

NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD March 4, 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 budget hearing was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, 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 DeWardener; and Mr. Keith Ranaldi.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE: Ms. Katherine Sipala, Superintendent; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance and Administration; Mr. Dan Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School; Mr. Toby Gibbons, Assistant Principal Narragansett High School; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School; Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal, Narragansett Elementary School; Ms. Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development; and Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

FISCAL 2015 BUDGET: Ms. McNeiece explained that while the public comment usually is accepted at the end of the meeting, if anyone had a question the Committee will take questions after each topic.

CURRICULUM Ms. Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, explained her budget requests to the Committee. The conferences line has a \$1200. Increase to be used for coaches to attend conferences, possibly sending Math Coaches to the NCTM National Math Conference. Ms. McNeiece noted that there is a decrease in the Curriculum budget due to less subs being needed for PD next year.

STUDENT SERVICES-SPECIAL EDUCATION Ms. Sipala directed the Committee to turn to the section in the binders that reflect the requested Special Education budget. Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services, explained that the largest portion of the budget is reflected in the out-of-district tuitions. We also have seen a decrease in Federal Funds. Ms. Hagan explained how the grant funds are dispersed. Ms. Sipala spoke about the increase in # of tuitions. Mr. Ranaldi asked about the post grad student services and collaborating with other districts to bring options to the table. Ms. McNeiece asked Ms. Brow if there was anything that she cut that she could have used that she didn't include in her budget. Ms. Brow feels that the only thing that is not in the budget that she would like to have is more money for professional development.

NARRAGANSETT HIGH SCHOOL Mr. Dan Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School, presented his budget to the Committee. Mr. Warner explained his desire to have funds for public relations added to his to include leadership, supplies, etc.. Ms. McNeiece asked that Mr. Warner prepare a detailed explanation of line items for the Committee for this idea outlining what this would entail. The Committee requested that the formulation of a Media/Public Relations sub Committee be added to the March 18th Agenda so that they can start to formulate a plan. Mr. Warner also explained that the High School would like to increase the hours of the athletic trainer from 20 hours to 30 hours per week. Ms. McNeiece asked about afterschool support. One teacher stays after school one night a week for each of the 4 core subjects.

NARRAGANSETT PIER MIDDLE SCHOOL Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School, explained to the Committee her .29% increase in the budget this year. Ms. Kirby mentioned the coaches and their work in the Common Core, in classrooms working side-by-side with students, applying the techniques. The increase reflects resources needed to support the implementation of the Common Core by working out a cycle of purchases. For this year, it will be 6th & 8th grade in Math and purchases in 5th & 7th grade for ELA. Ms. Kirby answered questions about the Social Worker and the services that she provides and that the position is currently a part-time position. Mr. Ranaldi wants to make sure that the Social Worker is offering supports in the mental health realm.

NARRAGANSETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal, Narragansett Elementary School commented that she has had many requests for tours of the Elementary school as parents now have choices to attend Charter Schools and local private schools for Kindergarten. Ms. Dandurand was happy to report that she has a very small decrease this year. Ms. Dandurand has included funds to purchase Common Core support materials. The rest of the cuts are in classroom teachers. There will be a second grade teacher and a Kindergarten teacher cut. Ms. McNeiece asked about the behavior specialist position and if was sufficient as a part-time position.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS ON LINE ITEM BUDGET:

Members asked questions of Ms. Hagan and Superintendent Sipala on particular line items in the Fiscal 2015 budget. Mr. Ranaldi asked about similar sized schools and the Administrative supports, specifically Assistant Principals. Ms. McNeiece is supportive of a Principal and Assistant Principal “model”. Ms. Sipala suggested that it would be an interesting discussion for the future about the possibilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NO ONE SPOKE.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Ranaldi/Nobles (5-0)

Respectfully submitted

Frank White, Clerk