

To be approved 09/14/2004.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2004

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson David S. Gordon called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., David R. Carlin (arrived at 7:03 p.m.), Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Mary C. Canole, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D., Director of Special Education Linda Martin, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Judith M. Droitcour (absent), Business Manager Bruce Alexander, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan (absent), Coordinator of Human Resources and Information Services Fran Eames (absent), School Building Principals, Administrators, and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin (absent).

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Thomas W. Kelly:** who passed away on Saturday, August 7, 2004, at Newport Hospital. He served as a Member of the Newport School Committee during the mid-1990's, was the City Solicitor for the City of Newport from 1981 to 1983, and a Member of the Newport City Council from 1983-1985.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

[At approximately 7:03 p.m., Mr. Carlin arrived at the meeting.]

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

Student Council Update. Chairperson David S. Gordon stated that the incoming Student Council President Keelan Maguire would begin attending the Regular School Committee Meetings in September and would provide an update

on the Student Council activities planned for the coming academic year at that time.,

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. N/A.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 1, 2004.** No amendments were made.
- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 8, 2004.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 22, 2004.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, June 30, 2004.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, July 20, 2004.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 3, 2004.** At the request of Chairperson David S. Gordon, the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 3, 2004, were held for discussion.

[At approximately 7:06 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis arrived at the meeting.]

5.2

to

5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignation:

Ralph Liberatore, Dean, Thompson Middle School

Retirement:

Roland H. Hebert, Industrial Arts Teacher, Thompson Middle School

Leave of Absence: Endorsement.

Elizabeth Gibbs, Science Teacher, at Thompson Middle School, to participate in a three-week field study experience in Antarctica.

Appointments:

Nancy L. DaPonte-Easter, Principal, Underwood School

Mario Andrade, Assistant Principal, Rogers High School
Corey Greenhalgh, Music Teacher, K-12

Transfers:

There were no Requests for Transfer

5.6 Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees. There were no Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees.

5.7 Requests for Field Trips. There were no Requests for Field Trips.

5.8 Requests for Conferences/Workshops. There were no Requests for Conferences/Workshops.

5.9 Requests for Home Instruction. There was one Request for Home Instruction.

5.10 Fiscal Impact Analysis:

5.10.1 Consortium Student Information System (RINET SIS). No discussion followed.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, as presented, and to hold the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 3, 2004, for discussion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary requested that the Committee may wish to act on 7.1: Budget before consenting to the approval of the Personnel Actions. Dr. Canole reviewed the Personnel Actions before the Committee. Discussion followed. Public Input was received from T.A.N. Representative Jack Cykert. Dr. Barry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Chairperson David S. Gordon requested that the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 3, 2004, be amended as follows: to strike: at the top of Page 2: the word "being" and replace with the words "needing to be". Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 3, 2004, as amended. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion that the Committee commend Elizabeth Gibbs for her extraordinary efforts to bring meaningful experiences to her students. She extends herself by seeking opportunities for educational enrichment for her students and professional growth that enhances her performance in the classroom. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole read aloud the approved Personnel Actions dated August 10, 2004, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Teaching and Learning:

6.1.1 Opening of School Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole updated the Committee on the preparations during the summer for the Opening of School relative to: the success of summer intervention programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, commending Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Droitcour on their efforts; LCI Grant Palm Pilot Training for Teachers; Upcoming Retreats for Central Office, Systemwide Administrators, Grade Leaders, and Department Chairs; Back-to-School Celebration at Sullivan School on August 21, 2004, and coordination of programs within both the Special Education and Regular Education Departments.

6.2 Introduction to School Max—Student Information Management System. Coordinator of Technology Mitchell Williams introduced to the Committee the School Max—Student Information Management System and defined the implementation and timeline and goals and objectives of the System for Newport Public Schools. He highlighted the functions of the System: Student Management, Census, Student Attendance, Grade Reporting, iGrade Integrated Gradebook System, Student Scheduling, Special Education, iPlan Integrated System for IEP and AIS, Student Discipline, Student Health, Report Ordering, ReportMAX, Information Series, InfoDriver, InfoView, InfoLink, InfoClient, and InfoBrowser. Discussion followed relative to staff training, student confidentiality safeguards, and user accessibility of the system. Superintendent of Schools Mary C. Canole commended Mitchell Williams, Karen Ellis, and Doreen Schlackman for their extraordinary efforts in the implementation of this new system.

6.3 Superintendent 2004-2005 Performance Goals—Draft. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole reviewed with the Committee each of the nine Draft Superintendent 2004-2005 Performance Goals and stated that they were drafted in line with the 2004-2005 School Committee Goals. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Carlin, Dr. Canole defined Performance Standard No. 1. Dr. Canole requested that the Performance Goals be adopted at the Committee's September 14, 2004, Meeting, and that, in the meantime, recommended changes to the Draft Performance Goals should be forwarded to her attention prior to that Meeting. Chairperson David S. Gordon requested that a Workshop be held to review the Goals of both the Superintendent and School Committee to secure alignment.

6.4 Facilities and Lenthal School. At the request of Chairperson David S. Gordon, discussion followed relative to facilities and Lenthal School: the potential sale/proceeds of Lenthal School and the relocation of the kitchen

facilities. Chairperson Gordon requested that a Resolution addressing Facilities and Lenthal School be placed on the Committee's next agenda. Public Input was received from Pat Quinn reminding the Committee of the Resolution to use proceeds from the sale of Lenthal School to offset the Thompson Middle School Bond.

6.5 Public Information. At the request of Chairperson David S. Gordon, discussion followed relative to Public Information. Chairperson Gordon requested that administration forward all public documents to the Newport Public Library for public record. Mr. Carlin recommended that all public documents be placed on the website, as well. Chairperson Gordon requested that a Resolution addressing Public Information be placed on the Committee's next agenda.

6.6 Subcommittee Reports:

6.6.1 Aquidneck Island School Committee Improvement Network (AISCIN). Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole stated that the Aquidneck Island School Committee Improvement Network had no new business to report to date, but Middletown and Newport Schools were implementing several of the AISCIN Action Strategies.

6.6.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Mr. Leary stated that the next meeting of the Liaison Subcommittee had not been determined. He stated that Facilities and Lenthal School could be placed on the Subcommittee's next agenda.

6.6.3 Policy. Subcommittee Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines reviewed the work to date of the Policy Subcommittee. She stated that the Subcommittee had not met recently but that the Policy Manual would be updated in time for the start of school, inclusive of all Policies adopted during the 2003-2004 school year. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole indicated to the Committee that all parents and guardians would be receiving, through their school newsletter, the annual welcome back letter inclusive of the Policies for Promotion and Retention and Parent Involvement.

6.6.4 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines reviewed with the Committee the work to date of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees, inclusive of the Professional Development Program and an upcoming Negotiations Part Two Workshop. She indicated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees was communicating regularly to its membership through E-Mail.

6.6.5 School Committee/State Legislators. School Committee/State Legislators' Subcommittee Chairperson David Carlin stated that there was no new information to bring to the Committee at this time.

6.6.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Leary stated that the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force would be resuming their meetings again in mid-September, 2004.

6.6.7 Thompson Building Project:

6.6.7.1 City/School Citizens' Technical Advisory Task Force.

6.6.7.2 Budget Advisory Subcommittee

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole reviewed with the Committee the status to date of the Thompson Building Project: City/School Citizens' Technical Advisory Task Force and Budget Advisory Subcommittee Meeting, which would be meeting again on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, at 7 a.m. She indicated that the Task Force/Advisory Subcommittee should bring closure to the Thompson Building Project within the next month or two.

7.0 ACTION

7.1 Budget. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole reviewed with the Committee the Fiscal Year 2005 Education Aid Entitlements, as enacted by the General Assembly, and released on July 30, 2004, by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Dr. Canole reviewed with the Committee the analysis of the amounts contained in the approved School Committee 2004-2005 Budget and the final entitlements, stating that Newport Public Schools received \$2,164 more than anticipated. She also reviewed with the Committee information provided relative to addressing the 2004-2005 Budget Gap, inclusive of a copy of RIGL 16-2-21.4 School Budgets—Compliance with certain requirements and a compilation of options entitled "Next Steps in Addressing the 2004-2005 Budget Gap. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion that under the law to adopt the 2004-2005 Revenue Budget of \$35,013,786 and to work toward balancing expenditure accounts as Step One. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Carlin, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole defined the legality of the language in the motion to adopt the "Revenue" Budget. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole reviewed with the Committee information relative to addressing the "Next Steps in Addressing the 2004-2005 Budget Gap. She reviewed the RIGL 16-2-21.4 School Budgets—Compliance with certain requirements and a compilation of options entitled "Next Steps in Addressing the 2004-2005 Budget Gap. Dr. Canole stated that the Committee might want to meet with the City Council to request that they increase the School District's appropriation before requesting Waivers to state regulations to balance

the 2004-2005 Budget and engage the services of Auditors for the purpose of identifying items for Waiver Requests. Mr. Carlin requested that the Committee reduce the 2004-2005 Budget to reflect the Budget Gap without specifying line items. Business Manager Bruce Alexander stated that he would need to ask the City if a negative contingency line could be established. Dr. Canole cautioned the Committee against this request. Mr. Leary agreed with Mr. Carlin's position. Mrs. Gaines stated that our Budgets have been underfunded for years for the children in Newport. At the request of Mr. Phelan, Dr. Canole stated the Carulo Process may cost approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000. Chairperson David S. Gordon stated that Newport Public Schools has high costs in special education and benefits to be addressed. At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole, Mrs. Gaines made a motion for the School Committee to meet with the City Council. Dr. Barry seconded the motion. Discussion followed relative to adopting a motion to reduce the health care budget line to reduce the deficit. In response to Mr. Carlin, Dr. Canole indicated that the projected 2003-2004 Budget Deficit should be lower once the City completes their financial adjustments. Dr. Canole indicated that this figure may not become available until December, 2004. Discussion continued. Mr. Leary cited further budget line items could be revisited and possibly be decreased: utility custodians, nurses, health care, and conferences/workshops. Mr. Carlin suggested that a workshop be held to review Mr. Leary's suggestions. The motion carried (6-1). Those Members voting for the motion were: Chairperson David S. Gordon, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan. The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary.

- 7.2 Alternative Education Delivery: 2004-2005.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole updated the Committee on the pilot Alternative Education Delivery for the 2004-2005 school year. Discussion followed. She stated that there would be up to 12 students, two teachers, an equivalent of one FTE Teacher from the Newport Area Career and Technical Center, and one clerk to pilot the program and student enrollment would consist of some of our present out-of-district special education placements. At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to endorse a collaborative alternative education delivery model between Newport Public Schools and Middletown Public Schools. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis commended the School Department for establishing a first-time program of this type, which has been long overdue, and stated that this would provide an initial framework for future collaborative programs. Dr. Canole commended both the Newport and Middletown Teachers' Association for their cooperative efforts for assisting in the staffing of this new program. Chairperson David S. Gordon requested that a budget breakdown of the program should have been provided to the Committee before voting on this program. Discussion followed. Special Education Director Linda Martin spoke to the delivery of the program. Discussion continued. At the suggestion of Mr. Carlin, Mrs. Gaines amended

her motion to include the additional language of the recommended motion, as follows: "...which does not increase the 2004-2005 Budget and transfer \$200,000 from Special Education Account No. 710-984-32209-9371 to Alternative Learning Program Account No. 710-981-10104-9310." Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.3 National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS): Fall Conference—School Committee Representation. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole briefed the Committee on the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools' upcoming Fall Conference and stated that perhaps it could be an opportunity to lobby for additional funding. Discussion followed. Mr. Phelan stated he could not support School Committee Representation given the budgetary constraints of the district. Dr. Barry, Mrs. Gaines, Mr. DeAscentis, and Mr. Carlin stated their support for representation. Dr. Barry made a motion to nominate a School Committee representative to attend the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) Fall Conference, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Jo Eva Gaines. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Thomas S. Phelan, and Chairperson David S. Gordon. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole requested that the Committee recommend the name of a Member to represent the Committee at the Conference.

8.0 Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, and Damage Reports.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. There were no Expenditure and Revenue Reports this month. See Action Item No. 7.1: Budget.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. There were no Enrollment Reports presented this month.

8.3 Damage Reports. There were no Damage Reports presented this month.

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Canole reviewed the meeting dates and suggested agenda topics, as noted below:

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| 9.1 | 7:00 a.m., September 1, 2004: <u>July 21, 2004, 7 a.m. (Meeting not held)</u> | Newport School Committee Thompson Building Project City/School Citizens' Technical Advisory Task Force and Budget Advisory Subcommittee <u>Topic:</u> Monthly Meeting <u>Location:</u> Newport Public Schools: Administration Center |
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- 9.2 7:00 p.m., August 24, 2004: Newport School Committee
Special Meeting
Topic:
• Consent Agenda
• Executive Session
Location:
Thompson Middle School:
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria
- 9.3 7:00 p.m., September 14, 2004: Newport School Committee
Regular Meeting
Location:
Thompson Middle School:
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria
- 9.4 7:00 p.m., September 21, 2004: Newport School Committee
Special Meeting
Topic:
• Rogers High School Improvement:
NEASC: Facility Proposal
• Newport School Committee/
Newport City Council Liaison:
City—School—Community Advisory Group:
Formation of Response Team
Location:
Thompson Middle School:
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria
- 9.5 7:00 p.m., September 22, 2004: Newport School Committee
Special Meeting
Topic:
Educational Summit
And
Candidates Information Session
Location:
Thompson Middle School:
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria

10.0 Executive Session. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 9:22 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

David S. Gordon
Chairperson

Mary C. Canole, Ed.D.
Clerk

