

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 11, 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, April 11, 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. Absent: 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, Assistant Principal, Narragansett Pier School; Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal, Narragansett Elementary School; Ms. Elizabeth Pinto, Director of Student Services; Mr. David Correia, Director of Transportation; and Ms. Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

**MOTION TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2012 EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**MOTION:** to seal the minutes of the April 11, 2012 Executive Session.

F. White/G. deWardener (4-0)

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES.**

The School Committee voted to approve a home school request for the 2012-13 school year.

D. Nobles/F.White (4-0)

**OPEN FORUM**

**ORAL REPORTS**

1. School Committee.

Mr. White reported that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met this month. Steve Wright, acting Director of Parks & Recreation, attended the meeting this month. The Board talked about the fees charged at the beach. North Pavilion should be ready by Memorial Day weekend. The Board will meet again on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. McNeiece reported that the Athletic Fields Committee met again on April 9<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, in Dr. Pierson's absence, that the "Safe Routes to School" walk/bike program will begin on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and continue through June 6<sup>th</sup> every Wednesday.

## 2. School Reports.

Gail Dandurand, Principal at the Narragansett Elementary School, reported that there are many activities in the works for this season at NES. Students will enjoy at a performance by the Rhode Island College Dance Company at end of April. Also coming soon: the Spring Musical Concert; the Grades 3 & 4 Art Show; and Field Day. Kindergarten registrations are currently being accepted at Narragansett Elementary School. Parents can fill out the registrations forms right in the office.

Ms. Marianne Kirby, Assistant Principal at the Narragansett Pier School, reported that keeping in line with Common Core State Standards "*We will use well-articulated, consistent curricula as the foundation for personalized instruction in our classrooms.*" Moving from grade level expectations to Common Core State Standards the Common Core Work will include whole school conversations during extended monthly faculty meetings to include: How to read and understand the Common Core document; Compare and contrast GLE and Common Core; Look more closely at specific standards by content and share out by grade level; and "Fish bowl" a lesson on reading informational text that leads to a writing task using evidence from reading. There will be Grade 8 weekly meetings with the district literacy coach to look more closely at the common core literacy standards to inform classroom instruction for improved student achievement. This format will serve as a template for other grade levels 2012-2013. Regarding content: Grade 6, 7 and 8 math instructors participating in the Dana Center to write scope and sequence based on Common Core will share with Pier School colleagues the shifts in content by grade levels and subsequent changes in instruction and resources. They will also articulate with high school colleagues to identify "gaps" that Common Core curriculum shifts will create and will develop a plan to fill in those gaps prior to PARCC assessment in 2014-2015. Also, Grade 5 ELA instructor will participate in a multi-district consortium to write scope and sequence and units for study for the common core in ELA.

Mr. Daniel Warner, Principal Narragansett High School reported that all is well at the Narragansett HS. Students leave for Spain trip tomorrow. Dr. John Saunders will be coming NHS tomorrow at 12PM speak to the students and faculty about his experiences as a teenager during WW II. Mr. Warner addressed questions about scheduling. Freshman choices are limited and are placed into classes. There is a GAP math class, a common core class that all students will be required to take. It is an additional math class, and is half year course. Students will be placed based on data that is received from NPS for freshmen classes and schedules. Senior Projects will be presented on Friday, June 1, 2012. Invitations will be sent out for Judging via e-mail.

## 3. Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Sipala noted a correction on the 11-12 school year calendars. The last day of School is Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> as we had 2 days missed.

The Employee Recognition Committee recognized eight staff members this year as "Employee of the year" and they include Pamela Westkott, Grade 3 Teacher at NES; Jane Young, Teacher Assistant at NES; Giulio Lugini, Assistant Technology Director at NPS; Margaret (Peg) Fair, School Nurse teacher at NPS; Carol Morgan, Special Educator at NHS; Adam Reis, Science Educator at NHS; Beth Ann Laurie, Transportation; and Elizabeth Pinto, Director of Student Services. The Recognition dinner will take place at the Towers on Thursday, April 26, 2012.

Ms. Sipala announced that the Wellness Committee will sponsor a walk on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> on the Heart Walk loop and hold a Health & Wellness Fair at Narragansett Pier School.

Superintendent Sipala explained the GAPS District Goals and Performance Measures RTTT (Race To The Top) sheet. Our Elementary School has already met the goal of 90% proficiency in mathematics. The goal is to cut our gaps in half. We are addressing them in terms of programming, and the state is not worried about a quick closing of the gap, but more that those gaps are closing and improving.

Ms. Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development reviewed the 2011 NECAP Assessment Data Report with the Committee. The Federal Government requires these assessments. She noted that the writing scores declined slightly. Spring 2011 Science scores show us at 48% proficient. Next year new science standards are due to come out. The District will be working on aligning the curriculum with these new standards. There are *so few* students that are not proficient in Reading and Math that they can identify the individual students who need support.

In the area of Mathematics we are looking at 80% and above on proficiency as we are migrating over to common core. It should not affect student success. In the area of Writing, assessments are different each year so that it is difficult to compare the scores. In the area of Science, testing is about content. Method and content might possibly include doing a group experiment and then individually writing about their findings. Cohort scores track the same group of students each time. For example, this year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade scores show a 12% proficiency increase in Reading.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes: March 21, 2012 - Regular Business Meeting

2. Routine Personnel Actions:

Appointments – Spring Coaches, Narragansett High School

Salomone, Mike Co-Head Girls' Varsity Softball Coach Stipend: \$1,891.50

Increase -Classified:

Marsh, Jeannine, Teaching Assistant, Narragansett Elementary School, increase 6.5 hrs/wk effective March 7, 2012, only until the end of the 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-1, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C]

D. Nobles/F. White (4-0)

## **BUDGET REPORT**

Mr. White reported that for March 31, 2012 \$17,186,935.44 (64.91%) of the FY12 Budget of \$26,478,944.00 has been expended. \$24,979,564.07 (94.34%) has been expended and encumbered.

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Community Walk 5K Path to Health Heart Walk & Wellness Fair on Saturday, April 28, 2012

At the Pier Middle School Wellness Fair & Check-in starts at 9:00 am and walk starts at 10:00 am.

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

Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> The School Committee will request that this Joint Town  
(Request to reschedule) Council/School Committee Workshop on School Department Budget be  
rescheduled to June.

Wed., May 16<sup>th</sup> Regular School Committee Meeting, 7:00PM, Narragansett Town Hall, Assembly  
Room

Sat., June 2<sup>nd</sup> Festival for the Mariner Bowl 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Narragansett  
High School -Rain Date: Sunday, June 3rd

## **AJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

F. White / G. deWardener (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White  
Clerk