

NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD April 10, 2013

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 10, 2013, 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 Mr. Keith Ranaldi.

OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE: Ms. Katherine E. Sipala, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance & Administration; Mr. Tom O'Connell, acting Assistant Principal, Narragansett High School; Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services; Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development; Mr. Gary Minett, Director of Maintenance; & Mr. David Correira, Director of Transportation.

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

OPEN FORUM: No one wished to speak.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. School Committee.

Frank White reported on the “125th Anniversary Celebration of Narragansett” that took place on March 22nd at the Towers. There was a display of student artwork and the NPS Chorus performed *Narragansett Pier* a song written in 1908. The event was a great success with 851 people attending. Mr. White also announced that on June 8th they will join the “Where’s the Town” group in the Narragansett Pier market place. People will bring their Narragansett memorabilia. Mr. White also reported on the recent Narragansett Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. Tammy McNeiece and Dan Barry, of Barry Associates, gave a very good presentation on the Athletic Fields fundraising efforts and goals. There Narragansett Community Development Director, Mike DeLuca, was also at that meeting and spoke to the Committee about the bike path and the options for its location and placement.

Tammy McNeiece reported that the Athletic Fields Committee has been very busy. This month they made presentations to the Narragansett Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee; the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Lions Club Executive Board. They plan to present to the Lions Club at their next dinner. The campaign has officially entered its major gift phase.

2. School Reports.

Mr. deWardener reported the NES update submitted by NES Principal Mrs. Gail Dandurand & Assistant Principal Mrs. Lisa Monahan. The NES staff is planning their annual Field Day to be held on June 7th and will include a cookout, a dunk tank, magician, field games, and a walk-a-thon. NES will be piloting some interim assessments in grades 3 & 4 during the months of April and May. This will give NES information to guide their Common Core Instruction and evaluate the technology skills of the students as the assessment is completed on the computer. The 4th grade students will be participating in the Science NECAP in May. NES has focused on writing in science over the past few years and is interested to see how that will affect the Science NECAP scores. NES teachers participated in Professional Development with the Dreambox Math Technology. The NES Math Coach received Dreambox training which was then presented to NES staff. Dreambox is used during Math Workshop blocks and Math Intervention Blocks. The new Rhode Island Teacher Evaluation System has been fully implemented at NES and currently all of the initial, mid-year, informal and formal evaluations are complete. Kindergarten registration is ongoing and the Superintendent encourages residents to register as soon as possible. Registrations are filled out in the NES office.

Mr. Ranaldi reported the NPS update submitted by NPS Principal Dr. Marie-Elena J. Ahern. The NPS band is attending the RIMEA festival at Barrington High School where they will perform before judges who will critique their work. In addition, the NPS chorus has been invited to the April 22nd Town Council meeting to provide a repeat performance of the song they performed at the 125th Anniversary of Narragansett celebration. On April 4th 25 eighth grade students took the National Spanish I exam at NHS. All NPS Spanish I students performed extremely well on the mid-term exam, which is the same exam that is given at NHS. The school-wide winter writing benchmark testing results yielded strong student growth as compared with September testing. Teachers and administrators continue to work with the literacy coach, Melissa O'Neill, to analyze data, identify student learning gaps and provide targeted instruction to close those gaps. The technology department, principal, and two teachers visited Pleasant View Elementary School in Providence today to observe students using 1-1 technology. The information from this visit will be used, in part, to make decisions for the technology that will be purchased next year.

Ms. Sipala reported that Amanda Carberry & Elizabeth Santa, students from the Narragansett Pier School, came in first in the state at the Providence College National History day and will be heading to Maryland in June. Vanessa Miller will also be attending. Ms. Sipala will invite the students to the May School Committee meeting to show a brief clip of the video documentary and allow the Committee to ask questions.

3. Superintendent's Report.

A. The Superintendent wanted to publically recognize the 2013 Employees of the Year, they are: Lori Dubuc, Psychologist, NES; Donna Good, Library/Media Specialist, NHS; Marianne Kirby, Assistant Principal, NPS; Sarah Krous, Science Teacher, NHS; Jo-Ann Mangili, Administrative Secretary, NPS; Susan Sabella, Reading teacher/Coach, NES; & Tony Steere, Bus Aide, Transportation.

Ms. Sipala reported that RIDE released a report and the results were included in an article in the Narragansett Times regarding the rating of the condition of our schools. Ratings done 1-4, 1 being good and 4 poor, and were provided by our own district. There were 137 schools in the State rated a "2" – which is where we were. They listed the 10 school systems that have extra space in their schools and we are not one of them. Another indicator the report looked at is enrollment decreases, and ours is below the state average. The suburban decrease is expected to be 6.9% in the next 10 years.

B. Presentation of NECAP results. Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum & Development gave a power point presentation on the results of the Spring 2012 and Fall 2012 NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) results. Ms. Daley summarized our NECAP results as follows: we continue to have more students proficient in reading than other areas with our Reading scores similar to last year; our Math scores have shown significant improvement since 2008 (NES +10; NPS +14; NHS +11); we are recognized by RIDE as having made significant progress in Science in 2011-12 and from 2008-12 we are the district with the most improvement; 11th Graders tied for third in science among other districts in state; 8th graders were 11th in the state; 4th graders tied with East Greenwich for 5th in state; and this year's juniors moved from 14% proficient with distinction in grade 6 reading to 49% proficient with distinction in grade 11. Our future goals to keep this upward momentum District-wide by: continued use of data to drive decisions; providing professional development for assessment; implementing English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics curriculum for all grades; providing support from coaches; aligning district assessments to Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

C. Graduation Requirements–Class of 2014. Mr. Tom O'Connell, Acting Assistant Principal, reported on the Narragansett High School graduation requirements. In order to graduating NHS seniors are required to complete the following: 26 credits of coursework; a Senior Project (performance assessment); a Graduation Portfolio (performance assessment); a score of "Level 2" Partially Proficient on Reading and Math State assessments (NECAP); and 30 Hours community Service (NHS requirement). Coursework of 26 credits is required in the following areas English (4.5 credits); Mathematics (4 credits); Science (3 credits); Social Studies (3 credits); Physical Education/Health (2 credits); Fine Arts (Art/Theater/Music) (.5 credit); Computer Science (.5 credit); and Electives (up to 11.0 credits). The Senior Project consists of the product, portfolio, presentation (Civics/SP) and a paper (English). The Graduation Portfolio includes 24 entries

demonstrating proficiency in English, mathematics, science, social studies, technology, and visual/performing arts.

In her report, Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services, reported on graduation as it relates to those students who may require an "Intervention Plan" to assist in meeting the requirements necessary to graduate. Once a student is identified as needing interventions, a letter goes out inviting parents to meet with Special Educators to discuss an individualized intervention plan. RIDE has a timeline, but leaves it up to the district to structure the intervention plans. NHS has already met as a team to review what is in place and what is needed to move forward. For example, the goal in 11th grade is to make the "2", but if students are below that, staff looks at growth model for improvement benchmarks according to RIDE's formula for growth expectations. They are still required to take the NECAP. ACUPLACER is an option as is the SAT. There is also a RIDE approved list of options for other approved assessments.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. March 20, 2013 Executive Session
 - B. March 20, 2013 Regular Business Meeting

2. Routine Personnel Actions – Appointments: Coaches, Classified
 - Appointments – Coaches NPS

Kershaw, Arthur	Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach	N/A
Manocchia, Mark	Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach	N/A
 - Appointments – Coaches NHS

Lindsley, Frederick	Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach	N/A
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 - Appointments – Classified

Therien, Matthew, District Maintenance Mechanic, District, Compensation: \$21.93/hr, 40hrs/wk, 52 wks/yr, effective April 15, 2013.

3. Reports –
 - A. Enrollment Report
 - B. Budget Transfers
 - C. Maintenance Report

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Consent Agenda items (CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C). D. Nobles/K. Ranadi (5-0)

Mr. White reported to Mr. Minett that the door knob to room #205A at NHS is falling off and he would like to report that it needs to be replaced. Also, Ms. McNeiece asked the Superintendent whether it would be possible to email the Maintenance report portion of the packet, rather than include hard copies, as the report is quite large. Ms. Sipala will review the policy regarding that.

BUDGET REPORT Mr. White reported that as of March 31, 2013, \$17,326,995.01 (63.66%) of the FY13 Budget of \$27,217,146.00 has been expended. \$24,999,752.00 (91.85%) has been expended and encumbered

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approval of Purchase of Floor Machine

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent the Director of Finance and Administration, and the Director of Maintenance, to approve the purchase of a floor machine from Beacon Distributors, Inc. in the amount of \$3,824.00. D. Nobles/ F.White (5-0)

2. Approval of Contract Extension of the Planning/ Consulting Services of Torrado for the Narragansett High School Gymnasium Renovation

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Contract Extension for the Planning/ Consulting Services of Torrado Architects for the Narragansett High School Gymnasium Renovation in the amount of \$4,000.00. D. Nobles/ K. Ranaldi (5-0)

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS

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| April 22, 2013 | Presentation to Town Council- Hearing on proposed School Department Budget 7:30 PM |
| April 29, 2013 | Joint Meeting with Town Council on School Department Budget 6:30 PM |
| May 15, 2013 | School Committee Business Meeting -7:00 pm Narragansett Town Hall, Assembly Area. |

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10PM. D. Nobles/K.Ranaldi (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White
Clerk