

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**

The form and content of these minutes conform to commonly accepted standards and shall become the official record of the meeting after review and approval by the School Committee. By definition, minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings.

The regular meeting of the Narragansett School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at the Narragansett Town Hall – Assembly Area, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Tammy McNeiece, Chairperson; Dr. Diane Nobles, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Frank White, Clerk; Mr. Guy DeWardener; and Dr. Douglas Pierson

**SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Katherine E. Sipala, Superintendent of Schools  
Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance & Administration  
Ms. Elizabeth Pinto, Director of Student Services  
Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Narragansett High School Assistant Principal  
Ms. Marianne Kirby, Narragansett Pier School Assistant Principal  
Ms. Lisa Monahan, Narragansett Elementary School Assistant Principal  
Mr. David Correira, Supervisor of Transportation and Grounds  
Mr. Gary Minett, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF THE 09/21/11 MEETING.**

**MOTION:** to seal the minutes of the 09/21/11 Executive Session.  
D Pierson / F White (5-0)

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES.** School Committee voted to approve 2 home schooling requests. (5-0)

**OPEN FORUM**

**ORAL REPORTS**

1. School Committee.

Mr. White reported on the Recreation Advisory Committee. Work on the North Pavilion will be done in the spring.

Dr. Pierson discussed the SPED Advisory Committee meeting he attended. At the last meeting they discussed their goals for the year. The next meeting is on 11/08/11, held at Narragansett Pier School Library, and is open to the public. Dr. Pierson is also on the

Wellness Committee and last Saturday they had a bike rodeo. All the kid's bikes were checked by the Narragansett Police Department for safety. This was done as part of our Safe Routes to School Grant.

Ms. McNeiece reminded the public that there is a meeting on 09/27/11 at 6:30 pm where Bill Seymour from Gale Associates will hold a presentation on the pros and cons of synthetic turf vs. regular grass. Also on 10/16/11 there will be a "Back on Track" fundraiser to help support our new indoor track team at Narragansett High School.

## 2. School Reports

### Summer School Report

Ms. Monahan spoke about the Elementary summer school program. Students in grades 1-4 are recommended who need support. The program is Title 1 funded and they look at very specific student needs. Reading students in Tier 2 are offered a ramp up program in composition, reading, and fluency. 16 students were invited and 7 students participated. The math program was a 3 hour math block. The students that were chosen were students between Tier 2 and Tier 3. 18 students were invited and 11 students attended. They worked on backwards counting, NECAP preparation, and problem solving. They surveyed both the students and parents at the end of the program and the student surveys rated the program as great and the parents rated the program as satisfactory.

Ms. Kirby spoke about the Middle School summer program. The program is very similar to the Elementary School where they invited the same Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. 25 attended the Math program and 21 attended the Literacy program. Only 20% of the kids that were invited attended summer school. The Pier School just finished MAP testing and when the scores come up they will be analyzing the data. The summer school program is funded by district dollars.

Mr. Smith spoke about Narragansett High School. There were 3 programs that ran at the High School. The first was a Boot Camp which was done through PLATO online learning. Any student who failed Math or English moving from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade was required to attend. 10 students came. The Math program focused on Algebra and the English program focused on the student's summer reading requirement.

The other program was for 9<sup>th</sup> graders that got a 1 on their NECAP tests. These students are required to get a 2 on their NECAP tests as Juniors in order to graduate. 12 students were invited and only 5 students attended. The incentive was that they could use the summer school program to get a portfolio entry for attending. Out of the 5 students who attended 4 students got a portfolio entry.

The final program was for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who do not have enough entries in their portfolio. 10<sup>th</sup> graders need 10 entries before 11<sup>th</sup> grade. 12 students were not at benchmark. 8 students came to summer school and 4 students got their 10 entries completed. This year any students who are not at benchmark for their portfolio entries are

in a special advisory class with Mr. John O'Brien until they are caught up with their entries. NHS has been proactive about getting students to meet graduation requirements.

Ms. Pinto thanked Gary Minett and David Correira for making the summer school work well. There are 6 different programs to help children maintain their skills. To be eligible for extended school year there is a certain criteria that needs to be met. The funding for the SPED program is funded through IDEA Part B. This year SPED ran fewer programs but strengthened the programs they did run. This reduced the number of out of district tuition students. There was an increase in payroll but a decrease in tuition.

### 3. Superintendent

Ms. Sipala announced our teacher of the year, Ms. Michele Coppa. Out of our 6 employees of the year Ms. Coppa was chosen as Teacher of the Year for Narragansett and has applied to be Rhode Island teacher of the year. She has 34 years teaching experience of which 32 have been spent at Narragansett Elementary School. The Commissioner has required every school to have a teacher of the year.

Ms. Sipala spoke about the partnership we have with Thundermist around dental care. There are links on our website for information.

We have a serious pension problem in our pension system. Gina Raimondo sent an estimate to all the school districts in Rhode Island regarding an increase in dollars from this year to next year if pension reform does not pass. Narragansett's increase in employer contributions will be 60% for the 2012-2013 budget. Ms. Sipala asked the committee if they would like her to write to our legislators to support pension reform. Ms. McNeiece would like the School Committee to send emails supporting pension reform and the Superintendent to send a letter to the legislators.

Ms. Sipala gave the committee a copy of the policy on Naming School Facilities. If the Committee would like to re-examine the policy we can put it on the agenda for the next meeting. This policy was intended to name facilities after individuals, not companies. It is geared toward memorials, not sponsorships. Ms. McNeiece would like this on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. 8/22/2011 Joint Town Council/School Committee Meeting–CA-1A
  - B. 8/24/2011 School Committee Regular Business Meeting CA-1B
  - C. 8/24/2011 School Committee Executive Session – Limited Distribution CA-1C
  
2. Routine Personnel Actions: CA-2

Appointments - Program Leaders/Extra Curr. Positions - NPS - School Year 2011-12

Bryce, Kristen	Student Council Co-Advisor	Stipend: \$489.00
Boynton, Patricia	Student Council Co-Advisor	Stipend: \$489.00
Simeone, Michael	Band Advisor	Stipend: \$1304.00
Lapham, Mark	Chorus Advisor	Stipend: \$1304.00
Schroeder, Lennon	Chess Club Advisor	Stipend: \$1304.00
Miller, Vanessa	Yearbook Co-Advisor	Stipend: \$1141.00
Hoxsie, Laura	Yearbook Co-Advisor	Stipend: \$1141.00
Boynton, Patricia	Feinstein Advisor	Stipend: \$978.00
Miller, Vanessa	Destination Imagination Advisor	Stipend: \$652.00
Calitri, James	Drama Club / Drama Coach	Stipend: \$3912.00
Labelle, Martha	Program Leader Unified Arts	Stipend: \$2000.00

Appointments – Coaches NHS

Bassett, Rachel	Assistant Volleyball Coach	Stipend: \$1476.00
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3. Reports—
  - A. Enrollment Report CA-3A
  - B. Budget Transfers CA-3B
  - C. Maintenance Report CA-3C

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Consent Agenda items [CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-1C, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C].  
D. Nobles / F. White (5-0)

**BUDGET REPORT.** Mr. White reported that for the second month ending August 31, 2011, \$1,015,880.21 (3.84%) of the FY11 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$22,684,088.63 (85.67%) has been expended and encumbered.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Substitute Pay Plan

There is no change in the substitute pay plan from last school year.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Substitute Pay Plan for the 2011-2012 School Year. D. Pierson / F. White (5-0)

2. Bid Award: Fire Equipment Services

Mr. Minett believes this is the best value for the school department.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance & Administration to award the Fire Equipment Services bid to PowerComm Systems, Inc in the amount of \$9,000.00 for three years. D. Pierson / F. White (5-0).

**3. Bid Award: Purchase of School Bus**

This was approved in the Capital Plan budget. Mr. Correira's recommendation was to replace 2 busses but is happy to be replacing 1 bus. This is a large savings of about \$4,000 from the last bus bid. This will replace our last bus from the 1990's. Mr. Correira handed out a Bus inventory for the School Committee to review.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance & Administration to award the Purchase of School Bus bid to O'Connor Bus Sales in the amount of \$99,071.00. D. Pierson / D. Nobles (5-0)

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A copy of the Rhode Island Diploma system brochure was handed out.

**FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS:** These upcoming meetings were announced:

- October 18, 2011 Meeting with URI Economics Professor Leonard Lardaro – 7:00 pm – South Kingstown School Department
- October 19, 2011 School Committee September Business Meeting – 7:00 pm – Narragansett Town Hall – Assembly Area
- October 26, 2011 School Committee Workshop Meeting – 6:00 pm – Central Administrative Office

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm. D. Nobles / D Pierson (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White  
Clerk