggested having one of the teacher work days on Monday, January 2, 2017. School Committee members felt that having the extra Friday off during February vacation helps keep absenteeism down, as does the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. A motion (Connor, Doyle) to approve the 2016-2017 calendar as presented with the exception of switching the teacher work day to Thursday, September 1 carried with a vote of 5-0.

The CBA with the Teachers' Association expires at the end of August 2016. A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint the School Committee Chair and Superintendent to the negotiating team with Marsha Gutierrez as the clerk for the School Committee carried with a vote of 5-0. A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint Chris Willi to the negotiating team with Elizabeth Connor as an alternate carried with a vote of 5-0. Mrs. Lundsten will send a letter to the union requesting that negotiations start relatively soon because the budget process begins in January.

### **Calendar of Events**

A Building Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 28. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from RIDE's Office of Student, Community, and Academic Supports notifying us about our compliance with Early Childhood programs.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Connor, Hall) at 8:53 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: October 19, 2015