

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL/SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
JOINT BUDGET WORKSHOP  
DECEMBER 12, 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.

**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; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance; Mr. David Correira, Supervisor of Transportation and Grounds.

**TOWN COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:** Mr. David Crook, Town Council President Pro Tem; Mr. Christopher Wilkins; and Ms. Susan Cicilline-Buonanno.

**ABSENT:** Ms. Glenna Hagopian, Town Council President; Ms. Alisa Trainor Fleet

**TOWN OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Grady Miller, Town Manager; Ms. Anne Irons, Council Clerk.

The meeting was held at the Narragansett Town Hall, Large Board Room, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, Rhode Island. Mr. David Crook called the workshop to order at 6:45PM for discussion of the School Department's FY 12-13 Budget.

The following topics were discussed:

**1. Update on Fiscal 2012**

Ms. Sipala reminded Council that School Department was level funded and have since negotiated a new support staff contract – with no salary increase. In addition, health care costs for employees will go from 5%-10% in 12-13 and to 15% in 13-14. A teacher retirement incentive was offered which 10 teachers took advantage of and of which 8 were replaced and 2 positions not filled. Incentive was one year of health coverage. There have been some concerns about the loss of a Guidance Counselor at NPS. Teacher contract negotiations will start in January.

**2. Student Enrollment Projections for Fiscal 2013**

Enrollment projections for 2012-13 forecast 36 fewer students due to low birth rate in district. These numbers are very difficult to predict. Predictions for Kindergarten enrollment are based on NESDEC information. There was discussion with Jamestown School District about the possibility of giving students a choice of attending high school in Narragansett or North Kingstown, but the Jamestown School Committee did not take any action following this discussion.

### 3. Budget Considerations for Fiscal 2013

Ms. Hagan noted that there are 8 classified employees who work 20-25 hours and will not be receiving benefits effective July 2012. There will also be an 11.41 % increase in employer contributions to teacher pension. She also noted that the AARA funds will subsidize (\$65K).

Ms. Sipala shared that there are 3 factors that affect State aide in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funded formula: enrollment; free & reduced-lunch numbers; and state share (formula based on Town revenue X free and reduced K-6<sup>th</sup>)

Ms. Hagan noted that we are going out to bid for health insurance. The WB is a really good structure for us.

### 4. Capital –Status of Current Asset Protection Plan on file at RIDE; new Plan Due in 2012

Ms. Sipala indicated that next year's Capital Plan is not yet complete. The Department of Education approved the district's plan 5 years ago and we will be reimbursed 40% of completed approved projects. If we expend \$700K we will be reimbursed 40% (\$280K). Ms. McNeiece is hopeful that the Town Council will look favorably on the plan so that the district can recoup 40% spent on Capital improvements. She noted that the "hard costs" are reimbursable. The Athletic Fields will be part of the new 5 year plan.

Ms. McNeiece updated the Council on the progress of the Athletic Field subcommittee. There are currently 40 members. The plan includes: renovation of High School stadium; bleachers increased to 1000; and restroom facilities. They plan to send out Quarterly newsletters. A "Field Day" Fundraiser is in the planning stages which will involve competition within "Community Teams" to possibly include the Lions Club, Police Department, Fire Department, School Committee and Town Council.

Ms. McNeiece requested that the Minutes reflect that the School Department's Budget presentation to the Town Council on April 3, 2012 not be rescheduled within a regular Town Council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM. (David Crook/ T. McNeiece)

Respectfully Submitted by,

Frank White

Clerk