

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 21, 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, March 21, 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; Dr. Marie Ahern, Narragansett Pier School Principal; Ms. Lisa Monahan, Narragansett Elementary Assistant School Principal; Ms. Elizabeth Pinto, Director of Student Services; and Mr. Gary Minett, Director of Maintenance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**OPEN FORUM**

**ORAL REPORTS**

1. School Committee.

Dr. Douglas Pierson reported that the *Health and Wellness Committee* met last week and they are working on the Community Walk which will take place at the Pier Middle school on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Also, the *Safe Routes to School Committee* is planning another bike rodeo on May 12<sup>th</sup> at the Pier School. In May the “Bike to School/ Walk to School” event will take place. Special Education Advisory met and had a speaker from Community Outreach.

Mr. White reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not meet this month.

Dr. Nobles reported on the Professional Development Workshop that she and Ms. McNeiece attended at RIASC (RI Association of School Committees) on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. There were two presentations, one by Dr. Phyllis Lynch, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at RIDE, She gave and updates on the Common Core Standards, which have been adopted by 47 of the 50 states.

Ms. McNeiece reported that the Athletic Fields Committee met again on March 5<sup>th</sup> to plan the “Festival of the Fields” Community Field Day fundraiser and public relations event which will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2012, at Narragansett High School.

Ms. McNeiece also reported that there were two more Budget Workshops held on March 6, 2012, and on March 15, 2012 to talk about and plan for the budget and the needs of the district. Ms. McNeiece also reported that the Building and Grounds Committee met this month as well.

## 2. School Reports.

Ms. Lisa Monahan, Assistant Principal at the Narragansett Elementary School, reported that this month’s goals were to: increase student achievement; meet or exceed State and Federal Mandates; and graduate students who are ready to become creative, responsible, and productive citizens. With regard to Common Core, in Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, there has been an alignment of instruction, curriculum and common assessment with grade level teams and this is in really good shape in terms of literacy and math. Work has begun in grade 2 to stay ahead of the roll-out plan that has been in place. In grades 2-4 they are reviewing the writing initiative with school improvement teams, which is one of their major goals, and have action steps in place for next year. In other news at NES: the Pizza Pig Out is scheduled for Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6- 8 pm; Guest author Lisa Schroeder is coming to speak to students as a reward in the PBIS program; and The “Going Green” Reading week was very successful.

Dr. Marie Ahern, Principal at the Narragansett Pier School, reported that there have been great strides in Reading scores at NPS. There are only 6 students that are below proficiency. In contrast, in Mathematics, there are 34 students at NPS that are below proficiency. The PBIS Committee met again today to prepare for a September roll-out and full implementation. Three subcommittees have been formed to include: Acknowledgements; ODR (establishing clear and consistent behavior reporting and consequences); and the March Madness fundraising and student event. March Madness was a great success with almost 200 students in attendance. Students enjoyed face painting, dancing, basketball activities, bingo and ping pong, and well as some nutritional snacks such as smoothies, popcorn, and yogurt. Dr. Ahern spoke about the theater program at the Pier School and how it is supported mostly from fundraising and ticket sales. The money from the performances goes back into the program towards costs for the future productions.

Mr. Daniel Warner, Principal Narragansett High School reported that the State Champion Girls’ Basketball and Competition Cheerleading teams will be recognized at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> Town Council meeting. The spring sports season is in full swing at NHS. FFA is currently collecting sap from trees for the maple syrup and annual plant sale. Rachel’s Challenge assemblies took place at NHS on Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> and that evening the community event took place at South Kingstown High School from 6:30-7:30. This event was free of charge to the students. There were approximately 85 students who attended the Friends of Rachel leadership training after the presentation

at NHS. This is all part of the connected work that Dr. Ruth Anderson, and Ms. Sarah Laidler, are heading which includes multiple acts of kindness. The Junior Prom will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Students will be able to purchase prom tickets the week after April vacation until May 4th. All students will ride busses to the prom. The Senior Prom will take place on Monday, June 11, 2012. Senior parents will receive more information next month, including an end-of-year senior schedule. Senior activities will take place that week as well. The .6 math instructor request that has been requested in the FY2013 budget is to support NHS students in the transition to Common Core; fill in gaps in the transition; and to support the ALP program at NHS. Students must meet their growth in terms of RTI and we must accelerate the progress in mathematics to continue to meet the standards.

Dr. John Saunders will be coming to NHS on Thursday, April 12th to speak to our students and faculty about his experiences as a teenager during WW II. He and his wife are being transported to and from their home in MA by Randy Shields. April 19th is Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the timing of Dr. Saunders' talk was chosen to highlight Holocaust Remembrance Day at NHS. A brief biography of Dr. Saunders was given to advisors to share with students.

Mr. Warner provide the School Committee with information about the April 2013 Student Trip to Italy. There are currently 36 students interested. Students with 2 years of a foreign language are eligible to participate. There is always help available to assist students that otherwise wouldn't be able to pay for the trip.

A letter was received from a parent with regard to funding for the theater program at NHS. As happens at the Pier School, the money from the performances goes back into the theater program towards costs for the future productions. In addition, there is a separate fund raising group that supports the theater group. There have been improvements recently made to the High School auditorium including new curtains on the stage and a sound system upgrade.

#### Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Sipala reported that Cupcake Madness will take place at the Towers on Sunday. March is Youth Art Month. The arts are very important in our school department. This month is dedicated to the celebration of visual arts. NHS student Leah Fiore will be presenting her portfolio at the Narragansett Public Library on March 29<sup>th</sup>. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the NHS Art Show will be in the school Library.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. February 15, 2012- Regular Business Meeting
  - B. February 15, 2012- Executive Session
  - C. February 29, 2012- Budget Workshop
  - D. March 6, 2012 - Budget Workshop
  - E. March 15, 2012 - Budget Workshop

2. Routine Personnel Actions:

Appointments – Spring Coaches:

Lapham, Mark Girls' Softball Coach, Narragansett Pier School Stipend: \$2,602.02

Resignation-Classified: Chapin, Suzanne, Secretary, Guidance Office, Narragansett High School, effective March 16, 2012.

Leave Request: Good, Stephanie, 1.0 Grade 2 Teacher, Narragansett Elementary School, for the 2012 -13 School year.

3. Reports—

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

**MOTION:** to the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve Consent Agenda items [CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-1C, CA-1D, CA-1E, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C]

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

**BUDGET REPORT**

Mr. White reported that for February 29, 2012 \$14,340,499.28 (54.16%) of the FY12 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$24,951,181.73 (94.23%) has been expended and encumbered.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

1. FY13 School Budget.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the FY13 School Budget in the amount of \$27,503,909.

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

**MOTION:** to direct the Superintendent to identify funds to support unfunded student activities.

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

2. School Calendar 2012-2013.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the School Calendar 2012-2013.

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

3. Schedule of School Committee meetings for 2012-13.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Schedule of School Committee meetings for 2012-13.

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

4. April 2013 Narragansett High School Italy Trip.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the April 2013 Narragansett High School Italy Trip.

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

5. Narragansett Pier School Wrestling Proposal.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Narragansett Pier School Wrestling Proposal.

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

6. Bid Award: Purchase of a Plow Truck.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Bid Award for the Purchase of a Plow Truck.

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

7. Bid Award: Basketball Renovations at NES.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Bid Award for the Basketball Renovations at NES.

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

8. Discussion of Resolution on Relief of Mandate Requiring Schools to Provide Transportation & Textbooks to Private School Students

9. Approval of School Committee Resolution against Binding Arbitration.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a Resolution against Binding Arbitration.

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

10. Approval of School Committee Resolution against Contract Continuation.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a Resolution against Contract Continuation.

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

11. Approval of School Committee Resolution on Layoff Notification Date for Teachers.

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a Resolution on Layoff Notification Date.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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

April 2, 2012           Town Council will be recognizing the NHS Girls' State Champion  
Basketball and Competition Cheerleading Teams.

April 3, 2012           Budget Presentation to the Town Council at 7:30PM

April 11, 2012          Regular business meeting at 7:00PM.

April 23, 2012          Joint Budget workshop with the Town Council at 6:30PM

**AJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White  
Clerk