

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD March 5, 2014**

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 budget hearing was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at the Narragansett Town Hall, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE: Ms. Tammy McNeiece, Chairperson; Ms. Diane Nobles, Vice Chairperson; Mr. Frank White, Clerk; Mr. Guy de Wardener; and Mr. Keith Ranaldi (all present).

SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE: Ms. Katherine E. Sipala, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance & Administration; & Mr. David Correira, Director of Transportation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Town Manager Pamela Nolan and Director of Finance Laura Kenyon.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The School Committee Chair allowed Public Comment to be moved to first in the agenda. Town resident Karen Shabshelowitz (McGinley) addressed the Committee. She objected to the expansion of the Agriculture Department at NHS and objected to the Athletics Fields Project as well. She also complained about conflicting information from the Town Web page regarding the start time of tonight's SC meeting.

FISCAL 2015 BUDGET: Town manager Pamela Nolan and Town Finance Director Laura Kenyon explained the pension plan for funding the ARC over the next 2 years and its impact on the school and Town Budgets. School Department Finance & Administration, Karen Hagan explained the School Fund Balance and OPEB balance. Mr. Correira, Director of Transportation and Grounds, reviewed his original Capital Improvement requests which included a plow truck and a school bus. Both of these purchases were postponed to fiscal 2016 in the revised Capital Plan, due to the unexpected pension increase. The School Committee reviewed information provided on the NHS Family Consumer Science budget. The School Committee provided a consensus direction to the Superintendent to fund the full .3 FTE Teaching position in the Fiscal 2015 Budget and to also direct the NHS Principal and Guidance Director to offer the 3 courses to students as soon as possible as they complete their course selections sheets this month.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF GOALS: The School Committee discussed their 2011-12 goals. No changes were made to the goals.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS: Members asked questions of Karen Hagan and Katherine Sipala on particular line items in the Fiscal 2015 budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

White/de Wardener (5-0)

Respectfully submitted

Frank White, Clerk