

NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD February 11, 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 February 11, 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 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. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services; Mr. Roland Lambert, Director of Technology; Mr. David Correira, Director of Transportation; Mr. Gary Minett, Director of Maintenance and Operations; and Ms. Nancy Daley, Director of Curriculum.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2015 MEETING:

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. deWardener to seal the Executive Session Minutes of February 11, 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. No votes were taken.

OPEN FORUM: No one spoke.

ORAL REPORTS

School Committee:

Mr. White reported that there was no Parks & Recreation Meeting this month.

Mr. deWardener reported on the Building and Grounds Committee Meeting at which they discussed the new NCAC Building Committee, the status of Agriculture Program at NHS, and they reviewed the Capital Plan were discussed.

Mr. Ranaldi reported that the Health and Wellness Committee meeting was postponed to March 9th due to the weather. Mr. Ranaldi also reported that recently a Health and Wellness Committee Member helped to access a grant \$3,750.00 through the New England Dairy Council to help with the Grab and Go breakfast programs at all three schools.

Ms. McNeiece reported on the Capital Reserve Committee meeting that she attended the along with Mr. deWardner; Ms. Sharon McGreen, the appointed resident member; Ms. Sipala and Ms. Hagan. At that meeting they discussed the Capital Projected Budget. Ms. McNeiece also reported on the first NCAC (Narragansett Community Athletic Complex) meeting held last week. She described it as "a robust 3 hour discussion" at which lots of ideas were vetted and no definitive decisions were made. Ms. McNeiece wanted to clarify a recent quote in the paper that lead a resident to believe that she was not in favor of restrooms at the new facility. There was some confusion about her comment on the restrooms and she wants to be clear that she supports restrooms at

the facility and that the comment was taken out of context, as she was referring to her concern at this phase of the project and also that there are legal requirements about restrooms relating to seating, and that is included in the plan.

I. School Reports:

Narragansett Elementary School

Ms. Gail Dandurand, Principal of the Narragansett Elementary School wished everyone a happy “100th” day of school. Narragansett Elementary School. Last week the Ladies Choice dance was held with a Disney’s “Frozen” theme which included a visit from 2 of the “Frozen” princesses, a DJ who played the music, a raffle and refreshments. This week, 4th Graders participated in NAPE testing, a Nation-wide test given to those chosen (we have been for the last 9 years); the Winter Concert was held last week which included the strings, directed by Ms. Emily Chen, and the band and chorus, directed by Mr. Andrea. School Committee member Frank White attended and provided a wonderful photo portfolio of the event. Tomorrow, NES will host a Community Science Walk which Administrators, teachers, scientists, and GEMSnet staff will participate in by observing science lessons in classrooms and then discussing their observations. Plans are underway for the Annual Evening Art Show which this year will include grades K-4 as well as the musical concert. Past Art Shows have only included grades 3 & 4. Student art will be framed, mounted and displayed, and will be available for purchase at the end of the evening. Math Data digs group is meeting and currently looking at grade 4 protocol, it is done for each grade level.

Narragansett Pier School

Ms. Marianne Kirby, Principal, Narragansett Pier School, announced that Job Shadow days was held Tuesday after being re-scheduled due to weather. Students and many businesses participated and it was very successful. The Physical Education Department will once again sponsor the Hoops for Heart will take place on March 5th from 2:30 – 4PM and will raise funds for the American Heart Association. The Music Department will be sponsoring a dance on February 27th, and today teachers from the Feinstein Middle school are at NPS to demonstrate the Google platform to our staff. Google is great for collaborating and instant feedback from teachers. Ms. Sipala explained that the Google platform is a District initiative beginning in the next school year.

Narragansett High School

Mr. Dan Warner, Principal, Narragansett High School, reported on the last evening there was a portfolio informational night, hosted by John O’Brien, the Graduation by Proficiency coordinator at NHS. Last evening also marked the first official presentation to Jamestown parents and students which was very well received. Narragansett High School staff in attendance at this meeting included Mr. Warner, Athletic Director Dick Fossa, Guidance Department Head Steve Pinch, Guidance Counselor Kristen Manchester, Band Director Dan Healey director. The presentation was limited to 30 minutes, there were about 30 parents and students participating, and North Kingstown High School was also there to present and answer questions. Ms. McNeiece asked Mr. Warner if he would please have students, or staff, follow-up with each student shadow visit by sending a “thank you” note.

Mr. O’Brien working with Chris Maddison of the RI Manufacturing Association to target interested students to take part in the partnership out of school and in the manufacturing field. Students can earn credits at CCRI and RI College and also a stipend for a 60 hours paid internship. This is a great opportunity and alternative for students.

On February 25th RIDE will be making a site visit at the high school to observe and review in preparation for the initial approval of the request for Career and Technical Application for the certification of the proposed Agriculture Program. Ms. Sipala indicate that it will allow NHS to take in other students, outside of Narragansett, into this program. The new and improved building is being considered as part of the application process. Ms. Sipala wanted to reiterate that this Agriculture program is not a new one and has been run at NHS for the past 25 years. She noted that with the “certified program” status, we would be able to take other students into this program.

Last year, the engineering program “Stem Connect” began in collaboration with CCRI, led by Narragansett teacher Eric Gartner. A representative from CCRI made a site visit at NHS to evaluate the program. NHS received an “excellent” rating in each of the 10 standards and was noted as a model for other schools to follow. This program has been a great success in its first year. Mr. Warner also reported that there will be a Faculty vs Unified basketball team game on Friday.

Student Services/Special Education

Ms. Leslie Brow, Director of Student Services, reported that the application was accepted for Narragansett’s Special Education teachers and support staff to make a presentation at the Learning Alliance Conference to be held on Saturday, March 14th at Johnston High School. The presentation will highlight digital strategies and tools being used in classrooms to promote access, independence and inclusion. Staff has also collaborated with Renee Hobbs to create a blog post sharing the story of digital literacy use throughout the co-taught life skills science class at NHS. Ms. McNeiece asked to have the blog post link sent to the School Committee when it is approved and available.

Ms. Leslie Brow also mentioned that Paige Ramsdell, a Psychology intern at NHS, and a coordinator at the disabilities service center at URI, will speak at the next Parent Advisory Committee meeting to be held on March 10th. Ms. Ramsdell will discuss inclusion and advocacy for students entering college.

Superintendent: The Superintendent presented the FY2016 Budget via a power point presentation.

Ms. Sipala reported on the proposed FY2016 Budget and the future of Narragansett Schools which includes attracting tuitioned-in students to Narragansett to include Jamestown students, students into the new Career & Tech Certified Agriculture Program, and other tuitioned-in students into our schools.

Ms. Sipala ended her presentation by explaining that the future aligns with the Narragansett School System’s Design Strategic Plan which is “Recognizing and Supporting the Need for Continual Improvement”, which also includes the Narragansett Community Athletic Complex.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. January 21, 2015 Executive Session-Limited Distribution
 - B. January 21, 2015 Regular Business Meeting
 - C. January 29, 2015 Special Meeting, Executive Session-Limited Distribution

2. Routine Personnel Actions:
 - Resignations – Classified
Ferrucci, Michele, Secretary, NES, effective January 30, 2015.
 - Appointments – Classified
Logiodice, James, Bus Driver, Compensation: \$16.66/hr, 27.5 hrs/wk, 36 wks/yr, effective January 20, 2015.
 - Leave Request
Lovejoy, Sandra, 1.0 ELA, 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 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 January 31, 2015, \$13,648,634.96 (49.21%) of the FY15 Budget of \$27,738,098.00 has been expended, and \$25,497,294.44 (92.65%) has been expended and encumbered. Mr. White asked that Ms. Hagan to please try and squirrel away some of the money for the future.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approval of 2015-16 School Calendar

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the 2015-16 School Calendar.

2. Non-Renewal of Certified Staff

MOTION: to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the non-renewal of certified staff, seniority numbers 15-140 and 15-153.

COMMUNICATIONS

FUTURE MEETINGS/BUSINESS

February 25, 2015	7:00 PM	First Budget Workshop, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor.
March 2, 2015	6:00 PM	TENTATIVE Town Council/ School Committee, Capital Reserve Meeting
March 4, 2015	7:00 PM	Second Budget Workshop, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor.
March 11, 2015	7:00 PM	Third Budget Workshop, Administrative Offices, 25 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor.
March 18, 2015	7:00 PM	Regular School Committee Meeting, vote on FY16 Budget, Town Hall, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk