

To be Approved 03/14/2006.

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**SEAL MINUTES**  
**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Monday, February 13, 2006

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:02 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. (absent), and Thomas S. Phelan (absent); School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi, 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 (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 PUBLIC COMMENT.** Public Comment relative to nonagenda items before the Committee this evening was received from: Becky Bolan, Parent, Coggeshall School, regarding grade configuration for elementary school transfers.

**2.0 LAYOFF PROCESS.**

**2.1 Pre-Deprivation Hearings.** School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin briefed the Committee on the pre-deprivation process. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to open the hearings at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin explained that the individual teachers, the Teachers' Association of Newport and the National Education Association Representative Jane Argentieri, and the School Committee all received copies of the non-renewal/suspension/layoff notices sent to the twenty-five (25) General Education (non-renewal), four (4) General Education (suspension/layoff), and eighteen (18) Continuing Education Staff Members (non-renewal) and that

these hearings were needed to comply with the March 1, 2006, notification deadline. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Layoff Process with the Committee and stated that this Process could be mitigated if state law permitted a notification deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker stated that individual teachers and/or their representatives might have an opportunity to address the Committee if they so desired. Teachers' Association of Newport (T.A.N.) President Stephanie Martland addressed the Committee, stating that T.A.N. and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi were working collaboratively to begin the recall process as soon as possible.

- 2.2 Non-Renewal/Suspension/Layoff of Personnel.** Hearing no further discussion, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt a resolution for the non-renewal of the teaching contracts of the following personnel at the end of the 2005-2006 school year: General Education: Gabrielle Hart, Eileen Diggle (.5), Maria Conca (.4), Hope Aswell, Susan Winterbottom, Donna Kelly, Sharon Chung, Sarah Bagley (.6), Sally Mello, Gretchen Pantig, Carla Jewell, Steven Taylor, Peter Corr, Sharon McDonnell, Valerie Druken, Pamela Storey, Lee Russell, Cynthia Etlar, Kimberly Hassan, Lori Vicuna Delemos, Michael Whaley, Victor Moniz, Laura Caster, Jason Walesko, and Janine Bangert (.5); and Continuing Education: Patrick Rossoni, Patricia Wells, Sandra Smith, Angela Soto, Mary Buckwalter, James Kenney, Patrick Sullivan, Suzanne Harkness, Alice Jones, Julie Mott, Cindy Boswell, Mary Ann Quick, Lena Shaputnic, Peter Silveria, James Grundy, Robert Dimery, Michael Melchione, and Jeffrey Lemler. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (5-0). Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt a resolution for the suspension/layoff of the teaching contract of the following personnel at the end of the 2005-2006 school year: Joseph Negro, Michael Kuriscak, Seidy Chrupcala (.6), and Steven Schreiner. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi then read aloud the approved names (attached) of those individuals to receive non-renewal/suspension/layoff letters, as presented.

### **3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

- 3.1 Student Council Update: Emma Reidy.** In the absence of Student Council President, Emma Reidy, no update was provided to the Committee.

- 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 amended, as follows. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 10, 2006.** There were no amendments made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 30, 2006.** At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, there was one amendment made, as follows: Page 2 of 3—Executive Session: Mr. DeAscentis left the meeting after Item No. 2.1.

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to

5.5 **Personnel Actions.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the Personnel Actions before the Committee this evening included the annual notification of retirements according to the Early Retirement Incentive and would obviously have an impact on the staffing for next year.

**Resignations.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Marlene T. McBrier, Special Educator (Pre-School), Sullivan School, effective June 30, 2006; and Joseph Martins, Director, NACTC, effective August 16, 2006. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

### **Retirements:**

**Administrative.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Retirement of: Linda A. Martin, Director of Special Education, effective June 30, 2006. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). The Committee commended Linda Martin's many years of service. Ms. Martin thanked the Committee. Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi commended Ms. Martin.

**Teachers' Association of Newport.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Retirements of: Dale L. Martellino, Teacher of English, Grade 7 Leader, Thompson Middle School, effective June 30, 2006; Diane M. Chambers, Teacher of Grade 4, Coggeshall School, effective September 25, 2006; Martha Crane Anderson, Educational Diagnostician, Systemwide, effective June 30, 2006; and A. Elaine Brown, Teacher of Kindergarten, Cranston-Calvert School, effective June 30, 2006. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

**Support Staff.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Retirements of: Winifred A. Longo, Clerk Typist, Thompson Middle School, effective June 30, 2006; Carl F. Gillies, Plant Engineer, Rogers High School, effective June 30, 2006; Frank E. Coleman, Jr., Electrician/Working Foreman, Systemwide, effective June 30, 2006; Margaret K. Martin, Secretary to Director of Special Education, effective June 30, 2006; Kathleen L. Sousa, Secretary, Administration, effective June 30, 2006; Peter M. Sousa, Sr., Custodian, Cranston-Calvert School, effective June 30, 2006; Leonora GT. Friend, Computer Operator, AIALC, effective December 30, 2006; and Joyce M. Bennett, Clerk Typist, Dean's Office, Rogers High School, effective June 30, 2006. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

**Leaves of Absence.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Leave of Absence of: Eileen M. Rearick, Para Educator, Special Education, Carey School, Maternity, effective on or about February 17, 2006, to the end of 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

**Appointments.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Appointment of: Kate Faerber, Para Educator, Special Education, Cranston-Calvert School, with a starting date of February 14, 2006. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

**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.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Fiscal Impact Analysis: Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP) Grant Amendment for 2005-2006, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated February 13, 2006, as presented.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

**6.1 Community Forum: Elementary School Realignment—Fewer, Newer Schools...[February 16, 2006, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Rogers High School Auditorium].** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the upcoming Community Forum on Elementary School Realignment—Fewer, Newer Schools...scheduled for February 16, 2006, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at Rogers High School Auditorium, and sponsored by the Newport Public Education Foundation. 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. 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. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker commended Dr. Ambrogi and his administrative staff for their continued efforts in addressing the Berkshire Report recommendations and reporting out to the Committee and the Mayor and City Council on a monthly basis.

**6.3 High Expectations for all Students: Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee relative to beginning a dialogue during the month of March with parents, teachers, administrators, students, and community members to establish a plan to promote high expectations for all students. Mr. Carlin commended the Chairperson and Superintendent for this initiative. Mr. DeAscentis, Mr. Leary, and Mrs. Gaines echoed similar comments.

### 6.4 Subcommittee Reports:

**6.4.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee.** Subcommittee Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., stated that a Rogers High School Subgroup was holding regular meetings and held a recent tour of the Rogers' facility, and the Facilities Planning Subcommittee was working diligently relative to the elementary schools' timeline for fewer and

newer elementary schools and the public forum scheduled for February 16, 2006.

**6.4.2 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. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker did report out that the City Council held a Legislative Workshop with area Legislators and attended by Committee Members: Dr. Shoemaker, Mr. Leary, and Mr. DeAscentis. He stated that the Workshop discussed the State Budget and Unfunded Teacher Pension Fund and Regionalization of the Communities on Aquidneck Island. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Ambrogi indicated that regionalization relative to the Newport Area Career and Technical Center was working well. Dr. Shoemaker also indicated that local East Bay Communities had recently entered into a collaborative agreement for health care.

**6.4.3 Policy.** As reported by Mrs. Gaines, the Policy Subcommittee met on January 18, 2006. Mrs. Gaines stated that the Policy Subcommittee has established a Wellness Committee, of which recommendations will be brought forward to the Policy Subcommittee for School Committee adoption.

**6.4.4 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 Annual Meeting would be held in Newport, Rhode Island.

**6.4.5 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. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for February 27, 2006, beginning at 12:30 p.m., at Newport Police Department.

## **7.0 ACTION.**

**7.1 Rogers High School: 2006-2007 Program of Studies.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso reviewed with the Committee the changes in the Program of Studies for the 2006-2007 School Year for Rogers High School. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the changes in the Rogers High

School 2006-2007 Program of Studies, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Leary and Dr. Shoemaker, Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso spoke to the issue of trying to schedule more time for Physical Education, especially given the newly formed Wellness Committee. Mrs. DiCenso then reviewed with the Committee the rigor of the grade span expectations with the introduction of Physical Science (replacing Integrated Science) for all Grade 9 Students. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker commended the high school administration for the proposed changes in the 2006-2007 Program of Studies and recommended that an Executive Summary of these changes be provided to the parents. At the request of Mr. Carlin, Mrs. DiCenso reviewed the Suggested Courses of Study and the English 9 and 10 Honors Endorsement. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Mrs. DiCenso further defined the English 9 and 10 Honors Endorsement. Mrs. Gaines commended Mrs. DiCenso and her staff for the proposed changes in the 2006-2007 Program of Studies. At the request of Mr. Leary, Mrs. DiCenso spoke to the model of the Guidance Program and the Personal Literacy Program (PLP) at the high school. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- 7.2 Newport School Committee 2006 Subcommittee Assignments.** Mr. Leary made a motion to adopt the Newport School Committee 2006 Subcommittee Assignments, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). [A copy of said Assignments is attached.]
- 7.3 Council 94—Local 841 2006-2006 Contract: Wage Reopener Ratification.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to ratify Council 94—Local 841 3% wage increase for the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year, retroactive to July 1, 2005, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary voiced his support for the proposed Ratification. The motion carried (4-1-0). Mr. DeAscentis recused himself.
- 7.4 Benefits for Newport School Committee.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve that the Newport School Committee Members, after January 1, 2007, will have the option to take the following benefits: (1) Health care benefits equivalent to those provided to the Newport City Council Members at a rate of a 20% cost share of the premium; (2) Dental insurance equivalent to those provided to the Newport City Council Members, but with no cost share; and (3) A \$50,000 Term Life Insurance Policy; and to request that the next Charter Review Commission examine and make recommendations regarding the compensation package offered to the Newport School Committee. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to amend Item No. 1 by inserting the word “currently” before the word “provided” under Item No. 1. There being no second to Mr. DeAscentis’ motion to amend, the original motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- 7.5 Newport School Committee Policy Revision: First Reading—Article IV—Duties of Officers—Section 3. Clerk.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for First Reading Newport School Committee Policy Revision: Article IV—Duties of Officers—Section 3. Clerk, as presented, by inserting after the first paragraph “The Newport School Committee shall make every effort to maintain an electronic record of all regular and special meetings of the School Committee.” Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).
- 8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff: Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, Damage Reports, Superintendent’s Update, and Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report.**
- 8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports as of February 1, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). At the request of Mr. Leary, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi will provide an explanation relative to the projected expenditures.
- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Reports as of January 31, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0). At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi will provide an in-house review of facility space at the Thompson Middle School.
- 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: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration; Librarians’ Meeting; Southern Rhode Island Collaborative (SORICO); Pandemic Influenza Workshop; GASB Meeting; and Newport Public Education Foundation—Elementary Facilities. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s Update, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).
- 8.5 Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the first of Monthly Reports to the Committee regarding the activities of the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

## 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:<br>[Met: 3 p.m., July 7, 2005]                | Newport School Committee<br><b>Facilities Planning Subcommittee</b><br><u>Topic:</u><br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Room 104, Lower Level, Triplett School                                    |
| 9.2 | To be Determined:<br>[Met: 12 Noon, January 18, 2006]           | Newport School Committee<br><b>Policy Subcommittee</b><br><u>Topic:</u><br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Newport Public Schools: Administration Center  |
| 9.3 | 9:00 a.m., March 8, 2006:<br>[Met: 9:00 a.m., February 8, 2006] | Newport School Committee<br><b>Wellness Subcommittee</b><br><u>Topic:</u><br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Newport Public Schools: Administration Center  |
| 9.4 | To be Determined:<br>[Met: 7 p.m., November 7, 2005]            | Newport School Committee<br><b>and</b><br>Newport City Council<br><b>Liaison Subcommittee</b><br><u>Topic:</u><br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Newport City Hall, Second Floor Conference Room |
| 9.5 | To be Determined:<br>[Met: 7 a.m., March 22, 2005]              | Newport School Committee<br><b>Finance Advisory Subcommittee</b><br><u>Topic:</u><br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Conference Room, Second Floor<br>Newport City Hall                           |
| 9.6 | To be Determined:<br>[Met: 9 a.m., May 21, 2005]                | Newport School Committee<br><b>School Committee/State Legislators Subcommittee</b><br><u>Topic:</u><br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Newport Police Department, Assembly Room                   |
| 9.7 | 7:00 p.m., March 14, 2006:                                      | Newport School Committee<br><b>Regular Meeting</b><br><u>Location:</u><br>Thompson Middle School:<br>Beatrice Berman Bazarsky<br>Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria   |

**10.0 Executive Session.**

At 8:53 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. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

At 9:45 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Adjournment.** At 9:47 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

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

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**John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.**  
Clerk