

# NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD May 20, 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 May 20, 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. (all present)

**OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Katherine Sipala, Superintendent; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance and Administration; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School; Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal, Narragansett Elementary School; Mr. Dan Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School; Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services; Mr. David Correia, Director of Transportation and Mr. Gary Minett, Director of Maintenance.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

### **SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of May 20, 2015**

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Dr. Nobles, to seal the minutes of the May 20, 2015 Executive Session.

**MOTION PASSED:** (5-0).

### **REPORT EXEC VOTES**

Motion to approve the District Safety Plan

**MOTION PASSED:** (5/0).

**OPEN FORUM:** No one spoke.

**STUDENT SHOWCASE:** Narragansett Elementary School –Digital Literacy. Ms. Dandurand Principal, Narragansett Elementary School, introduced Ms. Leah Mitchell, Grade 2 teacher, Ms. Carol Prest Grade 4 teacher, and Mr. Brien Jennings, Library/Media Specialist, along with several students to showcase various student projects.

### **ORAL REPORTS**

#### **I. School Committee:**

Mr. deWardener reported on the High School Agri-Science Building Extension/Building Committee meetings. It is an ongoing process with the Committee going over the plans with Torrado and identifying add/delete alternatives. The next meeting with Torrado is on Friday at 10:30AM. Mr. Minett informed the Committee that the time line to date is: get the bids out on June 1<sup>st</sup>; pre-bid on June 9<sup>th</sup>; bids close on June 19<sup>th</sup>; project to break ground after June 25<sup>th</sup>; project to be completed by the end of October 2015, or early November. Members of this Building Committee include: Dan Warner, Bill Lyons, Tom Hoagland, Ryan Kanazcet, Greg Breene, Kathy Sipala, and Karen Hagan. Ms. Sipala, Ms. Hagan and Mr. Warner met with Mr. Paul McConnell of RIDE to review specifics of the program, including: an Application Package; Admissions Procedures; and setting tuition. Ms. Sipala explained to the School Committee that there are now Perkins Grants that are given to our region as well as Categorical Aid now available for the agriculture program. This has tremendous potential for revenue.

Mr. White reported on the recent Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting held on Monday, which he did not attend due to teacher negotiations. He informed the Committee that the cabanas are complete and ready for occupancy.

Mr. Ranaldi reported on the NPS Track & Field State meet. The Girls' track team was 1st in Southern Division Championship and finished third in the States. The Boys' track team finished second in the Southern Division Championship and 7<sup>th</sup> in the State.

Ms. McNeiece asked Ms. Sipala to report on the Town Council Meeting with regard to the appearance of David Abbott, the Attorney from RIDE, to explain to the Town Council about the RIGL regarding the Maintenance of Effort. Ms. Sipala informed the Committee that a Workshop has been scheduled between the School Committee and the Town Council for next Tuesday, June 2, 2015, to discuss what this means and the impact on the school budget.

Mr. deWardener read aloud a letter that he had written the Town Council regarding the Maintenance of Effort clause situation. He said it was a shock and that use of the statute, as it is being interpreted, just is not the way to go. He went on to publicly thank the Town Council for their support and explained that in the past 6 years, except for 3 years, they have been level funded, which is essentially a cut in the budget. He noted that while the School Department has been level funded, expenses continue to increase and the Committee has to work to plug holes with the funds that are available. The costs of health insurance, retirement contributions, supplies, and all of the other costs associated with running the School Department continue to increase and this level funding is essentially a decrease in funding. He pointed out that while his taxes keep going up, the school department keeps getting level funded. They ought to look somewhere else to plug the holes.

Mr. White had a remark on the \$5 million dollars per year and then went on to highest municipal expenses in the area. In Narragansett it is \$1800 per person; in South Kingstown the cost in taxes is \$1100 per person; and in North Kingstown it is \$800 per person. The problem lies with the municipal side of the budget, not with the schools' side. People come here for the beaches, which are self-supporting, and the schools, not the highway department.

Ms. McNeiece reiterated that the level funding is in affect a substantial budget cut, and that while we are working at tuitioning-in students, this is an inopportune time for this type of cut.

Dr. Nobles informed the Committee that the percentage of the tax dollar that goes to the schools is one of the lowest in the state at .51 on the dollar. Mr. White informed the Committee that the South Kingstown cost for school is .78 on the dollar.

Mrs. Sipala wanted to remind the public that the School Department is delivering an exceptional product as evidenced by the students here tonight and informed the Committee that the Town Departments budget is up by 8.15% and the total Town budget is up by 4.32% - which reflects level funding for the School Department.

## 2. School Reports:

### Narragansett Pier School

Ms. Kirby, Principal of the Narragansett Pier School, reported that a Gallery Night Reception is planned by the RI Alliance of Arts Educators who have selected NSS as the recipient of the 2015 Gift of Art award. Pier School Students Tate Costa, Jose Davis, Joshua Hanby and Paige Martone will be honored. Three students have been chosen to give their art to the state of RI and their work become part of the URI Providence Campus permanent art collection. They are Krystal Flint, Charlotte McNeal and Rebecca Landry.

Also at NPS, Grades 6, 7 and 8 chorus will be attending the annual Great East Festival on Friday May 22 and she wished them luck; on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a National Junior Honor Society Induction ceremony at the Pier School at 7:00; NES current grade 4 students will visit the Pier School on either Monday June 1 or Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> to meet teachers, tour the school, and join current grade 5 students for lunch; there will be a 4th grade parent night on Wednesday, June 3rd at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria; the annual NPS Talent Show is slated for Friday, June 5 in the NHS auditorium; the Booster's Ice Cream Social is on Tuesday, June 9 at 5:30 in the NPS cafeteria; Grade 8 Promotion Dance will take place on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at the Towers and the promotion ceremony is Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 am.

Ms. Kirby congratulated the Pier School track teams. The Girls' track team was 1<sup>st</sup> in Southern Division Championship and finished third in the States. The Boys' track team finished second in the Southern Division Championship and 7th in the State – another great season for the Pier School track team. The NPS baseball and softball teams are still in season.

Mr. White pointed out that 8 students will be attending the National History Day competition in Maryland in mid-June.

Narragansett High School Mr. Dan Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School, reported that at the High School they recently had the Italy trip, Honor Society Inductions, and the final Blood Drive of the year. Also, the Jr. Prom took place at Amalfi. They are finishing PARCC make-ups; AP testing is ongoing; and today was the last day for Junior Science NECAP testing. Upcoming events include: a Quebec City field trip; Junior Book Awards, this Friday; Senior Project Presentations; for the first time the Athletic Banquet will be held at the Dunes Club; on June 8<sup>th</sup> the Senior Prom will also take place at the Dunes Club; on June 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Academic Awards Banquet will be held at Quidnessett Country Club; and finally, NHS Graduation will take place on June 11 at the Ryan Center. Students continue to come through from Jamestown to tour the school. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale took place this week. In his closing remarks, Mr. Warner informed the viewing audience that the Narragansett School System is a model for other schools around the state

Ms. Sipala also mentioned that on Saturday the NHS Envirothon Club team, led by NHS teacher Eric Zabel, won first place in the state championship. These students will go on to represent Narragansett in the National Championships in Missouri in July.

Student Services/Special Education: Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services, wanted to echo what Mr. Warner and Ms. Kirby said that Narragansett is a model for other schools around the state. She also reported that they have spoken with Jamestown parents of children with disabilities considering coming in from Jamestown, and that it was due in large part to the fact that our staff in Narragansett does a very good job with inclusion and supporting all students. She also reported that Narragansett staff was highlighted at a National Transition Conference that she recently attended in North Carolina at which they focused on Transition and Self-Advocacy. There will be a group of staff members, including Jane Flood, Karen Festa, Mary Boyle and Caitlyn Majeika, presenting at the Association of RI Administrators of Special Education. They will be highlighting the use of digital literacy and expanding this to all students to access the curriculum. Ms. Brow and Ms. Cagnon will be presenting at URI's Summer Digital Literacy Institute showcasing the different technologies.

3. Superintendent: Ms. Sipala thanked the Committee for their support and comments around the school budget process. She also requested that the Committee plan to meet on May 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss: the appointment for a new Technology position, a re-designed position at NES following the retirement of a staff member; the use of any surplus dollars from the current fiscal year; transportation profile for next year if we go to statewide for some of the student transportation out of District; the Health care working rate; and anything that we do not complete tonight that we can carry over to May 27<sup>th</sup>. A packet will go out Tuesday, or can be hand delivered while they are here on Tuesday for the meeting with the Town Council.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

### 1. Approval of Minutes:

- A. April 15, 2015 Regular Business Meeting
- B. May 6, 2015 Executive Session-Limited Distribution
- C. May 6, 2015 Special Meeting

### 2. Routine Personnel Actions:

#### Non-renewal – Administration

Daley, Nancy, Director of Curriculum and Professional Development, District, effective June 30, 2015.

#### Retirements – Certified

Batchelder, Carol, Enrichment Teacher, NES

Blumenbaum, Cheryl, Grade 2 Teacher, NES

Grisevich, Judy, Grade 1 Teacher, NES

#### Resignation – Certified

Rickoff, Alexandra, Theater Director, NPS/NHS, effective May 11, 2015.

#### Resignation – Classified

Bowron, Robert, Bus Monitor, Trans, effective March 9, 2015.

#### Appointments – Classified

Murphy, Mark, Bus Monitor, Transportation, Compensation: \$10.61/hr, 20 hrs/wk, 36 wks/yr, effective April 27, 2015.

Leave Extension

Good, Stephanie, 0.25 Math, NPS, for the 2015-16 School year

3. Reports:

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

**MOTION:** moved by Dr. Nobles, 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 May 20, 2015, \$19,825,063.93 (71.47%) of the FY15 Budget of \$27,738,098.00 has been expended, and \$26,034,913.27 (93.86%) has been expended and encumbered. Mr. White is counting on Ms. Hagan to work on saving some of that.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

1. Approval of NESP/NEARI Support Staff Contract 2015-18

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the NESP/NEARI Support Staff Contract 2015-18.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

2. Approval of Bid Award for Gym Floor Refinishing

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration to award the Bid Award for Gym Floor Refinishing to O'Keefe Building Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$11,334.00.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

3. Approval of Bid Award for Fire Equipment Services

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration to award the Bid for Fire Equipment Services to PowerComm Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$9,000.00 for 3 years.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

4. Approval of the Purchase of DELL Chrome Books

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. deWardener, seconded by Dr. Nobles to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration to approve the purchase of 24 DELL Chromebooks from DELL in the amount of \$7,871.52 and the purchase of a Chromebook cart from EarthWalk Communications in the amount of \$2,234.00, for a total purchase of \$10,105.52.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

5. Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana in Rhode Island

**MOTION:** moved by Dr. Nobles, seconded by Mr. White to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana in Rhode Island.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

6. Affirmation of Job Placement Transfers

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to Affirm the Job Placement Transfers.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

7. Non-Renewal of Certified Staff

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent for the Non-Renewal of Certified Staff.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

8. Second Reading of Policy V.C.1.a. Bullying/Cyberbullying

**MOTION to TABLE:** moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to TABLE until the June 17, 2015 meeting.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

9. Second Reading of Policy IV.2.B. Internet Safety Policy

MOTION to TABLE: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to TABLE until the June 17, 2015 meeting.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS

May 27, 2015 Special Meeting School Committee, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Town Hall.

July 17, 2015 7:00PM School Committee Special Meeting, 25 Fifth Avenue, Town Hall.

MOTION: to adjourn at 9:38 PM, moved by Mr. Nobles seconded Mr. DeWardener. (5/0)

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk