

## NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD September 16, 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 September 16, 2015, at the Narragansett Town Hall, Assembly Area, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Tammy McNeiece, Dr. Diane Nobles, Mr. Frank White, Mr. Guy deWardener and Mr. Keith Ranaldi.

**OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Katherine Sipala, Superintendent; Ms. Karen Hagan, Director of Finance and Administration; Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School; Mr. Toby Gibbons, Assistant Principal, Narragansett High School; Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services; and Mr. David Correia, Director of Transportation & Grounds.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

### **SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of September 16, 2015**

**MOTION:** moved by Mr. Keith Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White, to seal the minutes of the September 16, 2015 Executive Session.

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

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION VOTES:** There were 2 Homeschool requests approved. (5-0)

**OPEN FORUM:** No one spoke.

### **ORAL REPORTS:**

#### **School Committee Reports:**

Mr. deWardener informed the Committee about the NHS PTO meeting at which plans were discussed for a “Pink Out” in October supporting Breast Cancer Awareness. They will sell t-shirts for \$12. Each. Mr. deWardener asked if a representative from the NCAC Committee could give updates on the progress of the project, specifically the time lines and whether or not the football team might play on the new field this season. Mr. deWardener asked about the Girl’s Hockey fund raiser and where the team was with regard to funding. Ms. Sipala explained the Committee approved the funding of a coach last year.

#### **School Reports:**

Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal Narragansett Pier School, reported that the annual Open House is September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM beginning in the school gym and then parents will follow their child’s schedule. The late bus will begin Monday, September 21 with the start of the after school programs including the Homework club and Enrichment.

The Welcome Back Dance for grades 7 and 8 is Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> in the school cafeteria and that same night parents are invited to attend the presentation by Matt Bellace in the high school auditorium. Grades 7 and 8 students will participate in the presentation earlier in the day. He is a motivational speaker who according to his website has “a positive, science-based and seriously entertaining approach to substance abuse prevention.”

The first PTO meeting is Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> in the media center; School pictures are Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and the fall book fair is scheduled for October 21 – 23<sup>rd</sup>.

New staff at NPS this year includes Colin Hoyle, who studied Criminal Justice at Northeastern University and later returned to school to get his teaching certification at Providence College. He did his student teaching at Narragansett – in fact he is a Marnier Alumnus. He then taught mathematics in Portsmouth, Virginia at Churchland High School from 2011 -2015. And now he is home – back to Narragansett as our grade 7/8 mathematics teacher.

Bridget Keane studied English and Journalism at UNH and had a career as a journalist, an editor and a development writer before returning to school herself to get a Masters of Art in Secondary Education and subsequent teacher certification. She then taught at Archie R. Cole Middle School for several years and is returning to teaching after sending her youngest to NES. Bridget is our grade 7/8 reading writing teacher. NPS also welcomes to Kim Demers from NES.

**Mr. Toby Gibbons, Assistant Principal, Narragansett High School**, reported that they have had a superior start at the high school. 9th graders and new students are adjusting nicely to the flow and pace of the day.

While Marcus Schroeter continues to deal with some health concerns, we have hired Michael Sackett to teach for the first semester. He is in correspondence with Marcus weekly to aid in the coursework and to make sure it will be a smooth return for Marcus.

AnnMarie Zaborski has accepted a position with the Narragansett Elementary School, so we also worked to find a long term replacement for her position. We are happy to say we have hired a NHS alum, Mario Forte, for the remainder of the academic year. Mr. Forte has been teaching in Providence Schools for the past few years and is excited about coming home and we are excited to welcome him.

NHS is currently holding the Annual Mums Sale. Mums can be picked up anytime from Mr. Breene, Mrs. Ashworth or in the Main Office. Today NHS completed over 50% of MAP testing. On Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Media Center is the first PTO Meeting of the school year. Seniors are required to attend their appointment with Lifetouch for their Senior Photo. Photos will be taken after school from 2- 8 pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Appointments were made over the summer for the seniors. Lifetouch will be back on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, for all underclassmen photos. On Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be a meeting for 9th and 12th grade parents hosted by our guidance staff. On Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> the Fall Open House will take place starting at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Sipala gave the school report in Ms. Gail Dandurand's absence, and reported that: Grade 2 Parent Night, September 17, 6pm – 7pm in the Grade 2 classrooms; and Grade 3 Parent Night, September 25, 6pm – 7pm in the Grade 3 classrooms. The first NES PTO Meeting is taking place tonight (September 16<sup>th</sup>), 7pm – 9pm at the Bike Stop Cafe, 148 Boon Street, Narragansett, RI. The PTO's Scholastic Book Fair will run from September 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 3:30pm. Ms. AnnMarie Zaborski, former teacher at NHS, has accepted a position with the Narragansett Elementary School as Assistant Principal, taking the place of Lisa Wilson for the 2015-16 school year.

**Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services**, reported that the first Parent Advisory Committee Meeting held last week focused on digital literacy. Speech and language teachers Mary Patty and Jane Flood presented.

Teachers from the Special Education Department have been invited to speak at the Technology Innovation Power by Technology Conference on October 17th in Providence.

On November 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM teachers from the Special Education Department have also been invited to speak at a Community Provider Network meeting with information for parents about setting up trusts for students with special needs and preparing for them to sustain their financial future. This SELAC meeting will take place at the Pier School Library/Media Center.

### Superintendent's Report:

The Superintendent discussed the 2015-16 and the 2016-17 calendars. Ms. Sipala is looking towards a change in February vacation as many other districts have shortened that school vacation to a long weekend. The next year will be especially difficult with the Election and Primary days off while also allowing for potential weather related cancellations. Ms. Sipala had discussion with two families about the concerns about the Jewish holiday. She was able to tell them that the absence would not count as an absence and that there would be no significant work missed on those two days.

Ms. McNeiece asked about another survey monkey going out strictly related to the February vacation. Mr. Ranaldi indicated that he didn't think that another survey would be warranted. After discussion amongst the Committee, it was decided to send a survey monkey for input from parents. Ms. Kirby said that she would help with the survey and that it would go out to parents and staff.

Ms. McNeiece asked about a survey regarding December 23<sup>rd</sup> as well as the start of school, whether it be before or after Labor Day. Ms. McNeiece also asked about having to close the school if it is not being used as a polling place. Ms. Sipala informed her that it was based on RI Legislation that was enacted many years ago that require all schools are required to be closed on Election Day.

Ms. Renee Reis, newly appointed teacher in the District, asked about the cleaning of schools during February vacation—while the schools are closed and whether it is a health concern and necessary to be cleaned. Ms. Reis wondered if there was any supporting studies that reveal that it is beneficial to students and staff. Ms. Sipala said there was no supporting documentation to her knowledge.

Ms. Sipala reported that the NCAC Committee meets every 2 weeks on a Monday at 4PM in the NHS Library. In general lots of progress is being made. One of the largest conversations of late is regarding the pile of soil/loom on the site. There is much more dirt than had ever been anticipated. There are plans in the works to sell it and have it removed. Prospect Street residents have had concerns and as a temporary fix the contractor is looking at a “spray” to hold down what is currently there. Ms. Sipala will be in touch with the Condo Association who have voiced their concerns. Any and all proceeds from the sale of the soil will go back in to the project to offset the costs.

Ms. McNeiece asked about the parking during the project and Mr. Gibbons reported that there is NO problem with the parking at NHS and that there are actually open parking spaces available. There will be future discussions about the scoreboard and other naming rights donations.

Ms. Sipala referred to a letter of intent to Mr. Joe daSilva at RIDE regarding reimbursement for the greenhouse project and all indications are that there is a strong possibility for reimbursement.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. August 26, 2015 Executive Session
  - D. August 26, 2015 Regular Meeting

2. Routine Personnel Actions:

##### Appointments – Administrator

Zaborski, Ann Marie, Assistant Principal, NES, Compensation Step 10 masters plus Stipend \$5,000.00, effective for the 2015-16 school year.

##### Appointments – Certified

Forte, Mario, I.O Social Studies, NHS, Compensation Step 5, effective September 14, 2015 temporary 1 year only.

##### Appointments – Other

Greene, Matthew, Theater Director, NHS, Compensation: \$8,000, effective for the 2015-16 school year.

##### Appointments – Coaches NPS

Anderson, Jeff                      Boys Soccer Coach                      Stipend: \$1443.10

##### Appointments – Other

Dr. Donna Haggerty, School Dentist, \$1.00 per student examined, effective September 2015.

Dr. Robert D. Maltz, School Physician \$5000.00 per year plus \$2.00 for every physical exam administered, effective September 2015.

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-2, CA-3A, CA-3B, CA-3C.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**BUDGET REPORT** Mr. White reported that as of August 31, 2015, \$3,629,377.66 (12.26%) of the FY16 Budget of \$29,596,917.00 was been expended, and \$25,389,237.90 (85.78%) has been expended and encumbered.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

1. Approval of Purchase of a School Bus

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Director of Finance and Administration, and the Director of Transportation and Grounds, to approve the purchase of a bus.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

2. Approval of NEA Teacher Contract 2015-18

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration, to approve the NEA Teacher Contract 2015-18.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS**

October 21, 2015 Regular Business Meeting –7:00 pm Narragansett Town Hall, Assembly Area

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:18 PM, moved by Mr. deWardener, seconded by Mr. White

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk