

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD  
NOVEMBER 16, 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, November 16, 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; and Dr. Douglas Pierson.  
**Absent:** Mr. Guy DeWardener.

**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. Jeff Smith, Narragansett High School Assistant Principal; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Narragansett Pier School Assistant Principal; Ms. Gail Dandurand, Narragansett Elementary School Principal; Mr. David Correira, Supervisor of Transportation and Grounds; and Mr. Roland Lambert, District Technology Coordinator.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:10PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011.**

**MOTION:** to seal the minutes of the November 16, 2011 Executive Session.

D. Nobles /D.Pierson (4-0)

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES.** School Committee voted to approve 1 home schooling request. (4-0)

**OPEN FORUM.**

**ORAL REPORTS.**

1. School Committee.

Dr. Nobles- On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> she attended the RI Association of School Committees (RIASC) meeting and heard presentations and updates on Portsmouth's litigation on Teacher Assignment and Seniority; Post retirement employment laws (regarding Teachers and Administrators); and RIDE's proposed regulations for Career & Technical Education. Dr. Nobles indicated that the Portsmouth matter was in the hands of Judge Gallo, who sometime after the RIASC meeting, issued an opinion indicating that, under the new BEP, staffing is the

responsibility of school committees and is a management right. The matter has now gone to the State labor board for a ruling.

On Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Nobles also participated in a National Association of School Board Association webinar on how School Committees' policies can impact districts' student achievement.

Mr. White attended the Narragansett Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, and updated the board on the athletic field's presentations. He will provide Tammy with board members' email addresses. Mr. White also reported on the Festival of Lights to be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board hopes to someday have an indoor recreation and community center and would like to see more programs for middle-aged and older residents. He inquired about the sharing of school facilities, and Mrs. Sipala reported that school facilities are used by many groups including Parks and Recreation; private groups (youth lacrosse and soccer); and Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. At this time, the school facilities schedule is quite full.

Ms. McNeiece, along with Mr. White, Dr. Pierson, Mr. DeWardener, and Mr. William Seymour of Gale Associates, attended a community meeting on November 1, 2011, at Narragansett High School, on the Narragansett fields master plan and the proposed project to renovate the football stadium. Ms. McNeiece reported that the meeting was well attended and included many new people. Mr. Seymour reviewed the schematic drawings and proposed plans for the synthetic turf field that will accommodate three sports (football, soccer and lacrosse) and bleachers to accommodate 1000 people. Mr. Seymour also reviewed plans for the proposed track, restrooms, concession stand, and funding alternatives. Next week, Ms. McNeiece, Ms. Sipala and Ms. Hagan will go to the Department of Education to meet with the school construction coordinator. RIDE must approve any construction project being proposed. The next public meeting will be on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 6:30PM in the library at Narragansett High School.

Ms. Sipala reviewed committee assignments as previously requested by Mr. DeWardner. Mr. White volunteered for the 2012 Negotiations Committee.

## 2. School Reports.

Narragansett Pier School – Ms. Marianne Kirby, Assistant Principal, reported that the after-school community at the Pier Middle School offers many extra-curricular activities. In addition to the traditional academic support being offered by classroom teachers, the Homework Club is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the new math and ELA labs will be offered, by invitation, beginning Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, and will focus specifically on math and ELA skills that are connected to the content and curriculum. Pier Peers continues with 60 students participating. There are 115 students who currently participate in enrichment opportunities offered after school including Annie Jr., Destination Imagination, Robotics, Kick Boxing, Knitting, Claymation, T-shirt making, Chess Club, Student Council, and Color Guard.

In addition, there are 83 students participating in sports programs. Parent/Teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Narragansett schools will be closed on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday; on December 8<sup>th</sup> for Parent/Teacher conferences; and on December 9<sup>th</sup> for Teachers' Professional Development.

Narragansett High School- Jeff Smith, Assistant Principal, reported that the Girls Soccer Team won their second straight State Championship going undefeated 19-0 for the season and were awarded the 2011 Sportsmanship Award by the RIIL. The Girls Cross Country team was also awarded the 2011 Sportsmanship by the RIIL. The football team beat Classical and secured their first home play-off game in at least six years. Aaron Libman, a boy's Soccer team Captain, was recognized as Cox Communication's October Player of the Month. Mrs. McNeiece asked that the girls' soccer team be invited to the next school committee meeting to be recognized.

Three NHS students advanced to the semi-final round for the National Merit Scholarship Award and they are Jaclyn Iannucci, Madelyn McCadden, and Alexander McLeod.

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the ALP program, under the supervision of Susan Kelly, held their first annual Thanksgiving dinner. The students were mentored by Mrs. Kelly's husband, who is in the food and restaurant business. Students prepared and presented the entire dinner which was a great success.

Narragansett Elementary School – Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal  
Showcase: Science at NES

Ms. Dandurand reported that in the Spring of 2011, Grade 4 students' NECAP test scores increased significantly due to the hard work of staff. Students are taught a variety of topics through the grade levels. Some teachers participated in writing and science training through Gems Net last year and shared that training with their colleagues.

Ms. Susan Mannocchia, District Literacy Coach, explained that Gems Net is helpful in the process of transitioning to the common core standards which suggest that students be taught certain structures when they are writing as scientists, as well as using specific vocabulary. The writing eventually becomes more sophisticated at each grade level. Students improve literacy skills by learning to support claims with data and observations.

Mrs. Cheryl Blumenbaum explained how each science lesson begins with a focus question which is posed to the students to think about before they begin their investigation. The students record their observation data in the science notebooks and then are able to compare and contrast.

Mrs. Kathy Ward-Bowen explained how science notebooks are used at every grade level. The 5 basic successes of the science notebooks are: as a tool for every student to use to construct his/her own conceptual learning and understanding; as

an instructional guide; as a way to enhance literacy skills; as a way to support differential instruction; and also in fostering collaboration.

3. Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Sipala will talk about Race to the Top next month. She presented a potential budget schedule for the school committee to consider based on the town's draft, as well as workshops, to reflect Mr. DeWardener's suggestion that the school committee has an opportunity to discuss budget priorities before discussing the actual budget numbers.

Suggested dates for budget meetings:

November 28, 2011	Town's 5 year fiscal forecast
December 12, 2011	Budget Work Session with the Town Council
January 11, 2012	Workshop
February 15, 2012	Budget presented at School Committee meeting
February 29, 2012	Budget Workshop
March 7, 2012	Budget Workshop
March 21, 2012	Budget approved by School Committee

## CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:

- A. October 19, 2011 School Committee Executive Session – Limited Distribution CA-1A
- B. October 19, 2011 Regular School Committee Meeting CA-1B
- C. October 26, 2011 School Committee Executive Session – Limited Distribution CA-1C
- D. October 26, 2011 Regular School Committee Meeting CA-1D

2. Routine Personnel Actions: CA-2

Appointments – Other

Schroeder, Lennon, .05 Foreign Language teacher, one year only (2011-12), NPS, Compensation in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, effective 8/30/11.

Davia, Amanda,.1 English teacher, one year only (2011-12), NHS, Compensation in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement, effective 2011-12 school year.

Hummel, Abby, Teacher Assistant—Special Education one-on-one temporary assignment for+ the remainder of the 2011-12 school year, NPS, Compensation: \$16.11/hr -32.5hrs/wk, effective October 3, 2011.

O'Brien, Jane, Accounts Payable Coordinator, District, Salary \$20.67/hr, 8 hrs/day, not to exceed 75 days per year.

Amaral, Margaret, Accounts Payable Coordinator, District, Contract renewal.

Sipala, Katherine, Superintendent, Contract renewal.

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

Pezza, Sue	Homework Club Advisor	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Flaherty, Karla	Extended School Day-Gr 5&6 Math	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Holmes, Michelle	Extended School Day- Gr 5&6 Reading	Stipend: \$39.00/hr
Jones, Lauren	Extended School Day-Gr 7&8 Math	Stipend: \$39.00/hr

Appointments – Coaches NPS

Bianco, Charlene	Cheerleading Coach	Stipend: \$1,592.00
Lapham, Mark	Girls' Basketball Coach	Stipend: \$2,602.00
Tessitore, Thomas	Boys' Basketball Coach	Stipend: \$2,159.00

Appointments – Coaches NHS

August, Jason	Asst /JV Boys Basketball Coach	Stipend: \$3,000.60
Berardi, Joseph	Volunteer Boys' Basketball	Stipend: N/A
Columbo, Anthony	Head/Varsity Wrestling	Stipend: \$5,285.00
Curran, Edward	Head/Varsity Girls' Co-op Ice Hockey	Stipend: N/A
Forte, Mario	Asst /JV Wrestling Coach	Stipend: \$3,000.60
Gee, David	Head/Varsity Boys' Basketball	Stipend: \$5,285.00
Koehler, Vera	Head/Varsity Girls' Swimming	Stipend: \$4,543.00
Lussier, Christopher	Head/Varsity Boys' Ice Hockey	Stipend: \$5,285.00
Mahoney, Kathryn	Head/Varsity Girls Basketball	Stipend: \$5,285.00
Millen, Michael	Volunteer Wrestling	Stipend: N/A
O'Brien, Patrick	Volunteer Boys' Basketball	Stipend: N/A
Razza, Kristen	Head/Varsity Competition Cheerleading	Stipend: \$3,350.00
Sayles, Jennifer	Asst/JV Girls' Basketball	Stipend: \$2,814.00
Sterling, Steve	Asst/JV Boys' Ice Hockey	Stipend: \$3,171.00

3. Reports—

- A. Enrollment Report CA-3A
- B. Budget Transfers CA-3B
- C. Maintenance Report CA-3C

Mrs. McNeiece reported that a very thorough evaluation was completed by the School Committee with regard to the re-appointment of Superintendent Sipala. A protocol was followed and an evaluation tool used whereby the Superintendent was ranked "Outstanding" and "Excellent" in every area. Ms. Sipala has been re-appointed with no salary increase for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Pierson noted a typographical error in the Minutes of October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 on page 4, under Superintendent's report. Mr. White noted a discrepancy on page 3.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve Consent Agenda items [CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C] with corrections on minutes as noted and with the exception of the appointment of the Volunteer Boys & Girls Indoor Track Coach.

D.Nobles /D. Pierson (4-0)

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the appointment of Brian McNeiece as the Volunteer Boys & Girls Indoor Track Coach.

F.White/D. Pierson (3-0, Chairperson McNeiece Abstained)

## **BUDGET REPORT**

Mr. White reported that for October 31, 2011 \$ 6,070,753.31 (22.93%) of the FY11 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$23,806,761.67 (89.91%) has been expended and encumbered.

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### 1. Bid Award: Purchase and install of Auditorium Equipment.

Mr. Roland Lambert, Technology Coordinator, reported on the equipment to be purchased and how it will be used. Installation should be completed within two weeks once the bid is approved and the order is processed.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance to approve the Bid Award for the Purchase and install of Auditorium Equipment.

F.White /D.Pierson (4-0).

### 2. Adoption of School Committee Goals.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Adoption of School Committee Goals.

D.Pierson / F.White (4-0).

### 3. Policy Subcommittee Reports/Action:

- A. Discussion of Naming School Facilities
- B. Title 1–Parental Involvement Policy (1<sup>st</sup> Reading).

Dr. Nobles reported on the committee's progress towards developing a Naming School Facilities policy and potentially working with the Town Council to propose a Town Ordinance once completed.

**MOTION:** to table CA-3B, Title 1 – Parental Involvement Policy, for further review, until the next School Committee Meeting on December 21, 2011.

F.White /D.Pierson (4-0).

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Sipala acknowledged a photo, in the packet, of a very happy student using physical therapy equipment approved for purchase by the School Committee. Ms. Pinto offered an explanation as to how the equipment is being used.

Ms. McNeiece announced that Mariner Marketplace will be held on November 19, 2011 from 10am-4pm at Narragansett High School by the NHS PTO.

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

November 28, 2011-Joint Meeting of the Town Council and School Committee on Fiscal Matters - 6:30pm Narragansett Town Hall, Large Board Room.

December 6, 2011-Public Meeting for Athletic Fields at 6:30pm at the High

December 12, 2011-Joint Meeting of the Town Council and School Committee on Fiscal Matters - 6:30pm

December 21, 2011-School Committee Business Meeting – 7:00pm  
Narragansett Town Hall – Assembly Area.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

D.Pierson/ D.Nobles (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White  
Clerk