

To be Approved 05/10/2005.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2005

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker 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 Members: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Acting 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, 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 Bids:

1.1 Superintendent Search Consultant. Business Manager Bruce Alexander reviewed with the Committee the following proposals received as a result of the advertised Request for Proposals for Consultant to assist in the search for the new Superintendent of Schools issued on April 15, 2005, and advertised in the Providence Journal on Tuesday, April 19, 2005. He stated that the proposals were due at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 29, 2005. Discussion followed.

- **Goens/Esparo, LLC, West Hartford, CT.**
 - Streamline Search: \$10,000
 - National Search: \$11,800
Plus Advertising

- **New England School Development Council, Marlborough, MA (NESDEC).**
 - Standard Search: \$12,900
 - Expenses: \$3,800

- **Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates, Ltd., Glenview, Illinois.**
 - Search: \$18,500
 - Expenses: \$4,500

- **BES Educators, LLC, Providence, RI.**
 - Search: \$11,500
 - Expenses: \$300
Plus Advertising

Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Proposal of New England School Development Council, Marlborough, Massachusetts, (NESDEC), as the Superintendent Search Consultant, subject to review by School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

1.2 Health Insurance Consultant. Business Manager Bruce Alexander reviewed with the Committee the following proposal received as a result of the advertised Request for Proposals for Consultant to assist health insurance procurement and plan design issued on April 15, 2005, and advertised in the Providence Journal on Wednesday, April 20, 2005. He stated that the proposals were due at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 29, 2005. Discussion followed.

- **Park Row Associates, Providence, RI.**
 - Annually: \$30,000

The Committee agreed to defer action on the selection of a Health Insurance Consultant and requested that School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin review the Proposal received.

Discussion followed relative to the Governmental Health Group of Rhode Island. Dr. Hilton made a motion to reaffirm the Committee's commitment to the health care pool provided that the City of Newport enters into it. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan.

2.0 2005-2006 Budget Workshop.

- Public Input was received from:
 - Louisa Boatwright.
 - She requested that the Committee seek an extension from the City Council for budget delivery until after the Financial Audit is completed and give the Committee two weeks to integrate the recommendations into the Budget.
 - She requested that the Committee establish a Task Force to create a recommendation to the State for a ten percent Low Income Housing Law to give it credence, to create a State Funding formula like 48 other states, and to understand the State and Federal Mandates, along with Newport versus other cities' compliance and costs.
 - Becky Bolan.
 - She requested that the Committee not cut any reading teachers from the budget.
- Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Judith Droitcour defined federal and state funding mandates.
- The Committee made the following motions. It should be noted that some of these motions were a result of recommendations from Sweeney and Edge:
 - Mr. Leary made a motion to cut \$28,057 from Lenthal School. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.
 - Mr. Leary made a motion to cut \$18,000 from the local budget and transfer the cost of library software from one grant to another grant, pending review by School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried (6-1-0). The Member who abstained was: Jo Eva Gaines.
 - Mr. Leary made a motion to reduce the teacher salary budget amount of MA5 to BA30, Step 2, Step and Scale, for a savings of \$33,000, representing the average estimate of the new cluster at Thompson Middle School. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.
 - Dr. Hilton made a motion to reduce technology hardware by \$20,000. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion. Discussion followed. The motion failed (2-5). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: David R. Carlin and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan.

- Mr. Leary made a motion to reduce combined severance budget line items by \$150,000. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- Discussion followed relative to reducing the amount budgeted for athletic officials.
- Mr. Leary made a motion to take an allotment of \$200,000 for the turnover of staff by reducing combined salaries, representing one percent of the salary account. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- Dr. Hilton made a motion requesting Technology Coordinator Mitchell Williams to provide a report to the Committee at its upcoming May 10, 2005, Meeting relative to buying versus leasing of technology equipment. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- The Committee will present the 2005-2006 Budget to the City Council on Tuesday evening, May 17, 2005, beginning at 6:00 p.m., at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria.

3.0 Executive Session. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 8:32 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Robert B. Power, Ed.D.
Acting Clerk