

To be Approved 05/10/2005.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 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, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. (absent), Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. (absent), and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole, 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 2005-2006 Budget Workshop. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjust the 2004-2005 Budget with the \$1.1Million recently appropriated by the City Council. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). Business Manager Bruce Alexander reviewed with the Committee the Budget Summary Sheet. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary requested a financial breakdown of substitute teachers. Mr. Carlin requested that the 2005-2006 pay period schedule be reviewed. Mrs. Gaines requested that bussing—redistricting be reviewed. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole recommended that the Committee approve the 2005-2006 Budget and forward it to the City Council and not make additional cuts until the results of the Program Audit are released by Berkshire Advisors. Dr. Canole stated that she would forward a letter to City Manager James Smith requesting that the City file the Deficit Reduction Plan. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin requested to challenge paying unemployment in the summer. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker requested that Thompson Middle School Principal Jane Regan draft a middle school schedule with teachers teaching five periods per day versus four periods per day and be present at next Tuesday evening's Budget Workshop to present the schedule to the Committee. Public input was received by David Gordon. He stated that the teachers' contract has to be addressed. At the request of Dr. Canole, the Committee agreed to have Sweeney & Edge review the proposed 2005-2006 Budget. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines stated that the Committee should revisit the decision relative to the closing of an

elementary school. Mr. Phelan voiced his opposition to close an elementary school. Discussion then followed on the Alternative Education Program and eliminating student choice. Dr. Canole stated that she would confer with Counsel Galvin on this matter. Public input was received by Terrence Maguire. He stated that the Committee needs to revisit closing an elementary school and reduce the number of teachers in the district. Mrs. Gaines requested that the Committee consider three scenarios for closing a school—review the transportation budget, perhaps shrinking a tier. Mr. Carlin stated that (1) Newport Public Schools has the highest per pupil cost, (2) the City only gives Newport Public Schools 34 percent in local funding, (3) the State hasn't given significant increases, and (4) Contract. Mr. Leary requested that the Committee consider cuts in (1) Reading Teachers, (2) Alternative Education Program, and (3) Additional Cluster at Thompson Middle School. Public input was received from Terrence Maguire. He suggested that each Committee Member provide three options for savings. Dr. Canole stated that she would have prepared for the Committee a breakdown of the Alternative Education Program costs for review next Tuesday evening. Business Manager Bruce Alexander stated that he would review with the Committee the detail on program lines next Tuesday evening. In their absence this evening, Dr. Canole will request from both Committee Members Mr. DeAscentis and Dr. Hilton any potential budget topics for review at next Tuesday evening's meeting. The next Workshop to be held on the proposed budget will take place on Tuesday evening, April 26, 2005, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria.

2.0 Executive Session. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Robert B. Power, Ed.D.
Acting Clerk