

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 18, 2012**

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, January 18, 2012, 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; Mr. Daniel Warner, Narragansett High School Principal; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Narragansett Pier School Assistant Principal; Ms. Lisa Monahan, Narragansett Elementary Assistant School Principal; and Ms. Elizabeth Pinto, Director of Student Services.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2012.

MOTION: to seal the minutes of the January 18, 2012 Executive Session.

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

OPEN FORUM

ORAL REPORTS

1. School Committee.

Dr.Nobles- was not able to attend the most recent RIASC meeting but reported that the program was a comparison between Massachusetts and Rhode Island in student governance structure to support student achievement.

Mr. White- Recreation Board did not meet this month.

Ms. McNeiece- Athletic Fields Committee met and a Fundraising subcommittee has formed. A Community Field Day Festival fundraiser and public relations event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 2, 2012, at Narragansett High School. The Athletic Fields Fundraising Committee is looking for basketball, softball and flag football Teams, ages 14 and older, to participate.

The Athletic Fields Committee met on January 17th and Dan Barry gave the Committee an overview of what is involved in a Capital fundraising campaign. The public is invited to the next Athletic Fields Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 7PM in the High School library.

Ms. Sipala suggested that the Committee think about the proposed Charter amendments, relative to the School Committee, for the next meeting. Ms. Nobles was an alternate on the Charter Commission, and it may be appropriate for her to review the proposed amendments and report to the Committee regarding the rationale for the proposed changes. The amendments may affect the Committee with regard to endorsing and support purchases; length of member's terms; and filling of School Committee vacancies. There is a hearing on Feb 27th to discuss those proposed amendments that would be effective in the 2014 election. Ms. Sipala suggests that the Committee be prepared to review those changes at the February 15th School Committee meeting to prepare for the February 27th meeting.

2. School Reports.

Narragansett Elementary School: Ms. Lisa Monahan, Assistant School Principal reports that Response to Intervention is now looking at Behavioral data and specific behaviors reported by grade level, location and motivation and looking at interventions that can be put into place to eliminate poor behaviors. MAP testing, and Literacy and Math assessments are almost complete. Good Deeds school wide projects include the "Souper Bowl" which has students collecting soup donations for the Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale and the very successful "Valentines for Vets" which has students making Valentine's Day cards that will be distributed to the Veterans Home and the Veteran's Hospital. The Winter Concert will be held on January 26th -the Violin Concert will be from 6:30-7:15PM in the cafeteria and the Chorus and band concert will start at 7:30PM.

Narragansett Pier School: Ms. Marianne Kirby, Assistant Principal reports that there are many opportunities for rewarding academic excellence at the Pier School outside of the classroom. The First Lego League (FLL) challenge theme this season was the Food Factor. The event was held at Roger Williams. The mission was investigating food and finding ways to improve its safe delivery. There were 75 students who competed for 10 spots in the "Math Counts" state competition on January 25th, 2012. There were also 48 students who will be participating in a Spelling Bee. Those who qualify will compete in the State finals in March and possibly the Nationals in May. In Social Studies the 7th & 8th graders are preparing for National History Day which includes a display of student work on March 8th in the gymnasium. The State competition will be held at Providence College in April. Other happenings at the Pier School include Ground Hog Day; the Annie Jr. Show; and a Pancake fundraiser for the Theater program at Applebee's this Saturday.

Narragansett High School- Showcase – Mr. Daniel Warner, Principal, and Alternative Learning Program (ALP) students: Lainie Carlson; Cristian Gionfrido; Anthony Tartaro; and Kaitlin Shadeck.

The students enjoyed the cooking group and the Thanksgiving dinner preparation that they planned and spoke about how they feel better about school and are able to learn in this special environment for students who do better in a smaller learning environment. They feel this program meets their needs as individual students and praised Ms. Kelly for the support and nurturing she provides, as well as Ms. DiTusa for her support and nurturing. Christian explained how the small group atmosphere works for him and how the program helped him stay in school and become a successful student.

Ms. Susan Kelly is the Director of the ALP program. Last year the discussion began for an alternative program within Narragansett High School. The program started with a small core group. It was a challenge early on for this group of students because of the nature of their behavioral issues.

Ms. Kelly is happy to report that one senior is working with Tony Petrarca on the study of tornadoes. The program works best with 10-12 in each group (there are 2 groups). There are tough standards to meet. Students are graded for how they did on a scale of 1-4, 4 being the highest and are assigned at the end of the day. Students can gain a higher level with improved behavior and a signed contract. Students are settled in and parents are happy with the changes they have seen in their children. Ms. Kelly thanked the School Committee and Administration for the support she has received from them.

In closing, Mr. Warner also reported that: mid-term exams start next week; the new semester begins on January 30th; and the 8th grade orientation for students and their parents, will be held on January 24th at 7:00PM in the NHS auditorium.

3. Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Sipala gave an update on the budget schedule for the School Committee to consider, as well as the workshops planned to give school committee an opportunity to discuss budget priorities before discussing the actual budget numbers. She suggested February 29, 2012 and March 7, 2012 (changed from March 6th due to a conflict) as dates for budget meetings.

PRESENTATION of the FY11 Audit

Susan Johnson, Principal, Gina McDonald, Audit Manager, and Stephanie Berg of LGCD were in attendance. Ms. McDonald described the scope of services performed as an audit of basic funds and federal grants and that the major program tested was the IDEA. Last year's audit focused on Title 1. She was happy to report that there were no compliance findings or items that will have to be reported for noncompliance. A clean, unqualified report is the best that can be received and means that there were no internal control deficiencies. There is approximately \$700,000 in school funds that will be moved

to an OPEB Trust. The Superintendent thinks that it is important for community to know that the School Department has exceeded the standard recommended for OPEB. Ms. Nobles commented that 23% of the funding for OPEB is a red flag if that is all there is to set aside. Ms. McDonald noted that there were no red flag transactions or other changes in the audit. An adjustment to the W.B. Community Health was recommended and only one (1) uncorrected adjustment was reported that was not significant, related to a timing item due to the loss of State aid for the Rhode Island School for the Deaf tuition payment which was being litigated by cities and towns. She also reported that Medicaid reimbursements were higher than expected, as were revenues. Ms. Johnson recommended possibly taking excess funds from WB and bringing those funds back to the school fund(\$1.5 million).

Ms. McNeiece inquired about setting up an account for funds raised for the athletic fields renovations and what recommendations they would have for a special account. Ms. Johnson indicated it that would be possible if restricted to the renovation of the fields and grounds, like a nonprofit. Ms. Johnson further indicated that careful attention should be paid to the solicitation of these donations and that it is clear, when donations are made, what the money is specifically used for. Mrs. Hagan agreed with that recommendation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. December 12, 2011 -Town Council/ School Committee Budget Workshop
 - B. December 21, 2011- Regular Business Meeting

2. Routine Personnel Actions:

Appointments – Classified:

Phelan, Fran, Secretary Narragansett High School, Step 3: 35 hrs/wk/40 wks/200 days year, effective January 30, 2012.

Appointment – Certified:

Mellors, Carolyn, 1.0 Math Teacher, Grades 7/8 NPS, effective 1/30/12 (2nd semester only)

Appointments – Coaches NHS - School Year 2011-12

Mahoney, John -Volunteer Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Stipend: N/A

McGreen, John –Vol. Asst./Varsity Girls’ Co-op Ice Hockey Stipend: N/A

Appointments – Mentors -School Year 2011-12:

Martin, Sharon -Mentor, Narragansett Elementary School Stipend: \$400.00

Parkinson, Sue-Mentor,Narragansett Elementary School Stipend: \$400.00

McCallig, Tracey- Mentor,Narragansett Elementary School Stipend: \$400.00

Prest, Carol-Mentor-Narragansett Elementary School Stipend: \$400.00

McDonough, Christine- Mentor, Narragansett Pier School Stipend: \$400.00

Craven, Sue-Mentor, Narragansett Pier School Stipend: \$800.00

Lopes, Jennalee-Mentor, Narragansett High School Stipend: \$400.00

Breene, Greg-Mentor, Narragansett High School Stipend: \$400.00

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-1A, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C] with correction noted on the stipend for Susan Craven (for \$800.00); and with corrections on some wording in the Meeting Minutes as noted by Ms. Nobles.

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

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. White reported that for December 31, 2011 \$10,103,518.12 (38.16%) of the FY12 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$24,266,727.68 (91.65%) has been expended and encumbered.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Program of Studies

Mr. DeWardener would like to see more programming courses due to the higher level and changing focus of computer apps, as technology is booming. Ms. Sipala asked Mr. Warner to speak with Mr. Hertz to see if they are asking for more than we offer. Ms. McNeiece asked that the Building Tech I & II changes “lab experiences” description be clearer and more specific. Ms Nobles noted a formatting error on page 48, in the middle the font size changed. Ms. McNeiece noted on Page 18 she would like to see an explanation.

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Narragansett High School’s Program of Studies for the 2012-13 School year, with revisions as noted.

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

2. Policy Subcommittee Reports/Action: Title 1–Parental Involvement Policy (2nd Reading).

MOTION: approve the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the Title 1 – Parental Involvement policy with noted correction on 5E (as parents may request, take word out.)

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

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS: These upcoming meetings were announced:
February 15th 7:00PM Regular business meeting.
February 29th 6:00PM Budget workshop 3rd floor, Town Hall.

Tuesday, March 6th Budget Workshop at 6 PM 3rd floor open workshop. Date change due to conflict with Rachel's Challenge Community meeting on March 7th at South Kingstown High School, at 7:00 PM. (Rachel Scott was a student who was killed in the Columbine incident.)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:50PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White
Clerk