

NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD December 18, 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, December 18, 2013, at the Narragansett Town Hall – Assembly Area, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE: Ms. Tammy McNeiece, Chairperson; Mr. Frank White, Clerk; Dr. Diane Nobles, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Guy DeWardener and Mr. Keith Ranaldi.

OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE: Ms. Katherine E. Sipala, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Daniel Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School; Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal, Narragansett Elementary School; David Correira, Director of Transportation and Grounds & Roland Lambert, Director of Technology.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

OPEN FORUM: No one spoke.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. **Showcase:** Roland Lambert, Director of Technology presented information regarding the Wireless Classroom Initiative Grant that was awarded to Narragansett in the amount of \$187,297.66. Whalley Computer Associates has been selected to do the work to include: 70 new wireless access points for our schools; new fiber/CAT6 cabling to support 10GB speed; and switchgear to support 10GB speed which will make us ready for future endeavors.

Ms. Gail Dandurand, principal of the Narragansett Elementary School, and Ms. Cheryl Blumenbaum, teacher at NES, informed the Committee on the use of the smart boards and showed a short film depicting the use of the boards at NES and comments of the students and staff.

New this year at NPS is the iPad cart with tablets being used by teachers; the smart boards that have been installed in every classroom; and 66 new laptops purchased. The tablets are being used by the Science Department with apps for Mitosis, Constellations, and Taxonomy; the Math Department for reinforcement and differentiation by putting students at stations; in Social Studies for research and in the Art Department by incorporating digital art into the curriculum including digital painting and digital photography. Ms. Kirby presented a short film showing the smart boards being used by staff and students. Mr. Giulio Lugini, Assistant Director of Technology at NPS, explained the professional development part of the smart board experience. The concentration is on making the teachers feel comfortable with the boards. NPS also offered a Professional Development opportunity over the summer and staff is offered 2-3 training opportunities per month. These training agendas are then uploaded to a wiki website.

NHS had projection screens installed during the renovation a few years ago. Currently there are almost 1:1 computers for students at the high school.

2. **School Reports:** Mr. Daniel Warner, principal of the Narragansett High School, was happy to report on several Ivy League acceptances: one at Dartmouth, one at Brown, and one student has been wait-listed at Yale.
2. **School Committee Reports:**
Mr. Ranaldi reported on the recent Health and Wellness Committee meeting. He invited anyone interested to join them on the 2nd Monday of the month at 3:45PM in the Administration Office, 3rd floor, Town Hall. In sports news Mr. Ranaldi reported that the boys' varsity basketball team, under the direction of their new coach, upset

South Kingstown; NHS girls' basketball team won their first game; NHS girls' indoor the track and field team defeated Prout; and the NHS boys' indoor track and field team defeated Rogers and Portsmouth.

Mr. White commented on the Joint Meeting with the Town Council and Finance Committee on Monday, December 13, 2013 regarding Budget considerations for FY15. He was very impressed with the way the Superintendent presented the School Departments budget outlook as it was well thought-out, easy to follow, and very well explained. An additional joint meeting to discuss the FY15 budget will be held on March 31st.

Ms. McNeiece & Mr. deWardener attended the recent Building Committee meeting and toured the High School fields. They viewed the newly installed hardwood basketball court. On Saturday, January 4th at 1:00PM between the boy's JV and Varsity games, there will be a brief recognition ceremony to acknowledge the O'Brien family's generous donation.

3. Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent informed the Committee that Stage 1 of the 5 year Capital plan is ready to be submitted to RIDE. This is the first of four stages. Robinson, Green and Beretta did a thorough analysis of our site. Stage 2 includes the proof of the approval of the Town Council regarding the bond portion of the plan.

The Superintendent reminded the Committee that the Narragansett Prevention Partnership is a very important partnership that, among other things, collaborates on our yearly school calendar. The Superintendent introduced Ms. Nancy DeNuccio, who she referred to as the "spirit" of this partnership.

Ms. DeNuccio presented that Prevention Partnership 2013 Needs Assessment providing current statistics regarding alcohol and drug use and current trends. Ms. DeNuccio reminded the Committee and the public that this is truly a community effort. She acknowledged the value and presence of the student assistance counselor at NPS and NHS and believes that addressing the mental health of students is very important to their success. Narragansett is unique as there are University of Rhode Island students living in town and many of the underage drinking arrests are attributed to URI student activity. The Superintendent indicated that she would like to have a conversation to see what she could do, in the budget, to support the program.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes:

- A. November 20, 2013 Executive Session
- B. November 20, 2013 Regular Business Meeting

2. Routine Personnel Actions: CA-2

Retirement – Classified

Smith, Douglas, Utility Custodian, District, effective November 18, 2013.

Resignation – Classified

Tessier, Danielle, Cafeteria Assistant, NPS, effective December 20, 2013.

Appointments – Classified

Goodness, Bruce, Utility Custodian, District, Compensation: \$21.33/hr, 40hrs/wk, 52 wks/yr, effective 11/19/13.

McBride, Kim, Day Custodian, NPS, Compensation: \$20.34/hr, 40hrs/wk, 52 wks/yr, effective 11/19/13.

Laurie, Beth Ann, Night Custodian, NPS, Compensation: \$20.34/hr, 40hrs/wk, 52 wks/yr, effective 01/02/14.

Appointments – Winter Coaches NHS

Minetti, Jerry	Volunteer Boys Basketball	Stipend:	N/A
Franklin, Chris	Volunteer Boys Basketball	Stipend:	N/A
Donnelly, Pat	Volunteer Boys Hockey	Stipend:	N/A

Resignation –Coaches NHS

Gunnarson, Liv Assistant Indoor Track, effective immediately.

Soltysiak, Nicholas JV Volleyball Coach, effective December 04, 2013

Appointments – Winter Coaches NPS

Flint, John	Volunteer Girls Basketball	Stipend:	N/A
Carpenter, Cassie	Volunteer Girls Basketball	Stipend:	N/A

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 the Consent Agenda items (CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C). F. White /D. Nobles (5-0)

The Superintendent took a moment to acknowledge on the Routine Personnel Actions just approved. Doug Smith retired after 40 years and she wanted to publicly congratulate Mr. Smith and welcome him to come back in June to be officially recognized with the other retirees.

BUDGET REPORT Mr. White reported that as of November 30, 2013, \$8,567,202.52 of the FY14 Budget of \$27,380,216.00 has been expended. \$24,712,172.69 (90.26%) has been expended and encumbered.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. 2nd Reading of Revisions to High School Graduation Policy IV.C.2

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the revisions to High School Graduation Policy IV.C.2 D. Nobles/F. White (5/0)

2. Discussion of School Committee Goals
The Committee will review the School Committee goals and talk about them in more detail at the next meeting.

3. Bid Award - Wireless Classroom Initiative

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration to approve the Bid Award for Wireless Classroom Initiative Bid to Whaley Computer Associates in the amount of \$187,297.66

G. deWardener /K. Ranaldi (5/0)

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS

February 26, 2014 Regular Business Meeting -7:00 PM, Narragansett Town Hall, Assembly Area, Presentation of proposed FY 15 Budget

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. F. White/G. DeWardener (5/0)

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk