

Approved 09/21/2004.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Tuesday, August 24, 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 (absent), Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Judith M. Droitcour (absent), Business Manager Bruce Alexander (absent), 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 Budget.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole reminded the Committee that she scheduled a Budget Workshop as directed on Tuesday, August 31, 2004, at 7 p.m., so Mr. Leary could present to the Committee his recommend budget cuts before we pursue a meeting with the City Council. Mr. Leary stated that he would not be prepared for August 31, 2004, since he wanted to invite several Certified Public Accountants in to work with the Committee. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to amend the 2004-2005 Budget to restore the Thompson Middle School Sports Budget to the expended level from the 2003-2004 Budget by using Blue Cross Health Care reserves. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary suggested to restore funds from line item 9344 or a School Committee line item totaling \$12,250. Mr. DeAscentis amended his motion to read: "to amend the 2004-2005 Budget to restore the Thompson Middle School Sports Budget to the expended level from the 2003-2004 Budget by using a line item to be determined. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D.

2.0 Personnel Actions.

Mr. Carlin requested that all Teaching Appointments be acted upon individually. Mr. Leary requested that the Support Appointment be acted upon separately.

Appointments.

Coaches.

Football, Assistant Coach

Football, Assistant Coach

Football, Assistant Coach

Cross Country, Head Coach (Girls' Team)

Soccer, Head Coach (Boys' Team)

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointments of the Coaches: Football Assistant Coaches: Richard Fullerton, Matt Kessler, and William Kimes; Cross Country, Head Coach (Girls' Team): Cynthia Cykert; and Soccer, Head Coach (Boys' Team): Brian Krauss, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Teacher of Elementary Reading.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Gretchen Catalan, Teacher of Elementary Reading, as presented. Dr. Barry seconded the motion, which carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson David S. Gordon, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Jo Eva Gaines. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, and Thomas S. Phelan.

Teacher of Grade 5, Carey School.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Gabrielle Hart, Teacher of Grade 5, Carey School, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Teacher of Grade 3, Sheffield School.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Janice McHenry, Teacher of Grade 3, Sheffield School, as presented. 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. Mr. Leary voted against the motion because of declining school enrollment and local candidates that were passed up.

Teacher of Grade 5, Sheffield School.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Steven Taylor, Teacher of Grade 5, Sheffield School, as presented. 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. Mr. Leary voted against the motion because of declining school enrollment and local candidates that were passed up.

Teacher of Grade 2, Underwood School.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Jaclyn Beaulieu, Teacher of Grade 2, Underwood School, 2004-2005 only, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). 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., Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan. The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary. Mr. Leary voted against the motion because of declining school enrollment and local candidates that were passed up.

Teacher of Social Studies, Alternative School.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Michal Kuriscak, Teacher of Social Studies, Alternative School, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). 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., Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan. The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary. Mr. Leary voted against the motion because local candidates were passed up and that the Committee was not supplied with the cost of the implementation of the program with Middletown Public Schools.

District Information Clerk.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Aida LeVasseur, District Information Clerk, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Special Educator, Behavior Support Program, Rogers High School.

Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin made a motion to move this Appointment to Executive Session. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin withdrew his original motion. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of Mark Biancuzzo, Special Educator, Behavior Support Program, Rogers High School, as presented. 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.

Motion

Mr. Phelan made a motion to allow School Committee Members to request additional reference information regarding all interviewed candidates. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion failed (3-4). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion were: Chairperson David S. Gordon, Mary Jane Barry, Ph.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Jo Eva Gaines.

- 3.0 Request for Conference/Workshop.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole informed the Committee that Assistant Commissioner of Education David Abbott requested that she attend a State Support Team Network Meeting with a small team from the Rhode Island Department of Education and serve as the Rhode Island LEA Representative from October 3 through October 5, 2004, in Baltimore, Maryland, and that all expenses would be paid by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Dr. Canole stated that this Meeting would also give her the opportunity to bring back the latest intervention strategies in meeting the mandates of NCLB to the district. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Conference/Workshop, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

4.0 Executive Session.

At 8:10 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to go into **Executive Session** under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exception (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 10:15 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:18 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Barry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

David S. Gordon
Chairperson

Mary C. Canole, Ed.D.
Clerk