

**NARRAGANSETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD on May 27, 2015**

**ENCLOSURE
June 17, 2015
No. CA-1C**

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 Narragansett School Committee held a Special Meeting on May 27, 2015, at the Narragansett Town Hall, Administrative Offices, 3rd floor, 25 Fifth Avenue, Narragansett, Rhode Island.

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

OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE: Ms. Katherine E. Sipala, Superintendent of Schools; Karen Hagan, Director of Finance and Administration; David Correira, Director of Transportation; and Roland Lambert, Director of Technology.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. McNeiece called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

OPEN FORUM: No one spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Classified- Appointment

Robenhymmer, Michael, Technology Support Specialist, NES, Compensation \$48,000.

MOTION: moved by Mr. White, seconded by Mr. Ranaldi, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Consent Agenda item CA-1A

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

1. Use of 2014-15 (Fiscal '15) surplus.

Discussion: Ms. Sipala and Ms. Hagan discussed the potential surplus and what the uses for the surplus could be used for. Committee asked about whether there was a way to track the surplus better. Here may be additional fees for overages for the NCAC project as well as the fees paid out to the fundraiser (Barry & Associates).

Mr. Lambert explained the Lease situation to the Committee. The process is difficult and there is not alot of flexibility with the Lease.

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi; seconded by Mr. deWardner, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration, to approve the fund balance use as discussed.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

2. Transportation 2016:

Discussion: The Superintendent explained the progression of the evolution of the Transportation department's use of the statewide transportation option for some of the special education and homeless students that we are required to transport.

She reminded the Committee that we always strive for excellence in what we offer our students and families, but when necessary, we need to look at other options, that are acceptable and fiscally sound.

Ms. Hagan explained the spreadsheet which shows the costs of students and the savings of about \$10,000 per month. There would be savings realized in the retirement costs and insurance costs

Mr. Correira questioned the transportation for the private school students at the Prout School and Monsignor Clarke School. The Superintendent explained the breakdown of the particular schools that would continue transportation and those that will move to be transported by statewide transportation. Savings appear to be in the \$100,000 range and will also take 2 small and one large bus off the road. This could stretch the life of some of the other buses we have in our fleet.

Ms. McNeiece asked Mr. Correira about the Chariho route and what his reservation is about continuing that route. Mr. Ranaldi asked about the % of savings on the spreadsheet. Mr. White asked about the timeline to “sign up” for the transportation. (There is no deadline). Mr. Ranaldi indicates he is comfortable with supporting the elimination of busses 20 and 25 which would eliminate 2 bus drivers and an aid, as well as taking 2 small busses come off the road.

Ms. McNeiece asked about the possibility of charging the North Kingstown School Department for transporting those students to Chariho. Mr. Correira explained that currently Narragansett, Westerly, Cranston and Burriville are among the only Districts that still operate their own fleet of busses. Mr. DeWardener likes the hybrid approach.

3. Health Care Working Rate Information

Discussion: Hagan budgeted at 5% increase each year and the savings from the reduction of busses could cover the cost of this increase for the District. There were an abundance of claims and the rate hasn't changed (increased) in 5 years. Ms. Hagan reported that Blue Cross forecasts a 7% rate increase across the board. Ms. Hagan explained that the recommendation is to go up to 8%. This would realize an additional 3% increase to the 5% increase already approved by Committee, \$67,000 cost to district.

MOTION: moved by Mr. Ranaldi, seconded by Mr. White, to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and the Director of Finance and Administration, to increase the working rate share for the employee contribution of health care coverage an additional 3% to a total of 8%.

4. Reduction of Fiscal '16 Budget

The Superintendent asked the Committee to support their recommendation to cover the shortfall, from reduction by the Town Council of the budget, from the fund balance.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank White, Clerk