

To be approved 09/21/2004.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 8, 2004, 7 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** Chairperson David S. Gordon called the Special 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: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., David R. Carlin (arrived at 7:05 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, 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.

**ROLL CALL**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**1.0 Executive Session.**

At 7:03 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to go into **Executive Session** under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a)(8)(b) review of student matter, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may request that the discussion be held in an open session. Dr. Barry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

At 9 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Taken Out of Order**

**3.0 Personnel Actions.**

Personnel Actions were acted upon individually.

**Resignations/Retirement/Leave of Absence**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of: the Request for Resignation of Diana B. Kriner, Para Educator, Kindergarten, Underwood School, as presented; the Request for Resignation of Susan Jay, School Nurse/Teacher, Elementary, as presented; and the Request for Retirement of Karen Ellis, SIS Manager K-12, as presented, for a one-month extension from October 31, 2004, to November 30, 2004; and to consent to the denial of the Request for Leave of Absence of Louise Cardoni, Para Educator, Thompson Middle School, for the 2004-2005 school year, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**Appointment.**

**Dean of Students, Thompson Middle School.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Jared Conheeny, Dean of Students, Thompson Middle Schools, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**2.0 Budget Workshop.**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole presented to the Committee Budget Cuts and Add Backs as of September 8, 2004. Dr. Canole recommended to the Committee that they vote to state that the School Budget is insufficient. Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Judith Droitcour provided the Committee with a presentation of Title I School Choice set aside funding and that these monies may not offset the deficit. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Leary, Mr. Alexander defined the increase of Professional and Technical Services from \$700,000 to \$1,400,000. Discussion followed by Mr. Leary relative to Special Education and if the out-of-district tuition enrollment was in alignment. Chairperson Gordon recommended that the Housing Authority be contacted to determine if there's a reduction in families that may impact special education enrollment figures. Mr. Carlin suggested assigning a number to each out-of-district placement in order to track enrollment. Dr. Canole reviewed the policy for transfer between accounts and distributed City Manager James Smith's budget letter, Dr. Canole's response to Mr. Smith's budget letter, and distributed the statute relative to Title 45, Towns and Cities, Chapter 45-12-22.1-7, Indebtedness of Towns and Cities. Mrs. Gaines made a motion that the revenues for the 2004-2005 budget are insufficient to run the schools. Mr.

DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson David S. Gordon, 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 and Thomas S. Phelan.

The Committee agreed to hold another Budget Workshop on Monday, September 13, 2004, at 4 p.m., Triplett School, ESL Conference Room, First Floor. The Committee also agreed to schedule a Joint School Committee—City Council Budget Workshop on September 27 or 28, 2004.

**4.0 Executive Session.** No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment.** At 11 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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**David S. Gordon**  
Chairperson

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**Mary C. Canole, Ed.D.**  
Clerk