

NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD on December 23, 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 Narragansett School Committee held a Special Meeting on December 23, 2014, at the Narragansett Town Hall, Administrative Offices, 3rd 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, and Karen Hagan, Director of Finance and Administration.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

OPEN FORUM: No one spoke.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

1. Use of donated funds for NCAC Project.
Discussion: The Committee discussed the option of using donated funds to hire the firm who will provide the Narragansett Community Athletic Complex Design & Construction Services. Ms. Sipala referred the Committee to an email response from David Ferrara, of Taft and McSally, the Town's Bond Council, dated December 18, 2014, in which he addresses the question "Can the School Committee award the bid for the architect without Town Council approval if donated funds will be designated to pay for the architect?"

Mr. Ranaldi questioned why this option was being discussed. Ms. Sipala responded that it would be "good financial practice" to pay for as much of the Athletic Complex project as possible with the bond money first, and that it would not be her recommendation to use the donated funds for this part of the project. Ms. Hagan agreed.

2. Bid Award: Narragansett Community Athletic Complex Design & Construction Services.
Discussion: Mr. deWardener read a written statement to the Committee regarding his vote for awarding the bid and how he came to his decision. He noted that the Gale Associates presentation and bid proposal was by far more professional and impressive than the others. Mr. deWardener felt that even with a \$35,000 higher bid, the benefits of using a company with far more experience than the other two firms outweighs the lower bid.

Ms. McNeiece wholeheartedly supports awarding the bid to Gale Associates and feels that they are the best suited of the three bidders to complete this project. She also felt that with Gale's vast experience comes the potential for lower costs from vendors on different aspects of the project.

Dr. Nobles agreed and would rank Gale Associates as her first choice and that they customized the proposal to Narragansett and were best prepared to start the project. Mr. White also felt that Gale had the best presentation.

Public Comment:

Mr. Dan Barry, of Barry & Associates, spoke to the Committee about the exceptional work that Gale has done and some of their projects that he has seen including Andover, MA and Bar Harbor, ME. He asked that the Committee not be penny wise and pound foolish.

Mr. Brian McNeiece spoke to the Committee about his vast experience in the construction industry and that Gale had a good set of plans and that a good general contractor could actually lead to savings during the course of the project. Mr. McNeiece wondered if they should risk the entire project over \$35,000 in extra cost.

Ms. Susan Buonnano, Town Council Member and Liaison to the School Committee, told the Committee that she would support whatever decision they made and that she too is interested in a “quality product”. She is confident that the School Committee will be thoughtful in their decision and understands the amount of fundraising and work they have put into the project.

MOTION: moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. deWardener to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration, that the Narragansett Town Council award the bid for the Narragansett Community Athletic Complex Design & Construction Services to Gale Associates, Inc. in the amount of One Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifteen dollars (\$173,715.00).

MOTION PASSES (4-1)

Tammy McNeiece-Aye Diane Nobles-Aye
Frank White-Aye Guy deWardener- Aye
Keith Ranaldi- Nay

MOTION: moved by Dr. Nobles, seconded by Mr. deWardener to direct the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration, to use donated funds from the NCACF campaign to pay the cost of the Narragansett Community Athletic Complex Design & Construction Services.

MOTION PASSES (3-2)

Tammy McNeiece-Aye Diane Nobles-Aye
Frank White-Nay Guy deWardener- Aye
Keith Ranaldi- Nay

- 3. Appointment of School Committee Member and an Alternate to the NCAC Building Committee

MOTION: to appoint School Committee Member Ms. McNeiece as the NCAC Building Committee Liaison and to appoint Mr. White as the NCAC Building Committee Liaison alternate.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Tammy McNeiece-Aye Diane Nobles-Aye
Frank White-Aye Guy deWardener- Aye
Keith Ranaldi- Aye

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk