

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD January 21, 2015**

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 January 21, 2015, 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. Guy deWardener, Mr. Frank White and Mr. Keith Ranaldi.

OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE: Ms. Katherine Sipala, Superintendent; Ms. Karen Hagen, Director of Finance and Administration; Mr. Dan Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School; and Mr. David Correira, Director of Transportation.

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

SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2015 MEETING:

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White to seal the Executive Session Minutes of January 21, 2015.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES. There were two votes: Request for Home Schooling (Approved 5/0); and a Request for Non-Resident Student Attendance (Approved 5/0).

OPEN FORUM: No one spoke.

SHOWCASE: Ms. Kirby introduced Ms. Vanessa Miller, and 3 Pier School students for a Narragansett Pier Middle School Robotics demonstration. The Brainstorms Robotics team explained their project about font and character sticks created to help dyslexic students to read. They plan to put the letters in a vector file to be able to put the letters to use. The robotic challenge was to work on programs. The Brainstorms came in 16th.

Discussion: Ms. McNeiece proposed a change in order to hear the School Committee Business as the next item.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approval of Narragansett High School Program of Studies for 2015-16 School Year

MOTION: moved by Dr. Nobles, seconded by Mr. deWardener, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Narragansett High School Program of Studies for 2015-16 School Year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Mr. Warner reported that on January 13th, Chris Matteson, from the RI Manufacturers Association, came to NHS to speak with students about a new program offering National Certificates and paid internships to interested students.

On January 16th the Narragansett High School Student Ambassadors hosted a tour of the High school for prospective NPS students. NHS student athlete and Senior Dan Doyle hit the 1000 point mark in basketball.

2. Approval of Request for Sabbatical

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Request for a Sabbatical from August 31, 2015 through January 22, 2016.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion:

Ms. Sipala explained that she would like to make the recommendation with the consideration of the budget for the final approval. Ms. McNeiece asked Ms. Sipala to explain to the Committee the cost of such an endeavor. Ms. Sipala explained that the district would pay the teacher 1/2 of salary for 1/2 school year as well as the cost of a long term substitute teacher. Mr. Ranaldi suggested that the Committee consider a full year sabbatical. Ms. McNeiece commented that she was comfortable considering a 6 month term.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

ORAL REPORTS:

1. School Committee

Mr. White attended the Parks & Recreation Meeting and informed the Committee about beach erosion and sustainability.

Mr. Ranaldi reported that the next Health & Wellness Committee meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2015. The last meeting of the Health and Wellness Committee was held on December 8th. Mr. Ranaldi also reported that a South Kingstown School Department Physical Education teacher incorporated yoga in her curriculum. He was excited about what that meant for the future. Mr. Ranaldi thanked the Committee, School Department and community for the supporting his family in the passing of his grandfather.

Ms. McNeiece asked the Committee their preference with regard to School Administrators attendance at meetings. Would they prefer that they attend each monthly meeting versus providing written reports? Mr. Ranaldi prefers that the Principals and Administrators be present at the meetings. (Principals or Assistant Principals.) Mr. White suggested that they attend every other meeting as it can sometimes make the meetings very lengthy when the Committee engages in "questions and answers". Mr. deWardener agreed that every other month be preferable. Ms. Sipala reminded Ms. McNeiece that, at her request, Principals chose future meetings for Showcase opportunities. Mr. Ranaldi would like to see the Showcases at each meetings. Ms. McNeiece was concerned about the considerable length of some of the previous guest speakers and hoped that they could be limited in length of presentation. Mr. deWardener agreed and offered that the Committee questions often times contribute to the length of meetings.

2. Superintendent

Ms. Sipala reported on a few items from the last Town Council meeting. She referred the Committee to the letter from Police Chief Dean Hoxsie and a Memorandum from the Town Manager regarding the school bus & intersection monitoring cameras. Ms. Sipala informed the Committee that there is an issue on one bus on Point Judith Road. There is a person who has provided video to Mr. Correira, Director of Transportation and the Town Manager. Several years ago we looked at the possibility of putting cameras on buses but there wasn't a need across Town to do that. There would be an advantage to a camera on this particular bus. This would have to be

done in conjunction with the placement of cameras at 4 intersections. Ms. McNeiece offered that if the Town Council doesn't agree to cameras at traffic lights, then it is not something they need to discuss as it would require cameras on the bus and at the intersections.

Ms. Sipala asked that the Committee to please review the revised Budget Calendar included in their packet. This is a revised Budget Schedule. The Town Hearing will be held on April 13th.

Ms. Sipala reported that at the last Town Council Meeting, Ms. Susan Buonanno and Mr. Ray Ranaldi were appointed as the School Committee liaisons. It was also determined that they will conduct brief interviews next week to speak with the candidates for the NCAC Committee. They plan to appoint the Committee on the following Monday. The first full NCAC Building Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd.

The Committee discussed the 2015-16 and 2016-17 School Calendars as well as the Survey results. The Committee is looking at several aspects of the calendar and school vacations. The results of the survey were reviewed and will be discussed at a future meeting. Ms. McNeiece asked if schools are allowed to add minutes to days and reduce # of days. Teachers and parents would be interested in a report and summary of the results of the survey and why the decisions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. December 17, 2014 Executive Session
 - B. December 17, 2014 Regular Business Meeting
 - C. December 23, 2014 Special Meeting

2. Routine Personnel Actions:

Resignations – Classified

Matuszek, Russell, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective December 29, 2014.

Holcombe, Jennifer, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective January 12, 2015.

Leave Extension

Fossa, Richard, Teacher Assistant, NHS, remainder of 2014-15 School year

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

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Consent Agenda items CA-1A, CA-1B, CA-1C CA-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

BUDGET REPORT Mr. White reported that as of December 31, 2014, \$11,497,288.98 (41.45%) of the FY14 Budget of \$27,738,098.00 has been expended, and \$25,497,294.44 (91.92%) has been expended and encumbered. As always, Mr. White asked that Ms. Hagan please try to squirrel away some of the money for the future.

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS

January 26, 2015	4:00 PM	Health & Wellness Committee, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3 rd Floor.
January 29, 2015	4:00 PM	Narragansett School System, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3 rd Floor.
February 2, 2015	5:00 PM	Capital Reserve Meeting, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3 rd Floor.
February 3, 2015	4:30 PM	First Meeting of the NCAC Building Committee
February 11, 2015	7:00 PM	Regular School Committee Meeting, Town Hall, Assembly Room, 25 Fifth Avenue.

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White, to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk