

To be Approved 05/10/2005.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Special Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Tuesday, March 29, 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 Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D. (absent), Director of Special Education Linda Martin (absent), 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.

**ROLL CALL.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**1.0 Budget.**

- **Resolution: Supporting Increased Group Home Funding.** Introduced by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole and School Committee Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to pass the Newport School Committee Resolution: Supporting Increased Group Home Funding, to request the Newport City Council to pass a similar Resolution, as presented, and that this Resolution be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- **Resolution: School Budget—Corrective Action Plan.** School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin informed the Committee that they need to cooperate with the City Council and that it is the City's responsibility to submit a Corrective Action Plan relative to the School Budget. Counsel Galvin then distributed and spoke to the Rhode Island General Laws relative to Municipal Deficits—Purpose, Monitoring of Financial Operations—Corrective Action, Year-End Deficits, Deficit Financing—Approval Required, Unbudgeted Expenditures, Cooperation of School Committees, and Enforcement and Remedies. Discussion followed.

Introduced by School Committee Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to pass the Newport School Committee Resolution: School Budget—Corrective Action Plan and the accompanying Cover Letter to be submitted to the Auditor General for the State of Rhode Island, and that this Resolution be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Draft Position Paper: Explanation of School Deficits and Higher Costs.** School Committee Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker distributed to the Committee his Draft Position Paper: Explanation of School Deficits and Higher Costs. He requested that Committee Members review the Draft Position Paper and submit revisions to him directly. The Committee then reviewed the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Charts included in the Draft Position Paper, as well as the proposed plans for the City to join other communities in an East Bay Consortium to purchase health care for employees and retirees.

**2.0 Superintendent of Schools Search Process: Discussion.** Discussion was moved to Executive Session. School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin stated that the move to Executive Session was allowed under the law because the decisions would be based on personnel performance, including Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary C. Canole.

### **3.0 Executive Session.**

At 7:45 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)(1) Personal Matters, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in an open session; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION OPEN SESSION**

At 8:23 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Adjournment.** At 8:25 p.m., Dr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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**Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.**  
Chairperson

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**Robert B. Power, Ed.D.**  
Acting Clerk

