

To be Approved 08/09/2005.

5.1

SEAL MINUTES
NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:04 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., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. (arrived at approximately 7:40 p.m.), and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Acting Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D., Director of Special Education Linda Martin, 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, School Building Principals, Administrators, and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin (arrived at approximately 7:20 p.m.).

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE. A Moment of Silence was held for:

- **Albert Gaines, Jr.:** who passed away on Thursday, May 12, 2005, at Newport Hospital. He was the brother-in-law of School Committee Member Jo Eva Gaines; and
- **Martha B. Anderson.:** who passed away on Sunday, May 15, 2005, in Chattanooga, TN. She was the mother of Educational Diagnostician Martha Crane Anderson.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Public Comment was received from:

- Paul Tobak and Kenneth Alves, Rogers High School Parents, addressed the Committee relative to Summer School and requested that students who receive Summer School credits from any one of the neighboring communities be accepted by Newport Public Schools and requested that a Special Meeting

of the School Committee be held again (Note: A Meeting was held on May 26, 2005) to discuss Summer School. Vice Chairperson Mr. Leary requested that Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker convene another School Committee Meeting to discuss this issue.

- Becky Bolan, Coggeshall School Parent, distributed and spoke to the request of restoring funding of a full-time Reading Teacher for Coggeshall School. She indicated that the district has now stated that they would fund a .6 Reading Teacher at Coggeshall School for the 2005-2006 School Year with Title I Funds. She requested that the district fund the remaining .4 Reading Teacher for Coggeshall School.
- Joseph Pratt and Brian McKeon, Underwood School Parents, representing Underwood School, spoke to the concern of closing a school and stated that parents were concerned with closing a school without a definitive plan. Mr. McKeon spoke to the support of reading teachers and his displeasure in the administration's decision to temporarily discontinue the student apprenticeship program between Salve Regina University and Underwood School.

Mr. Carlin requested that the Superintendent comment on the issues brought up under Public Comment this evening. At the request of Mrs. Gaines, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that it would be appropriate to discuss these items at a future meeting of the School Committee but not under Public Comment.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council Update: Keelan Maguire. Student Council President, Keelan Maguire, provided an update on the Student Council end-of-year activities: Senior Prom, Graduation, Post-Graduation, Sports' Teams, Student Council Officers' Election for 2005-2006, Yearbook, and Agenda Item 3.2: Rogers High School Senior Project. On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Gaines presented a farewell gift to Outgoing Student Council President Keelan Maguire who will be attending Northeastern University next year (under Item 4.0). Rogers High School Student Council Advisor Stephen Ferris and Outgoing President Ms. Maguire then introduced the incoming Student Council Officers for the 2005-2006 academic year, as follows:

President:	Emma Reidy
Vice President:	Meghan Decotis
Activities Coordinator:	Marina Zambrotta
Recording Secretary:	Hannah Pfeiffer
Treasurer:	Alison Gardiner

3.2 Rogers High School Senior Project. In the absence of Rogers High School Senior Megan McGuire, Science Department Head Alan Bardsley presented the Senior Project entitled "New Advanced Placement Lab Space" via a

PowerPoint Presentation to the Committee. Mr. Bardsley informed the Committee that Rogers High School applied for a grant through the Champlin Foundation to support the construction of new science advanced placement labs.

At approximately 7:40 p.m., Dr. Hilton arrived to the meeting.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Resolution.

4.1.1 Resolution: Robert B. Power, Ed.D. On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Jo Eva Gaines presented Acting Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D., with a Resolution, a copy of which is to be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee, citing his dedication, commitment, and performance as an outstanding professional and member of the Newport Public Schools' educational community and wishing him well in his future endeavors. Dr. Power thanked the Committee, administrators, and staff for their recognition of his accomplishments.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Minutes, as presented, as follows. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 10, 2005.**
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 17, 2005, 7 p.m.**
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 26, 2005, 6:30 p.m.**
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 26, 2005, 7:30 p.m.**
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 6, 2005, 8 p.m.**
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 13, 2005, 6 p.m.**
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 13, 2005, 7 p.m.**

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5.5

Personnel Actions.

Resignations. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Megara Boller, Speech-Language Pathologist, with an effective date of August 31, 2005; Janice McHenry, Teacher of Grade 3, Sheffield School, with an effective date of August 31, 2005; Deborah Sullivan, Teacher of Music, Rogers High School and Thompson Middle School, with an effective date of August 31, 2005; and Donna Golden, Teacher of Grade 3, Sheffield School, with an effective date of August 31, 2005. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Retirements. N/A.

Leaves of Absence. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Request for Leave of Absence of: Mary Falcone, Teacher of Grade 3, Sullivan School, Sick Bank—Three Days, with an effective date of June 22 to June 24, 2005. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments/Transfers.

Appointments. Discussion followed. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary requested that administration research why last year's interim coach did not choose to apply for this position. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Appointment of: John Dias, Head Girls' Basketball Coach, with an effective date of October, 2005. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Transfers. N/A.

- 5.6 **Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees.** There were no Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees.
- 5.7 **Requests for Field Trips.** There were no Requests for Field Trips.
- 5.8 **Requests for Conferences/Workshops.** There were no Requests for Conferences/Workshops.
- 5.9 **Requests for Home Instruction.** There were no Requests for Home Instruction.

5.10 Bids.

5.10.1. Heating Fuel Oil Bid: 2005-2006. Discussion followed. At the request of Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Business Manager Bruce Alexander reviewed the Heating Fuel Oil Bid. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award Dennis K. Burke, Inc., of Chelsea, Massachusetts, at the fixed price of \$1.848 per gallon, the Heating Fuel Oil Bid: 2005-2006, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.11 Fiscal Impact Analysis. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Fiscal Impact Analysis for each of the following, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.11.1 Even Start Plus.

5.11.2 Adult and Workforce Education.

5.11.3 Rhode Island Department of Education Consolidated Resource Plan for 2005-2006.

Acting Superintendent of Schools Robert B. Power, Ed.D., read aloud the approved Personnel Actions dated June 21, 2005, as presented.

Taken Out of Order.

8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff.

8.3 Sullivan School SALT Report (To Receive Only). Sullivan School Principal Maria Mare Schulz shared the findings of the Sullivan School SALT Report with the Committee. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker congratulated the Sullivan School community.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Berkshire Advisors: School Management Study.

6.1.1 Short-Term Recommendations. Discussion followed. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker briefly outlined the short-term recommendations from the Berkshire Advisors: School Management Study citing that there were many positive recommendations brought forward in the Study. Discussion followed relative to the ESL Program Delivery Model. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that once the Final Report is released in mid-July, the Committee could further discuss the ESL Program Delivery Model at that time.

6.2 Subcommittee Reports:

- 6.2.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee.** As reported by Mr. DeAscentis, the Facilities Planning Subcommittee will be holding its next Regular Meeting this coming Thursday, June 23, 2005, at 3 p.m., for the purpose of reviewing the prepared draft of the Master Facilities Long-Range Plan.
- 6.2.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** As reported by Dr. Hilton, the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee met on Monday, June 5, 2005, and scheduled their next meeting for Monday evening, August 1, 2005, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Council Chambers Conference Room.
- 6.2.3 Policy.** As reported by Mrs. Gaines, the Policy Subcommittee has been meeting on a regular basis, and their upcoming scheduled meetings will be held on June 22 and 29, 2005. Mrs. Gaines stated that the Subcommittee will be presenting the following Policies to the Committee for action this evening: HIV/AIDS Policy—Positive Students and Employees for Third Reading; Disenrollment Policy for Third Reading; Homeless Students Policy for Second Reading; and Chemical Safety Policy for Second Reading. She also reminded the Committee that the Subcommittee would be bringing forward a Policy relative to physical student restraint for the protection of staff members in order to adhere to the state regulations, which is a result of the recent incidents of area students being handcuffed by the police within a school building. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion that the Policy Subcommittee address the Summer School concern relative to the acceptance of credits stated earlier this evening under Public Comment. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Both Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker and Superintendent Dr. Power spoke to the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 26, 2005, relative to this matter. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). Discussion continued.
- 6.2.4 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** No update was given by Mrs. Gaines.
- 6.2.5 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Mr. Leary stated that the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force recently met, released their Audit Report, which was distributed to Committee Members, and provided a brief synopsis on activities to date of the Task Force.

7.0 ACTION

- 7.1 Budget.** No action was necessary at this time. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Phelan, discussion followed relative to the Coggeshall School Reading Teacher heard under Public Comment. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that discussion on both the Coggeshall and Underwood Schools requests cited under Public Comment could be brought to the Committee at a later date after the factual information has been gathered.
- 7.2 Sullivan School Family Center—Facilities Project Proposal.** Sullivan School Family Center Director Christine Arouth and GED Teacher, An Even Start in Newport, Heather Sullivan provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Facilities Project Proposal and requested the Committee's endorsement. Discussion and review followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to endorse and submit for consideration the Sullivan School Family Center: Facilities Project Proposal to Extreme Makeover, Home Edition, and Oprah Winfrey's Wildest Dreams, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker applauded their efforts and agreed that the Sullivan School Family Center facilities were in need of major repairs.
- 7.3 Newport Area Career and Technical Center:**
- 7.3.1 New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)—Standards' Approval.** Newport Area Career and Technical Center Director Joseph Martins and the NEASC Steering Committee Chairperson and NACTC Teacher Coleen Raposa reviewed with the Committee the components of the NEASC Standards' Approval. Discussion followed. Dr. Hilton made a motion to accept the Newport Area Career and Technical Center: Philosophy and Goals and School and Community Relations Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.4 Student Transfer Prevention and Review.** Introduced by Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker, review and discussion followed relative to Student Transfer Prevention and Review. Dr. Shoemaker cited the suggested goals: (1) To establish an "early warning" system, which would alert Principals and teachers to the negative factors that might precipitate a transfer; and (2) To establish an ongoing database of "early warning" situations, actual transfers out and transfers in, that would be presented in a confidential manner to the School Committee on a timely basis. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to adopt the concept of Student Transfer Prevention and Review and refer it to the Policy Subcommittee, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis requested that comments be solicited from the parental community. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.5 Lenthal School—Formal Turnover to the City of Newport. For purposes of discussion, Mr. DeAscentis made a motion that “the Newport School Committee hereby abandons the Lenthal School for school purposes provided the City Council acknowledges and agrees that it will use the proceeds from any sale of Lenthal School to assist the City Council with the debt service relating to the Thompson Middle School Bond and to assist the City Council with providing funds to the Newport School Committee in connection with the Capital Improvement Program of the Newport School Department.” Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. School Committee Counsel Galvin spoke to the contents of the motion, stating that his drafting of this motion was for the purpose of the Committee’s discussion. Mrs. Gaines and Mr. Leary agreed to accept the language of the motion. Mr. Galvin stated that he shared the language with City Solicitor Joseph Nicholson. Mr. Carlin stated that this language gives the City Council a free hand to dispose of Lenthal School as they see fit. Mr. Carlin and Mr. DeAscentis both stated that they could not support the language of the motion. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan.

7.6 Facilities Planning Subcommittee—Membership.

- **Appointments.** Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointments of: Lindora J. Lopes, Parent, as a full voting member, and Drew Carey, Facilitator, as a nonvoting member, to the Facilities Planning Subcommittee, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- **Resignations.** Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Pauline Perkins-Moye, Newport Housing Authority Representative, effective 4/29/05; Thomas Flanagan, Facilitator, effective 3/16/05; and Mary C. Canole, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, effective 5/2/05, from the Facilities Planning Subcommittee, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.7 Policy Subcommittee:

7.7.1 Disenrollment Policy: Third Reading. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept for third reading the Disenrollment Policy. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Dr. Hilton cited an editorial change. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.7.2 Homeless Students Policy: Second Reading. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for second reading the Homeless Students Policy. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, 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.

7.7.3 HIV/AIDS Policy—Positive Students and Employees: Third Reading. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for third reading the HIV/AIDS Policy—Positive Students and Employees. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.7.4 Chemical Safety Policy: Second Reading. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for second reading the Chemical Safety Policy. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines reminded Committee Members that School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin reviews draft policies before the third and final reading by the School Committee.

8.0 Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, Damage Reports, and Sullivan School SALT Report.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Business Manager Bruce Alexander reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports dated June 3, 2005, and answered questions from Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary.

At approximately 8: 51 p.m., Mr. Carlin left the meeting.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. There were no Enrollment Reports presented this month.

8.4 Damage Reports. There were no Damage Reports presented this month.

8.5 Sullivan School SALT Report .

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports and Sullivan School SALT Report, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Power reviewed the meeting dates and suggested agenda topics, as noted below:

- 9.1 June 23, 2005, 3 p.m.:
[Met: 3 p.m., May 3, 2005: Regular]
[Met: 3 p.m., May 10, 2005: Special]
- Newport School Committee
Facilities Planning Subcommittee
Topic:
Regular Meeting
Location:
Room 104, Lower Level, Triplett School
- 9.2 11:30 a.m.
June 22 and 29, 2005
- Newport School Committee
Policy Subcommittee
Topic:
Regular Meeting
Location:
Newport Public Schools: Administration Center
- 9.3 August 1, 2005, 7 p.m.:
[Met: 7 p.m., June 6, 2005]
- Newport School Committee
Newport City Council
Liaison Subcommittee
Topic:
Regular Meeting
Location:
Conference Room, Second Floor, Newport City Hall
- 9.4 To be Determined:
[Met: 7 a.m., March 22, 2005]
- Newport School Committee
Finance Advisory Subcommittee
Topic:
Regular Meeting
Location:
Conference Room, Second Floor
Newport City Hall
- 9.5 To be Determined:
[Met: 9 a.m., May 21, 2005]
- Newport School Committee
School Committee/State Legislators Subcommittee
Topic:
Regular Meeting
Location:
Newport Police Department, Assembly Room

No Regular Meeting in the month of July.

Special Meetings will be held during the summer, as needed.

- 9.6 7:00 p.m., August 9, 2005:
- Newport School Committee
Regular Meeting
Location:
Thompson Middle School:
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria

Graduation Date

- 9.7 6:00 p.m., June 23, 2005:
- Thompson Middle School:**
Graduation
Location:
Rogers High School Auditorium

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: Friday, June 24, 2005

The Committee agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2005, for the following agenda items: Personnel Actions; Policy Subcommittee: Homeless Students Policy, Third Reading; Chemical Safety Policy: Third Reading; and Physical Restraint Policy: First Reading; Summer School Discussion; and Executive Session.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:56 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. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 9:48 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Leary made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Robert B. Power, Ed.D.
Acting Clerk