

Approved 02/13/2006.

5.1

SEAL MINUTES
NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2006

MINUTES

Call to Order. Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi, Chairperson Pro-Tem, called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:06 p.m. at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin (arrived at 7:08 p.m.), Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Director of Special Education Linda Martin, Interim Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Marie Hanley (absent), Business Manager (vacant), 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 (arrived at approximately 8:05 p.m.).

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

1.1 **Election of Chairperson.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi called for nominations for the **2006 Chairperson** of the Newport School Committee.

Dr. Hilton nominated Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. Mrs. Gaines seconded the nomination of Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Dr. Ambrogi closed nominations.

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Dr. Ambrogi called for a "yea" vote from the Committee for the appointment of Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker as Chairperson, in alphabetical order, as follows: Mr. Carlin voted "yea", Mr. DeAscentis voted "yea", Mrs. Gaines voted "yea", Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., voted "yea", Robert J. Leary voted "yea", Thomas S. Phelan voted "yea", and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker voted "yea". The motion to appoint Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker as Chairperson passed unanimously (7-0).

Election of Vice Chairperson. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called for nominations for the **2006 Vice Chairperson** of the Newport School Committee. Mr. Phelan nominated Robert J. Leary. Dr. Hilton seconded the nomination of Robert J. Leary. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker closed nominations.

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called for a "yea" vote from the Committee for the appointment of Robert J. Leary as Vice Chairperson, in alphabetical order, as follows: Mr. Carlin voted "yea", Mr. DeAscentis voted "yea", Mrs. Gaines voted "yea", Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., voted "yea", Robert J. Leary voted "yea", Thomas S. Phelan voted "yea", and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker voted "yea". The motion to appoint Robert J. Leary as Vice Chairperson passed unanimously (7-0).

1.2 **Subcommittee Appointments.** Tabled.

1.3 **New Chairperson—A Look at the Year Ahead—Preview of Topics.** Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker addressed the Committee and the public relative to "A Look at the Year Ahead and Preview of Topics". A copy of his address is attached hereto.

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT.** There was no Public Comment relative to nonagenda items before the Committee this evening.

Taken Out of Order.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 **Recommendation for Closure of—William P. Sheffield Elementary School—Effective 2006-2007 School Year.**

Discussion followed relative to the Resolution of June 13, 2005. School Committee Members spoke to whether or not the Resolution was passed in its entirety. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker advised the Committee that they should assume it was passed in its entirety and vote to rescind the Resolution. Dr. Hilton made a motion to rescind the Resolution of June 13, 2005, with the assumption it was passed in its entirety. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. For clarification, at the request of Mr. Carlin, Dr. Hilton replied that the motion was made with the assumption that the Resolution had been passed. Discussion followed. The motion carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those

Members voting against the motion were: David R. Carlin and Thomas S. Phelan. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi then reviewed the Fact Sheet for Sheffield School Closure Recommendation. Dr. Carlin and Mr. Phelan stated they both could not vote in favor of the Superintendent's recommendation this evening without an overall plan for the elementary facilities. Mrs. Gaines stated her support for the Superintendent's recommendation given the decline in enrollment and condition of existing educational facilities. Mr. DeAscentis stated his support for the Superintendent's recommendation given declining enrollment.

Public input was received from (up to four minutes was allowed for each speaker): Philip Morris, Becky Bolan, Lindy Lopes, Louisa Boatwright, Heather Baker, Cyndi Wheeler, Catherine McKinney, Natasha Harrison, Pat Beede, Charles Ficke, Drew Carey, Rachel Prendergast, Shannon Duggan, Cathy Campbell, Scott Williams, David Hanos, and Paula Morris.

Closing comments were received from Committee Members.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi recommended the closure of William P. Sheffield Elementary School, effective the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the recommendation for the closure of the William P. Sheffield Elementary School, effective 2006-2007 School Year, as presented. Dr. Hilton 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, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: David R. Carlin and Thomas S. Phelan.

At approximately 8:54 p.m., the Committee took a brief recess. At approximately 9:12 p.m., The Committee resumed its meeting.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council Update: Emma Reidy. Student Council President, Emma Reidy, provided the Committee with a brief description of ongoing school activities to date, specifically, Graduation for Seniors, Sporting Events, Adopt-A-Family Project, and Yearbook.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. There were no Resolutions and Certificates of Achievement.

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. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 13, 2005.** There were no amendments made.

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5.5 **Personnel Actions.**

Resignations. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Terance Jones, Para Educator, Special Education, Sullivan School, effective December 21, 2005. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Retirements. N/A.

Leaves of Absence. N/A.

Appointments.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Appointment of: Frank Newsome, Assistant Basketball Coach, Boys' Team, Rogers High School, with a starting date of Immediately. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Transfers. N/A.

Recalls. 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/Workshop.

5.9 **Requests for Home Instruction.** There were no Requests for Home Instruction.

5.10 **Bids.** There were no Bids.

5.11 Fiscal Impact Analysis. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi advised the Committee of the following Budget Transfers from one part of our Capital Improvement Fund to another. He stated that monies were transferred from Sheffield School because the Dehumidification System was not installed this year to the Administration Center for a tank removal and to Sullivan School for an upgrade of heating controls. As these budget transfers are less than \$10,000, School Committee action is not required.

1. Transferred \$7,440.00 from Sheffield School CIP Budget No. 705-955-41749-9525 to:
Sullivan School CIP Budget No. 705-956-41749-9525: \$4,840.00;
Administration Center CIP Budget No. 705-986-41749-9525: \$2,600.00.

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions dated January 10, 2006, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Newport Public Schools: Report on Demographic Study. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Report on the Demographic Study prepared by Whitehall Associates, citing the explanation of prepared student enrollment tables of past history and future projections. Review and discussion followed.

6.2 Berkshire Advisors: School Management Study—Action Plans: Monthly Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reminded the Committee that, beginning last November, 2005, he would provide monthly updates relative to the status of the Administration's Action Plans from the Berkshire Advisors: School Management Study, which the Committee had approved. He then reviewed progress to date of some of these Action Plans. Discussion followed relative to the significant progress made in the Affirmative Action Plan for Hiring. As a reminder, the Monthly Updates of the Action Plans will be placed on the School Department's website and be distributed to each City Councilor.

6.3 Subcommittee Reports:

6.3.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., stated that a Rogers High School Subgroup was holding regular meetings, and the Facilities Planning Subcommittee was working diligently relative to the elementary schools' timeline for newer and fewer elementary schools and upcoming public forums.

- 6.3.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** The Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee has not met since their meeting held on November 7, 2005, and no upcoming meetings have been scheduled to date.
- 6.3.3 Policy.** As reported by Mrs. Gaines, the Policy Subcommittee will begin meeting on a regular basis for this school year, beginning on January 18, 2006.
- 6.3.4 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Mrs. Gaines reviewed with the Committee the activities to date of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees. She also stated that the Executive Committee would be meeting again in February and getting ready for the Annual Meeting, hopefully to be held on Aquidneck Island.
- 6.3.5 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Mr. Leary stated that the meetings of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force are held on the third Monday of each month. He briefed the Committee on their activities to date. He indicated that the meeting time may be changed to begin at 12:30 p.m.; and, should this change occur, Mr. Leary informed the Task Force that he would need to step down and would request that one of his fellow Committee Members serve in his place.

7.0 ACTION.

Taken Out of Order at the Beginning of the Meeting

7.1 Recommendation for Closure of—William P. Sheffield Elementary School—Effective 2006-2007 School Year.

8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff: Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, Damage Reports, Superintendent's Update, Receive—Newport Public Schools: Report on Demographic Study.

- 8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports as of January 1, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Dr. Ambrogi commended Odette Bradfield and informed the Committee that the first budget development meeting with administrators would be taking place tomorrow, January 11, 2006.

- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Reports as of December 21, 2005. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 8.3 Damage Reports.** There were no Damage Reports presented this month.
- 8.4 Superintendent's Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on the following updates: Arts; Newport Public Education Foundation—Elementary Facilities; and The Secret Garden Tour. Dr. Ambrogi publicly thanked The Secret Garden Tour for their continued commitment to the Arts. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 8.5 Receive—Newport Public Schools: Report on Demographic Study.** Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to receive the Newport Public Schools: Report on Demographic Study, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

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

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| 9.1 | To be Determined:
[Met: 3 p.m., July 7, 2005] | Newport School Committee
Facilities Planning Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Room 104, Lower Level, Triplett School |
| 9.2 | 12 Noon, January 18, 2006:
[Met: 1:30 p.m., November 3, 2005] | Newport School Committee
Policy Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Newport Public Schools: Administration Center |
| 9.3 | To be Determined:
[Met: 7 p.m., November 7, 2005] | Newport School Committee
and
Newport City Council
Liaison Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Newport City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room |

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| 9.4 | To be Determined:
[Met: 7 a.m., March 22, 2005] | Newport School Committee
Finance Advisory Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
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
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Newport Police Department, Assembly Room |
| 9.6 | 7:00 p.m., February 14, 2006: | Newport School Committee
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Thompson Middle School:
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria |

10.0 Executive Session.

At 9:57 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; (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation; and (a)(8)(b) Reviewing other matters which relate to the privacy of students and their records, provided, however, that any affected student shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that he or she may require that the discussion be held in open session. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 10:14 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:16 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

