

Approved 08/09/2005.

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## SEAL MINUTES

### **NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE Special Meeting Thursday, June 30, 2005, 1:00 p.m.**

#### MINUTES

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Special Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 1:01 p.m. at Miley Hall, Salve Regina University (Corner of Ochre Court and Webster Street) New Residents Hall Conference Room. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin (arrived at 1:04 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 (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 (arrived at 1:10 p.m.).

#### **ROLL CALL.**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

#### **1.0 Personnel Actions.**

- 1.1 Resignations.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Patricia McGrath, Coordinator of Special Education, effective July 29, 2005; Emily Winsor, Head Volleyball Coach and Assistant Basketball Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately; and Caryn Palmer, Acting Head Coach, Girls' Softball Team, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0). Mrs. Gaines wished Patricia McGrath well and thanked her for all that she has done for Newport Public Schools. On behalf of the Committee, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that a letter of appreciation would be forwarded to Ms. McGrath.

**1.2 Retirements.** N/A.

**1.3 Leaves of Absence.** N/A.

**1.4 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.**

**1.4.1 Appointments.**

- On behalf of the Committee, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that the Requests for Appointments of: Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development; Elementary Principal, Coggeshall School; English Department Head, Rogers High School; Social Studies Department Head, Rogers High School; and Special Education Department Head, Rogers High School would be held for action until input is received from the incoming Superintendent of Schools.
- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointments of: Michal J. Kuriscak, Golf Coach, Rogers High School, effective March, 2006; Derek Jolie, pending Rhode Island Teacher Assistant Certification, to the position of Technical Assistant, Food Services, NACTC, effective September 7, 2005; and the Transfer of: Elizabeth A. Brett, School Information Clerk, Administration, effective July 5, 2005, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin arrived at the meeting at 1:04 p.m. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**1.4.3 Recalls.**

**Rescissions of Non-Renewals for 2005-2006 School Year.**

**\*(Recall may not be to the position that the employee currently holds.)**

- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Recalls: Rescissions of Non-Renewals for 2005-2006 school year, as follows: Cythia Etler, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective September 6, 2005; Donna George, Teacher of Grade One, Sullivan School, effective September 6, 2005; Eileen Diggle, Teacher of Mathematics (.5), Rogers High School, effective September 6, 2005; Steven Schreiner, Teacher of Art (.5) Sullivan School and Rogers High School, effective September 6, 2005; and Victor Moniz, School Nurse-Teacher, Sheffield School, effective September 6, 2005, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary stated that he could not support the motion given that the Berkshire Advisors' Final Report has not been released for review and given that further review of these positions might be necessary by incoming

administrators. Rogers High School Principal John Harrington stated that these positions were legitimately needed. At the request of Mr. Carlin, discussion followed relative to the Rogers High School Department Heads. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, and Thomas S. Phelan.

Dr. Power read aloud the names of the approved Recalls.

## 2.0 Policy Subcommittee:

At approximately 1:10 p.m., School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin arrived at the meeting.

**2.1.1 Homeless Students Policy: Third Reading.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for third reading the Homeless Students Policy. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary and Thomas S. Phelan.

**2.1.2 Chemical Safety Policy: Third Reading.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for third reading the Chemical Safety Policy. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**2.1.3 Physical Restraint Policy: First Reading.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for first reading the Physical Restraint Policy. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Carlin, Counsel Galvin and Dr. Power defined the Policy's language. Mr. Carlin stated he could not support the Policy in its present language. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: David R. Carlin. Discussion continued. Mrs. Gaines amended the original motion to include: " , with the understanding that Mr. Carlin would work with Counsel Galvin in amending the Policy's language. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**3.0 Summer School.** Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker reviewed the history of the Summer School Program Policy and the Committee's discussion on the Policy's revision held at their Meeting of May 26, 2005. Rogers High School Principal John Harrington provided the Committee with an overview of the revisions to the Summer School Policy and Procedures relative to Rogers High School. He stated that the traditional summer school option would no longer be available and that Rogers High School would not accept credits from other high school summer school programs. Public Input was received from: Rogers High School Parents Paul Tobak and Kenneth Alves relative to the Policy revision and concern that administration had not appropriately communicated the Policy revision to students and families at Rogers High School. Discussion followed. Dr. Power, Mr. Harrington, and Mrs. Gaines defined the intent of the Policy, as follows: The Policy was revised by the concern that the traditional summer school was not effective and that it did not line up with standards-based education; The changed philosophy of the Policy states that a student who hasn't been able to pass a course during the 180-day school year cannot make up the work in three or four weeks of summer school; The Policy provides a Summer School Program that shall provide opportunities for remedial and ramp-up instruction for students who have not achieved standard on the state assessments; and The Program, offered for the first time this summer, focuses on literacy skills for students who will be in the ninth or tenth grades in the fall and does not offer course credit. Mr. Harrington and Dr. Power then defined how the notification process was administered this academic year to the students and their families throughout the district, as required by Policy. Discussion followed by Committee Members. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker requested that the Policy Subcommittee revisit the Summer School Policy and report back to the Committee with their findings at their September, 2005, Meeting. In the meantime, Dr. Shoemaker advised the administration to continue meeting with students and their families on an individual basis to satisfy summer school requirements.

**4.0 Executive Session.**

At 2:18 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. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Power and Counsel Galvin left the meeting at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

At 9:44 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Adjournment.** At 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hilton 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