

# NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD June 5, 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.

A special meeting of the Narragansett School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at the Narragansett Town Hall, School Administrative Offices, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 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; Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal, Narragansett Elementary School; Mr. Roland Lambert, Director of Technology, and Mr. David Correira, Director of Transportation.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 4:30PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### 1. Narragansett Elementary School as a Feinsein Leadership School

Ms. Gail Dandurand provided information to the School Committee regarding Narragansett Elementary School being represented as a Feinsein Leadership School. Ms. Dandurand indicated that the elementary school could receive a \$10,000 grant from the Feinsein Foundation by agreeing to display letters on the exterior of the building calling it a "Feinsein Leadership School". She indicates that the Feinsein Foundation has over 100 public and parochial schools that identify themselves as "Feinsein Leadership Schools". These schools encourage their students to share Feinsein's commitment to reaching out to help others in need. Mr. White and Mr. DeWardener had questions about the ramifications of putting this title on the building. Mr. DeWardener indicated that they might consider a banner in the cafeteria, or elsewhere. Mr. Ranaldi was appreciative about accepting money and donations. Mr. White questioned whether our policy would allow for a banner outside the building or on the building by calling it a "Feinsein Leadership School". Would Mr. Feinsein consider an indoor banner. Ms. Batchelder acknowledges that they will continue to practice the belief of the Feinsein philosophy that helping to better the lives of others, regardless of race, creed or color, is the greatest of all achievements. Ms. Dandurand and Ms. Batchelder agreed to discuss with Mr. Feinsein any and all acceptable alternatives such as an indoor banner or plaque.

#### 2. Discussion of Technology purchases

Ms. Karen Hagan explained to the Committee the fund balances and estimated savings based on the recent audit. School Department expenditures were less than what we had funded for. Specifically, we saw savings in areas of staff reserve, Special Education tuitions; and some savings in heating costs. If the excess is not expended it becomes part of the Town's fund balance.

Mr. Roland Lambert explained the equipment that he is requesting. The Committee had some questions about the number of smart boards. Mr. White asked the difference between the prometean board and the smart boards. Mr. Lambert explained that the difference is minimal. Mr. Ranaldi wanted to know about networking. Lesson plans are easily accessible via software that teachers can share. Tablets can be integrated to the smart board.

Ms. McNeiece shared with the Committee her experience as a teacher with her smart board in South Kingstown. With the many demands on teachers with testing, evaluations and professional development, sometimes the enthusiasm isn't there with the teachers. Ms. McNeiece asked Ms. Dandurand about the training at the elementary school with so much job embedded professional development, how can the committee support

technology? Ms. Dandurand is offering a summer training session and a 6 hour refresher training during the school year. She reports that the teachers are very much on board and are willing to use their own time to learn about the smart board. There were only 4 teachers who did not request the boards.

Ms. McNeiece had a final question about the professional development. Ms. Nobles was impressed with Ms. Dandurand's model. Mr. White asked about the number of boards at the Pier School and whether all classrooms will have them. Mr. Ranaldi wondered about the mixing of equipment Mac vs Dell and if there were compatibility issues.

3. Approval of Budget Transfers and Technology purchases

**MOTION:** to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration to approve the Budget Transfers and Technology purchases in the amount of \$276,241.68

G. DeWardener/D. Nobles (5/0)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:20PM.

D. Nobles/K.Ranaldi (5-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White  
Clerk