

To be approved 09/21/2004.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2004, 4 p.m.**

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson David S. Gordon called the Special Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Triplett School ESL Conference Room. Attendance was as follows: School Committee: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., David R. Carlin (arrived at 5:15 p.m.), Jo Eva Gaines (arrived at 4:10 p.m.), 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, Business Manager Bruce Alexander, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, 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 Budget Workshop.

Discussion followed relative to the: budget deficit of \$822,161, the decrease in revenues due to Impact Aid and Medicaid, and federal, state, and local funding decreases of approximately one million dollars. Discussion followed relative to retaining Energy Education (Contract: \$36,000/\$12,000 Stipend). Special Education Director Linda Martin presented the out-of-district tuitions for the 2004-2005 school year and will update the Committee monthly on additional students as they enter or leave the district. The Teachers' Association of Newport stated its willingness to work with administration relative to contract parameters to address the budget gap. It was also suggested that a review of transportation runs be done. The Committee stated its willingness to review any recommendations to consolidate classrooms after enrollment counts are firm. Mr. Leary made a motion to reduce \$292,515 from nonsalary line items, as distributed by the Superintendent. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines requested that Athletics be reduced, as well. Dr. Barry stated that she would not support the 12 percent reductions. Mr. DeAscentis stated that he would not support any additional reductions. Mr. Carlin suggested that Counsel Galvin be consulted on the prospects of the Carulo Process. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson David S. Gordon, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion were: Mary

Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Jo Eva Gaines. At approximately 5:45 p.m., Chairperson David S. Gordon left the meeting. Discussion followed relative to line items to reduce: 9290: Unemployment: \$20,000; 9312: Computer: \$12,352; and 9384: Physical Therapy: \$5,000. A checked list indicating the line items to be cut will be prepared and submitted to the School Committee on September 21, 2004, for action.

A Joint School Committee—City Council Budget Workshop has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2004, for 6:30 p.m., at the City of Newport Council Chambers.

2.0 Executive Session. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 6:55 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

David S. Gordon
Chairperson

Mary C. Canole, Ed.D.
Clerk