

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 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, October 19, 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. Guy DeWardener; and Dr. Douglas Pierson Excused: Mr. Frank White, Clerk

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. Dan Warner, Narragansett High School Principal
Dr. Marie Ahern, Narragansett Pier School Principal
Ms. Gail Dandurand, Narragansett Elementary School Principal
Mr. David Correira, Supervisor of Transportation and Grounds

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 OCTOBER 19, 2011 MEETING.

MOTION: to seal the minutes of the October 19, 2011 Executive Session.
D. Pierson / G. DeWardener (4-0)

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES. School Committee voted to approve 2 home schooling requests. (4-0)

OPEN FORUM

Steve Walsh (custodian at NES) and Bruce Goodness (Support Staff Union President, custodian at NPS) expressed concern about a personnel appointment.

Ms. McNeiece read aloud the Open Forum rules of the Executive meeting for those in the audience who may not be familiar with the forum.

ORAL REPORTS

1. School Committee

Ms. McNeiece – On Tuesday, October 18, 2011, Ms. McNeiece and Ms. Sipala attended a forum at the South Kingstown High School, sponsored by the South Kingstown School Committee, featuring guest speaker Leonard Lardaro, a Professor of Economics at URI. Lardaro gave an interesting presentation on regression and the economy and he urges School Committees and Town Councils to continue to make the tough choices that have to be made regardless of what is going on at the state level.

Ms. McNeiece – Small work group from the Athletic Fields Sub-Committee met last week planning for the next public presentation on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at the Narragansett High School. Gale Associates will be there to share the schematic drawings and preliminary plans that have been made for the renovation of the high school bleachers, stadium, and track and field area. They will also be providing guidance in fund raising efforts for this renovation. A parent volunteer put together an informational flyer to be distributed at Homecoming and the Powder Puff football games.

2. School Reports:

Dan Warner, NHS Principal: Mr. Warner presented Mr. Adham, the NHS Athletic Director, who reported on the proposed Winter Indoor Track team at the High School. Mr. Adham reports that he is excited about the team and that they already have 15 boys and 12 girls who have signed-up and he hopes that number of participants will grow once the word spreads. He also reports that they already have a volunteer coach in mind who, along with the student athletes, has already raised funds to cover expenses. Other costs to run program will be absorbed in the current Athletic budget. Mr. Adham is excited about this proposal as it will give students who are not participating in a winter sport an opportunity to partake in indoor track. The majority of schools throughout the state conduct indoor track practices outdoors. Team may request the use of gymnasium at times, but would be later on in the evenings. Meets are held in an indoor facility and would include 6-8 meets for boys and girls per season to include running events, high-jump, weight throw, etc. Ms. McNeiece shared that some of the funding has come from the *Back on Track* 5K Road Race event (\$1500.00) as well as donations from the Lions Club (\$400.00), *The Bobby Doyle Road Race* (\$1000.00), and the Boosters Club. She also shares that these funds will cover the Interscholastic League fees, some transportation fees and some of the Invitational meets. There is also a pasta dinner in the works as well.

Mr. Warner reported that the Narragansett Football team came from behind to beat Smithfield in a great game last weekend. NHS hosted the State Foreign Language Association Conference. Gabby McNamara, NHS Foreign Language Department Chair, coordinated the event. Many people attending the conference commented on the cleanliness of the High

School. Mr. Warner acknowledged Gary Minett, Maintenance Director, and his custodial staff, for their efforts.

Homecoming celebrations begin this week starting Sunday evening at 6PM with the girls' Powder Puff football games held at NES on the lighted field. Winners play on Friday during Field day. Monday is Crazy Hair day. During the week each class will decorate display in foyer. Homecoming day festivities held on Saturday, October 29th, are as follows: at 11:00 AM the class floats will be presented; NHS football game starts at noon; senior football players and cheerleaders will be honored at half-time; and the Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday evening.

Ms. Gail Dandurand, NES Principal: Third and Fourth grade students completed their NECAP testing with the exception of a few make-ups. NECAP science scores went up significantly due to the hard work and efforts of staff. Ms Dandurand will be reporting on these results in more detail at next month's meeting. Teachers were trained today on the new cart with twenty-five (25) Ipads and students were very excited to begin using them. After school enrichment program registration began this week. It is a very successful program offering students a variety of after school opportunities. PBIS program, Caught Being Good, continues at NES this year while adding a "Caught Being Good" component for staff as well. Students are rewarded with selections from the prize cart, and staff will be offered a preferred parking spot. Other incentives for good deeds include: the Golden Shark award ("Fin-tastic") for students following all the rules and one award hung on the classroom door for each classroom, per grade level, with the most Caught Being Good slips; and the Golden Dust Pan award for clean classrooms. Several required drills have already been completed including fire drills, a school evacuation drill, and a bus evacuation drill. A lock down drill will be completed in November.

Dr. Marie Ahern, NPS Principal: NPS was randomly chosen for a RIDE visit to observe the NECAP implementation practices. RIDE visited NPS to look at security measures, how instructions are given to students, if there is active proctoring going on in the classroom. A school in each school district in the state was observed and feedback from RIDE was that the Pier School practices were excellent. Dr. Ahern acknowledged staff for their hard work, and especially Mrs. Kirby, NPS Assistant Principal, who coordinated this work.

Safe Routes to School Grant presentation. NPS has been awarded a Federal Grant for \$304,424.00. Mike DeLuca, Director of Narragansett Department of Community Development wrote the grant with input from Dr. Ahern, Superintendent Sipala, and NPS staff. The first request in 2008 was denied and the grant request was improved and resubmitted. This grant covers 100% reimbursement for infra- structure and non-infrastructure activities. Objectives of the grant are to enable and encourage children grades 5-8 to walk and bike to school. These objectives dovetail nicely with those of the Health and Wellness Committee as well as the district health curriculum. Other objectives are to make biking and walking to school a safer, more appealing transportation alternative and to facilitate planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic. Infra-structure improvements will include: locating a new pedestrian walk from South Pier Road to NPS along the west side of the entrance roadway adding a paved pad and new bike rack;

adding a sidewalk along the east side of Prospect Street from Kingstown Road to the rear of the school campus; adding a sidewalk along the north side of Central Street from Fifth Avenue to the trail at the cul-de-sac connecting to the rear of the school campus; adding an 8' wide paved bike/walkway along the north and east perimeter connecting all points within the school campus. One of the things requested in the Grant that did not get funded was the improvement of the sidewalks on South Pier Road. Some of the non-infrastructure activities will include: ways to increase student awareness in the use of the facilities; educating students and parents on the helpful benefits of walking and biking; providing information to students and parents on the upgraded facilities when they are available online; hosting an annual Bike Rodeo day and distribute materials for safer biking to students; and hosting an annual Walk and Bike to School day in September or June. September 18th the Walk and Bike to School Program at NPS held their first Bike Rodeo Day. Dr. Ahern acknowledged Narragansett Bike for donating their tents. Various activities for students included: bike registrations with the Narragansett Police Department; free bike helmets; a bicycle obstacle course; bicycle safety training; wellness tent with safe and healthy snacks; and Narragansett Bike provided free bicycle checks and minor tune-ups. Approximately forty (40) students participated in this event. There is a volunteer committee that plans and organizes these events. Walk and Bike to School Program is running through November 2nd and students who want to walk or bike to school meet with parent and staff volunteers at designated locations on Wednesday mornings. Mr. Pierson and Officer Allsup are the back-pack express designees who transport the heavy back packs to the Pier School for participants. Program will resume in the spring.

3. Superintendent

Ms. Sipala presented Nancy Devaney, of the Narragansett Prevention Partnership, to present the 2011 Student Survey Results and updates. Survey results indicate a slight uptick in many areas. Prescription drug use doubled in terms of drugs not prescribed to them, and without parental permission. Survey results indicate that students are combining use of alcohol and prescription drugs, which is of concern. Pier School results indicate alcohol use declined slightly. There appears to be a similar trend in terms use of combining alcohol and prescription drugs.

Ms. Devaney acknowledged that she very much appreciated the support that Narragansett has given to the Coalition and the Narragansett Prevention Partnership and that many of the Administrators participate in the meetings and have genuine commitment to the cause which is not seen in all districts around the state. Email alerts and Newsletters have been sent which include helpful information. Ms. Devaney reported that a Social Norms marketing campaign is set to begin. Plans to send letters to local oral surgeons to alert them about the findings with regard to misuse of prescribed drugs, as they are often prescribed when students have wisdom teeth out and will also be distributing literature to local pediatricians as well. The Partnership is building skills by: meeting with K-12 health teachers regarding curriculum they are providing; and planning a parent information night with Administrators to be held on November 30th with a panel including an Assistant Attorney General and an ER head nurse. The Partnership is providing support through: Narragansett Celebrates Youth; implementing retreat for the Narragansett HS Leadership Council to include all of the social

clubs (SADD, Class Councils, ACT, Gay and Straight Alliance, etc.,) funded by a stipend from a grant issued to NPP. For those involved in Bradford Trowt, a new banner will be on display. Finally, the Coalition will continue to work in conjunction with outside agencies in areas of education, modifying policies, and increasing membership.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. 09/21/11 School Committee Executive Session – Limited Distribution CA-1A
 - B. 09/21/11 Regular School Committee Meeting CA-1B

2. Routine Personnel Actions:
 - Appointments – Other

McKnight, Susan, 1.0 Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, District, Salary \$52,000, effective October 17, 2011.

Budaj, Lyn, 1.0 Payroll and Human Resources Coordinator, District, Salary \$54,000, Effective, July 01, 2011.

Appointments - Extra Curr. Positions - NHS - School Year 2011-12

Laidler, Sarah	S.A.D.D. Advisor	Stipend: \$652.00
Laidler, Sarah	GSA Advisor	Stipend: \$652.00
Hughes, Brian	Freshman Class Co-Advisor	Stipend: \$652.00
Hickey, Kristen	Freshman Class Co-Advisor	Stipend: \$652.00
Schroeter, Marcus	Student Council Advisor	Stipend: \$1304.00
McNamara, Gabriela	After School Detention	Stipend: \$25.00/hr
Hayes, Kristin	Extended School Day	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Shields, Robert	Extended School Day	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Herz, Christopher	Academic Hours	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Cannon, David	Academic Hours	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Davia, Amanda	Academic Hours	Stipend: \$39.00/hr

Appointments - Extra Curr. Positions - NPS - School Year 2011-12

Holden, Kevin	After School Detention	Stipend: \$25.00/hr
Boynton, Patricia	After School Detention	Stipend: \$25.00/hr
Pesante, Nancy	Homework Club	Stipend: \$39.00/hr

Appointments – Coaches NPS

Ranaldi, Keith	Assistant Cross Country Coach	Stipend: \$796.00
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Appointments – Coaches NHS

Garcia, Daniel Assistant Football Co-Coach

Stipend: \$1181.70

Leave Request

Izzi, Christina, 1.0 Foreign Language Teacher, NHS, Maternity Leave per Article XII.F., beginning on 3/30/2012.

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-2 CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C.
D. Pierson / G. DeWardener (4-0)

MOTION: rescinded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Consent Agenda items CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-2 CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C
D. Pierson / G. DeWardener (4-0)

MOTION: to withdraw CA2A from the Consent Agenda. D. Pierson /G. DeWardener (4-0)

DISCUSSION Explanation of CA-2 CA appointments.

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Consent Agenda items CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C
D. Pierson / G. DeWardener (4-0)

BUDGET REPORT Ms. Hagan reported, in Mr. White's absence, that for September 30, 2011, \$3,821,467.72 (14.43% expended) of the FY11 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$23,444,082.19 (88.54% has been expended and encumbered).

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Naming School Facilities
Ms. Noble researched policies of school districts across the country and the issue of commercial promotions, advertising and sponsorships. The Narragansett School System's present policy regarding naming school facilities does not incorporate this different commercial aspect that has arisen. Ms. Nobles suggested that the committee study the issue in more detail and perhaps move to the policy subcommittee for further study. Ms. Nobles offered as an example, in the Eric Digest there is quite a collection of articles on commercialism in schools and there have been lawsuits across the country resulting from different marketing and commercialization leading to a GEAO

report on public education commercial activities in schools. Some states have state-wide legislation regulating commercial activities in schools, and some leave it up to the local School Committees. Rhode Island does not currently have a state-wide policy. Ms. Nobles recommended that the committee refer this matter to the policy subcommittee for further study, and to draft a sample policy. Ms. McNeiece offered to assist Ms. Nobles, the sole member of the sub-committee, work on formulating this policy. Ms. Sipala recommended that they meet after the Agenda setting meeting this month.

2. Approval of Winter Indoor Track Team at NHS
Mr. Dewardener asked if this will be a \$0 dollars proposition. Ms. Sipala indicated that costs will be absorbed in current budget and fundraising.

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Winter Indoor Track Team at NHS D. Pierson/D. Nobles (3-0, 1 Abstention).

3. School Committee Resolution on Pension Reform
Ms. Sipala indicated that this is an issue of primary concern and that the committee must get the word to our state Legislature. The Resolution to be sent formalizes the District support for pension reform. Ms. Sipala read the Resolution aloud. Ms. Sipala pointed out that in Narragansett the increase does not exceed the cap. However, it is the case the employer contribution increase will make significant changes to our programs.

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the School Committee Resolution on Pension Reform D. Nobles / D. Pierson (4-0).

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS: These upcoming meetings were announced:

October 26, 2011 School Committee Executive Session - 5:00 pm
School Committee Workshop Meeting - 6:00 pm – Central
Administrative Office

November 16, 2011 School Committee November Business Meeting – 7:00 pm
Narragansett Town Hall Assembly Area

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm D. Nobles / D. Pierson (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White
Clerk