

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 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, **December 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; Dr. Douglas Pierson; and 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. Dan Warner, Narragansett High School Principal; Dr. Marie Ahern, Narragansett Pier School Principal; Ms. Lisa Monahan, Narragansett Elementary School Assistant 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 7:05pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

OPEN FORUM.

ORAL REPORTS.

Narragansett High School: Principal Dan Warner presented Katherine Mahoney, Coach of the Narragansett High School Girls Soccer Team, and the Assistant Coach, Jen Sayles. The girls won the Division III State Championship, and Coach Mahoney was recently named “Coach of the Year” by the Interscholastic League. Mr. Warner praised the team as representing the best of the best in Narragansett and shared that 80% of team is on the honor role. Coach Mahoney was pleased to announce that not only were the girls the DIII Champions, but they were also awarded the Sportsmanship Award, for which she was extremely proud. Mrs. Sipala acknowledged Coach Mahoney and Coach Sayles as also coaching girl’s basketball team at NHS.

Mr. Warner also reported that the girls Volleyball Team made the playoffs as did the NHS Football Team. The college application process is in full swing. Portfolios are being reviewed under the supervision of John O’Brien.

Ms. McNeieice asked about the eighth grade meeting for parents entering the high school next year, the week of January 20th. A letter and phone call will go out to parents and a list serve reminder.

Narragansett Middle School:

Dr. Ahern reported that at a recent Pier School Boys Basketball game 2 banners were raised – one for the Southern Division Championship; and the other for recent Wrestling Team Champions. Many of the former Champions were present for the banner raising ceremony. In January the Track and Field Banner will be raised at an all school assembly.

NPS students attended the Chamber Theater in Providence recently. The students made our school very proud, and teachers were happy to report that the students were very well dressed and the boys kept their ties on all day long.

Ms. McPartland's class collected more than 700 canned food items in their recent food drive.

Dr. Ahern was proud to report that she was recently approached by a parent, after hours, and was extended his sincere thanks and appreciation for all of the hard work of the Narragansett Pier School staff.

Showcase: Technology-IPAD Investigations at the Narragansett Elementary School Mr. Roland Lambert, District Technology Coordinator.

Ipad usage is in wide use at NES. The children love the ipads and the technology that is available. Mr. Lambert provided a brief video of the students using the ipads filmed and edited by Brien Jennings, Library and Media Specialist at NES. Engagement in learning is a great plus for students who, in their own words, feel lucky to have them and love everything about them. Mr. Lambert feels that the ipads could be a game changer. Staff had hands-on PD session with ipads. Karen Early was available, and worked with teachers so that they felt comfortable working with the ipads.

Mr. Lambert reported that Technology is so successful in Narragansett because the teachers are willing to try new things; there is additional support available through enrichment; there is ongoing funding for technology; and Narragansett has an excellent building based technical support model which most school departments do not have. Narragansett technology staff includes Derek Emery at NHS; Giulio Luigini at NPS; and at NES Karen Early.

Ms. Lisa Monahan, Narragansett Elementary School's Assistant Principal, introduced classroom teacher, Mrs. Cheryl Blumenbaum and the Enrichment teacher, Mrs. Carol Batchelder. Mrs. Batchelder wanted to thank the Committee for their support and for the fact that they value technology. Ms. Batchelder reported that the students catch on quickly as technology is a big part of their world. She also informed the Committee that an Ipad user group has formed at NES to explore new apps and techniques to support creative level thinking. Mrs. Blumenbaum also thanked the committee for their support

and belief in the teachers. She is grateful for the team they have at NES. She reported that the I-pads are very useful tools for problem solving and higher level thinking. Several second grade students were on hand to demonstrate their use of the I-pads. Shannon McGreavy learns faster by using I-pads and learns more; Noah Dean reported that the I-pad corrects you right away; Liam Manchester likes that the I-pads help to build math fluency; Nathan Dean thinks the I-pads report back to us our thinking and can repeat directions; Emma Murphy reports that it is easy to change from one app to another and you can change the settings on apps to make it easier or more challenging. The 2nd grade students gave 1:1 demonstrations to the Committee on different applications they use in the classroom.

Mr. Lambert said that they are looking into possibly something in the future at NHS and NPS. There should be a vision and plan to implement similar technology at these other schools. The Lease will be up at NHS this year - \$150,000 approximately. Mrs. McNeiece is happy to hear that I-pad use is school wide by teachers in the aspect of fluency in computation skills. One of the roles of the technology department is to stay dynamic and current with technology.

Mr. White pointed out the NPS has a computer lab as well as 2 laptop carts that they are using with great success.

Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Sipala commented on the Narragansett Times article regarding a new Race to the Top (RTTT) grant for Early Childhood Education. She reiterated that the urban areas will most likely be receiving the funds; Narragansett won't be. RIDE has already granted us money which is assisting us in other initiatives. RIDE has granted school districts the ability to give 2 hour delays while allowing the day to count as a school day.

There is an open Budget Workshop meeting on January 11th at 6:30 in the Administrative offices. She hopes to have several workshops to discuss budget and build around schools' needs as described by the Principal.

School Committee Report:

Ms. McNeiece reported that the Athletic Fields Committee met on December 12th. Ms. Sipala and Mr. Pierson were both in attendance at that meeting. She noted that there is a moratorium on new construction until 2014. A Capital fundraising campaign will start looking at ways to raise funds for the athletic fields project, but the project must be included in the new plan in order to be reimbursable. The next meeting for this committee is Tuesday, January 17th at the NHS library at 7PM. A parent, who is a professional fundraiser, will be there to explain capital fundraising.

The School Committee met with some of the Town Council recently. Ms Sipala reminded them of the challenges that we face and the significant cuts that were made last year to meet the budget. School Committee will be meeting with them again throughout the budget season.

On December 13th, Ms. Sipala, Ms. Hagan and Ms. McNeiece met with RIDE regarding the waiver process and deadlines around school construction.

Ms. Nobles attended the RIASC meeting and heard a presentation by David Abbott, RIDE Assistant Commissioner, regarding No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Congress is giving authority to the US Department of Education to change the legal language that comprises NCLB.

RIDE wants to propose as part of the waiver a way to measure the degree of student progress made instead of a binary system. They will take comments from the School Committees and other interested stakeholders on the RIDE website.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. November 16, 2011 School Committee Executive Session – Limited Distribution CA-1A
 - B. November 16, 2011 Regular School Committee Meeting CA-1B.

2. Routine Personnel Actions: CA-2
Appointments - Winter Coaches; Appointment- Classified

Appointment – Classified:
Sawyer, Brigit, Secretary-Student Services Office 35 hrs/wk, 52 wks/yr,
Compensation- \$20.67/hr, effective December 21, 2011.

Appointments – Coaches NHS - School Year 2011-12
Rinaldi, Keith -Volunteer Boys & Girls Indoor Assistant Track Coach Stipend:
N/A
Kyle, Keith -Volunteer Assistant /Varsity Girls’ Co-op Ice Hockey Stipend: N/A

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 Consent Agenda items [CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C]
With corrections to the student enrollment report numbers.

D. Pierson/ D.Nobles (5-0)

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. White reported that for November 30, 2011 \$8,024,032.20 (30.30%) of the FY12 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$23,960,677.58 (90.49%) has been expended and encumbered.

Karen Hagan reported that we were reimbursed money from health care for retirees. SORICO has sold and that the school department could see some money returned to us.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Policy Subcommittee Reports/Action:

A. Naming School Facilities

Dr. Nobles said RIGL 45-2-16 grants cities and towns the right to name facilities as it relates to our Athletic fields renovations. The School Committee has drafted a naming ordinance that will be presented to the Town Manager.

Ms. McNeiece asked about clarification of #4 “within their control” – of school property. She recommended possible language “school building and grounds” for the Committee’s consideration. The Committee is very much in favor of naming consideration for athletic fields for large donors. Mr. White and Ms. Sipala agreed that naming should allow consideration of naming the donor but not guaranteed naming. Ms. McNeiece would be willing to attend the meeting to discuss the ordinance proposal with the Town Council. She thanked Dr. Nobles for all of her hard work and efforts in preparing the Ordinance.

Ms. Sipala plans to meet with the Town Manager and put the information in memo form.

B. Title 1 –District Parent Involvement Policy IV A 2 d (1st Reading)

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and to approve the 1st Reading of the Title 1 –District Parent Involvement Policy IV. A. 2.d.

F. White/D. Pierson (5-0)

2. Approval of NHS Spring 2012 Field Trip to Spain.

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Narragansett High School’s Spring 2012 Field Trip to Spain.

D.Nobles/ D.Pierson (5-0)

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS: These upcoming meetings were announced:

January 11, 2012- Budget Workshop at 6:30PM, Narragansett Town Hall, 3rd floor, School Department, Central office

January 17, 2012- Athletic Fields Committee at NHS library at 7PM- A speaker will be there to explain capital fundraising.

January 18, 2012 -School Committee Regular Business Meeting – 7:00pm
Narragansett Town Hall – Assembly Area

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM.

D.Pierson/ D.Nobles (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White
Clerk