

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 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, February 15, 2012, at the Narragansett Town Hall – Assembly Area, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Tammy McNeiece, Chairperson; Dr. Diane Nobles, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Frank White, Clerk; Guy deWardener and Dr. Douglas Pierson

**SCHOOL OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Katherine E. Sipala, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance & Administration; Mr. Jeffrey Smith, Narragansett High School Assistant Principal; Ms. Elizabeth Pinto, Director of Student Services; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Narragansett Pier School Assistant Principal; Gail Dandurand, Narragansett Elementary School Principal; Gary Minett; Dave Correira; & Roland Lambert.

**TOWN OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. David Crook

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2012 MEETING.**

**MOTION:** to seal the minutes of the February 15, 2012 Executive Session.  
D. Pierson / G. DeWardener (5-0)

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES.**

The School Committee voted to approve 2 home schooling requests.  
D. Nobles/F.White (5-0)

**OPEN FORUM**

Mrs. Cindy Duckworth, of the Narragansett Special Education Parent Advisory Board, announced that their next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, in the Narragansett Pier School Library. There will be a speaker from Community Outreach.

**ORAL REPORTS**

Frank White - Update on Recreation Advisory Board. The North Pavilion is coming along nicely and renovation of the Clarke Farm Road facility was discussed.

School Committee.

Tammy McNeiece – SORICO (Southern RI Collaborative) recently voted to formally dissolve. The outstanding bills will be paid off with funds from the sale of the building, and the balance will be divided evenly between 8 member districts (East Greenwich decided to withdraw and not participate consequently they are not included in distribution of funds). The first disbursement will be forthcoming in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Mrs. McNeiece reminded the Committee, and the public, that the Community Field Day Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Narragansett High School.

Dr. Nobles gave a Charter Review Committee update. The Charter was last reviewed in 1998 (state law requires review every 10 years). There was a great need to update language, modernize terms and generally better organize the document. Ms. Nobles gave a brief overview of how the changes were reorganized and uniformed to make it more reader friendly. Formatting and structural changes have also been made.

Major content changes that are being recommended will be to change School Committee member terms from 2 year to 4 year staggered terms. This is a statewide trend due to the nature of the work that School Committees do. The rationale for this change is that it aligns Narragansett with the majority of School Committees in the State. There was no support for changing the terms for Town Council in this regard. Ms. McNeiece has mixed feelings about the extended terms – and not extending the Town Council members' terms. Mr. White had concerns that a 4 year term is a long time and could deter possible candidates to run.

There is also a proposed change for the vacancy policy. It is recommended that the Town Council **may** fill the expired the term and appoint within 30 days. Ms. Sipala is concerned about the vacancy language and that it won't apply unless the terms change to 4 years. The old language would stay intact as "shall" be filled rather than the proposed change of may vs. will appoint.

Ms. Sipala asked Mr. Crook, who was in the audience, if the proposed change regarding Purchase Contracts under \$20,000 would be discussed at the next Town Council meeting. Ms. Sipala would like to share her perspective on this issue at the February 27<sup>th</sup> presentation which is set to begin at 8PM. Mr. Crook indicated that the Open Forum is restricted to 45 minutes.

Dr. Pierson questioned the rationale regarding the change in the approval requirement from \$4,000 to \$20,000. Mr. White reminded the Council that currently the School Committee approves purchases over \$2,500 and that purchases over \$4,000 are required to go out to bid.

## School Reports.

Narragansett Elementary School Principal, Gail Dandurand, reported that the students at NES are embracing diversity. PBIS rewards students for acting responsibly. When a class gets 20 compliments, FinTastic and his prize cart comes to the class and every student gets to choose a prize.

Ladies' Choice was another successful evening for the ladies of NES and their escorts thanks to Jessica Mitchell-Tomasso and her team of volunteers. They danced the night away to a 60s and 70s theme! Coming up is our most looked forward to event of the school year - Pizza Pig Out on Friday, March 23! We will be looking for many volunteers.

Narragansett Pier School Assistant Principal, Ms. Marianne Kirby, reported that NPS is currently offering whole school assemblies to encourage students to embrace diversity, foster inclusiveness and encourage high behavioral standards. Themes include: Making Fun of and Name Calling; Spreading Rumors; Physical Bullying and The Bystander. The Advisory Committee responsible for this initiative includes Pat Boynton, Marnie Deluca and Lennon Schroeder, as well as the Acceptance Team including Jennelle Goodburn and student volunteers. The whole school assemblies include Opening Comments, a class Skit, and Closing Comments.

The Pier School Survey works results on Bullying were consistent with statewide results. The top things revealed on the survey of 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grades were: rumors, pushing, tripping or shoving, consistent with state results. Survey works surveyed students staff and parents this year with the window extended to March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Nancy Devaney, of the Narragansett Youth Task Force, has helped to support the Anti Bullying initiatives.

NECAP scores will be delivered with students before February vacation. Reminders were sent to parents via the list serves.

Narragansett High School Assistant Principal, Mr. Jeff Smith, informed the Committee that the High School will host a guest speaker, Dr. John Saunders, from Tufts University who is a Concentration Camp survivor. The school psychologist made the contact and arranged the visit.

In other news, NHS is teaming up with The Prout School and South Kingstown High School to present Rachel's challenge on March 7<sup>th</sup> at South Kingstown High School. Rachel was a student killed in the Columbine shootings and her brother is now a national speaker who presents a powerful presentation. The presentation is free to the district.

This event will be a prelude to the High School's rollout of their own PBIS program which addresses tardies to school. At the end of each week, students that arrive to school on time will earn Mariner dollars that can be used for weekly raffles through June 1<sup>st</sup>. The High School will be sending out student NECAP results via US mail.

Superintendent's Report.  
Ms. Sipala –Budget presentation.

Budget preparation is a very important part of the job and is a lengthy 5 month project. Ms. Sipala acknowledged the hard work of many, especially Karen Hagan, the Director of Finance and Administration, as well as all the Principals and Administrators. The Superintendent explained that work on the Fiscal 2013 budget meant constantly re-adjusting and realigning funds to meet the needs of the district. Student needs are primary. We are a high performing district and we did very well on recent NECAP tests in comparison to other Districts. In the area of Reading in 2011, Narragansett is 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Barrington and East Greenwich, and in the top 5 for Mathematics, so we are meeting student's needs while also maintaining high performance status. Ms. Sipala reminded the Committee that the current Narragansett student population represents higher poverty levels of students now receiving free or reduced lunch at the Narragansett Elementary School.

At Narragansett High School, there is a need for a different approach for special education students who are within the autism spectrum and will require special services. We must meet the needs of the severe/profound population. Ms. Pinto indicated that the planned programming for 2012-13 will meet academic, social and transitional needs through a life skills approach.

Ms. McNeiece had questions about enrollment using recommended birth rate. Ms. Sipala anticipates that the Pier School and the High School will experience a slight decrease in students. The decrease at the High School will not result in a decrease in staff as there is a need for a math teacher to provide more remedial math instruction and an existing teacher will work part-time as a math coach.

Capital Improvement Plan is a draft and was reviewed by the Building and Grounds Committee. Narragansett has until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to submit for reimbursements at the 35% reimbursement rate. Next year is the year to aggressively expend our funds so we can get the reimbursement. The Building and Grounds Committee has spent a lot of time going through each line item.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 1. Approval of Minutes:

- A. January 11, 2012- Executive Session
- B. January 11, 2012- Budget Workshop Meeting
- C. January 18, 2012- Executive Session
- D. January 18, 2012- Regular Business Meeting

### 2. Routine Personnel Actions: CA-2

#### Appointment – Classified:

McPhillips, Bridget, Teaching Assistant, Narragansett Pier School, Temporary Replacement, Step 1: 30 hrs/wk/36 wks. Effective January 26, 2012.

#### Retirement – Classified:

Jennings, John, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, Effective February 24, 2012.

Appointments – Coaches for Spring Sports

Andronowitz, Kenneth	Co- JV Girls' Lacrosse	NHS	Stipend: \$1199.40
Andronowitz, Kenneth	Co-Head Varsity Girls' Lacrosse	NHS	Stipend: \$1999
Behrends, William	Head Varsity Golf	NHS	Stipend: \$3973
Chafee, Mark	Head Varsity Boys' Lacrosse	NHS	Stipend: \$4796
Fossa, Richard	JV Baseball	NHS	Stipend: \$3187.20
Lubic, Mark	Co-JV Girls' Lacrosse	NHS	Stipend: \$1199.40
Lubic, Mark	Co-Head Varsity Girls' Lacrosse	NHS	Stipend: \$1999
McNeiece, Brian	Head Boys' Track	NHS	Stipend: \$3998
Moore, Caitlyn	Vol/JV Boys' Tennis	NHS	Stipend: N/A
Scott, Glenn	JV/Boys' Lacrosse	NHS	Stipend: \$2398.80
Shields, Robert	Head Varsity Girls' Track	NHS	Stipend: \$4535
Smith, David	Vol/Asst. Baseball	NHS	Stipend: N/A
Vellone, Keith	Head Varsity Baseball	NHS	Stipend: \$4796
Wyatt, Russell	Head Varsity Boys' Tennis	NHS	Stipend: \$3350
Machado, Derick	Baseball	NPS	Stipend: \$1804.38
Ranaldi, Deb	Boys' & Girls' Track	NPS	Stipend: \$2602.02
Ranaldi, Keith	Asst. Boys' & Girls' Track	NPS	Stipend: \$796

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-1C, CA-1D, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C]

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

**BUDGET REPORT**

Mr. White reported that for January 31, 2011 \$12,112,466.97 (45.74%) of the FY12 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$24,474,097.23 (92.43%) has been expended and encumbered.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

1. School Calendar - A first draft of the 2012-13 Calendar is being reviewed. Draft reflects that Monday August 27<sup>th</sup> could be the first day of classes for students. The Jewish holidays will be observed; and the 180<sup>th</sup> day would fall on June 18<sup>th</sup> which is the last day of school, barring any snow days. Ms. Sipala is in talks with the Union about the Professional Development day. Calendar approval will be on the Agenda for next month's meeting to be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

2. Non-Renewal of Staff

Tenured Teachers

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for non-renewal of the following tenured teachers based upon one of the following reasons:

- Due to uncertainty in funding levels, it is anticipated that it may be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which might result in the lack of a position for a teacher with your seniority level or certification.
- Due to personnel and/or program changes in the school system, a teacher with more seniority may elect to fill the position you now hold.
- It is anticipated that there will be fewer teaching positions in the area in which you are teaching and you are one of the least senior teachers in that area.  
Seniority Nos. 12-11, 12-66, 12-105, 12-106, 12-126, 12-129, 12-130, 12-132, 12-134.

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

### Non-Tenured Teachers

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for non-renewal of the following non-tenured teachers based upon one of the following reasons:

- Due to uncertainty in funding levels, it is anticipated that it may be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which might result in the lack of a position for a teacher with your seniority level or certification.
- Due to personnel and/or program changes in the school system, a teacher with more seniority may elect to fill the position you now hold.
- It is anticipated that there will be fewer teaching positions in the area in which you are teaching and you are one of the least senior teachers in that area.  
Seniority Nos. 12-135, 12-136, 12-137, 12-138, 12-139, 12-140, 12-141, 12-142, 12-143, 12-144, 12-145, 12-146, 12-147, 12-149, 12-150, 12-151, 12-152, 12-153, 12-154, 12-155, 12-156, 12-157, 12-158, 12-159.

G. deWardener/ D. Pierson (5-0)

### Retired Teachers

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for non-renewal of the following retired teachers based upon one of the following reasons:

- Employment as retired teachers is strictly regulated by retirement regulations.  
Retirees 12-RET-01, 12-RET-02, 12-RET-03, 12-RET-04, 12-RET-05, 12-RET-06

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

### Displaced Teachers

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for displacement of the following teachers based upon the following reason:

- Due to uncertainty in funding levels, it is anticipated that it may be necessary to eliminate or consolidate positions or programs which might result in the lack of a position for a teacher with your seniority level.
- Due to personnel and/or program changes in the school system, a teacher with more seniority may elect to fill the position you now hold.
- A teacher whose position you are now filling in will be returning from leave.  
Seniority Nos. 12-12, 12-22, 12-73, 12-80, 12-87, 12-91, 12-94, 12-96, 12-102, 12

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS:**

- February 29<sup>th</sup> School Committee Budget Workshop 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 6PM, open to public.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Athletic Fields Subcommittee meeting at 6:30PM in the High School Library
- March 6<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop at 6 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, open to public.
- March 7<sup>th</sup> Rachel's Challenge at 7PM at South Kingstown High School
- March 15<sup>th</sup> Building Committee Meeting 4PM 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, School Administrative Offices
- March 21<sup>st</sup> Regular School Committee, 7:00PM, Town Hall, Assembly Room

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:28 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White  
Clerk