

To be Approved 05/02/2006.

5.1

SEAL MINUTES
NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 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. (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi, Director of Special Education Linda Martin, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development (vacant), Business Manager Michael Saunders, 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 (absent).

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Richard E. Newhouse, Jr.:** who passed away on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at home in Saunderstown, Rhode Island. He was the brother-in-law of Business Manager Michael Saunders.
- **Jerome Francis Spillane:** who passed away on Friday, April 7, 2006, at the Forest Farm Health Care Center in Middletown, Rhode Island. He was the father of Sheffield School Grade 3 Teacher Patricia Carney.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Public Comment was received from Noah Kilroy, Community Organizer for the George Wiley Center, Pauline Perkins-Moye, Director of Social Services for the City of Newport Housing Authority, Henry Shelton, Coordinator of the George Wiley Center, Julie Brady, Salve Regina University Student, and Senator J. Clement Cicilline, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Newport County

Community Mental Health Center in support of the Universal Free Breakfast Program and requested that it be an Agenda Item for Action at the Committee's next Regularly Scheduled 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, third term report cards and upcoming school trips to Italy and Costa Rica.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Certificates of Achievement:

4.1.1 Music.

4.1.1.1: Rhode Island All State Festival. On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Certificates of Achievement were presented by Members Mr. Carlin (Senior Division), Dr. Hilton (Junior Division), and Mr. DeAscentis (Honors Division) to those students chosen by the Rhode Island Music Educators Association who participated in the annual Rhode Island All State Festival for Orchestra, Chorus, and Band. In the absence of Supervisor of the Arts Alan Bernstein, Music Educator Loren Palmer provided congratulatory remarks on behalf of the students.

4.1.1.2: Festival Disney. On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Certificates of Achievement were presented by Member Mr. DeAscentis to each of the Rogers High School Symphonic Orchestra and the Rogers High School Jazz Ensemble for their participation in Festival Disney in Orlando, Florida.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 **Approval of Minutes.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Minutes of the Special Meetings of April 4 and March 21, 2006, and to hold for discussion in Executive Session this evening, the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 14, 2006, as follows. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 14, 2006.** At the request of Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, discussion will follow in Executive Session, relative to the Executive Session portion of the March 14, 2006, Minutes.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 4, 2006.** There were no amendments made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 21, 2006.** There were no amendments made.

5.2
to

5.5 **Personnel Actions.**

Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Kimberly A. Onsrud, Para Educator, Special Education, Sullivan School, effective on March 24, 2006; Rebecca T. Kimes, Outdoor Track Coach, Boys' Team, Rogers High School, effective immediately; John Dias, Head Basketball Coach, Girls' Team, Rogers High School, effective immediately; Brian Krauss, Head Soccer Coach, Boys' Team, Rogers High School, effective immediately; and Dr. Richard Tresky, Principal, Thompson Middle School, effective on April 30, 2006. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Retirements. N/A.

Leaves of Absence.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Request for Rescission of the Leave of Absence of: Jan Campbell, Kindergarten Teacher, Underwood School, effective immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Request for Rescission of the Leave of Absence of: Brian Krauss, Special Educator, Coggeshall School, Teacher of Grade 2, effective immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Leave of Absence of: Nichole Cardoza, Teacher of Grade 2, Underwood School, Leave without Pay, effective for the 2006-2007 School Year. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments. N/A.

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/Workshops.

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. There were no Fiscal Impact Analyses.

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated April 11, 2006, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Advanced Placement Tests—Payment Procedures. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, this item is tabled until the next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting.

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. Discussion followed.

Mr. Carlin stated opposition to requesting a Special Election for a Bond Referendum.

6.3 High Expectations for all Students: Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that he thought the discussion at our Special Meeting on High Expectations for all of our Middle and High School Students held at Thompson Middle School on March 21, 2006, was excellent and asked the Committee to consider a date in late May, 2006, to continue the dialogue for students at our elementary schools Discussion followed.

6.4 Subcommittee Reports:

6.4.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., stated that the Rogers High School Subgroup was holding regular meetings and had identified areas for renovation: library, heating, science, and locker rooms and that a report of these findings would be prepared for review by the School Committee. Mr. DeAscentis also indicated that the Facilities Planning Subcommittee was working diligently relative to the elementary schools' timeline for fewer and newer elementary schools.

6.4.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that the next meeting of the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee has been scheduled for April 25, 2006, and the following items would be discussed: Shared Services relative to Trash Collection and Purchasing; and at a future meeting date, Financial Services would be discussed. Dr. Shoemaker stated that the City Council requested that the School Committee hold a Special Joint Meeting with them to hear the Presentation by GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) on the status of the Needs Assessment of the City's Financial Software Systems. Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Ambrogi stated that further discussion was necessary before agreeing to partner in the Joint Meeting.

6.4.3 Policy. As reported by Mrs. Gaines, the Policy Subcommittee met on March 29, 2006, and approved the Wellness Policy for First Reading this evening.

6.4.4 Wellness. As reported by Mrs. Gaines, the Wellness Subcommittee has completed its newly established Wellness Policy for First Reading this evening. The Wellness Subcommittee will be holding its next meeting tomorrow, April 12, 2006.

6.4.5 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 briefed the Committee on the 2006 Legislative Workshop sponsored by RIASC which was held on March 25, 2006, at Rhode Island College. She also stated that information would be forthcoming relative to RIASC's Annual Meeting to be held in Newport, Rhode Island, at Salve Regina University, on May 14, 2006. She then briefed the Committee on her recently attended National School Board Conference held in Chicago, Illinois.

6.4.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin stated that the meetings of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force are held on the third Monday of each month, beginning at 12:30 p.m. He briefed the Committee on their activities to date.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Newport Public Schools—2006-2007 School Calendar. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the 2006-2007 School Calendar, as presented. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed relative to beginning school on August 31, 2006. The School Committee agreed that the annual facilities tour would be scheduled for either August 28 or 29, 2006. The motion carried (4-3). The Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan. The Members voting against the motion were: David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary.

7.2 Personal Communications Service System Facility Lease Extension—Rogers High School Windmill Real Property. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to extend the Personal Communications Service System Facility Lease for the Rogers High School Windmill Real Property for a Second and Third Extension Term of Three (3) Years Each, beginning Fiscal Year 2006-2007 and ending after Fiscal Year 2012-2013, between Omnipoint Communications, Inc., and the Newport School Committee, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin requested that the motion include "pending School Committee Counsel's review and approval". Mrs. Gaines withdrew her original motion. Mr. Carlin made a motion to extend the Personal Communications Service System Facility Lease for the Rogers High School Windmill Real Property for a Second and Third Extension Term of Three (3) Years Each, beginning Fiscal Year 2006-2007 and ending after Fiscal Year 2012-2013, between Omnipoint Communications, Inc., and the Newport School Committee, as presented, pending School Committee Counsel's review and approval. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 7.3 Newport School Committee Policy Revision: Third Reading—Part 1-1.5 Bylaws: Article IV—Duties of Officers—Section 3. Clerk.** Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept for Third 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.” Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis requested that the words “gavel-to-gavel” be inserted before the word “electronic”. Mrs. Gaines voiced her opposition. Mr. Carlin withdrew his original motion and stated his support for Mr. DeAscentis’ request. Discussion then followed relative to School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin reviewing Mr. DeAscentis’ request and, therefore, tabling the vote this evening. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to table vote for Counsel Galvin’s review. Mr. Leary seconded the motion. The motion failed (2-5). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary and Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., David R. Carlin, Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan. Discussion continued. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept for Third 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 a gavel-to-gavel electronic record of all regular and special meetings of the School Committee. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was Jo Eva Gaines.
- 7.4 Newport School Committee Policy (New): First Reading—Part 5. Students: Administrative Policies—5.1.15.6: Student Nutrition & Physical Activity.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and Policy Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines defined the Policy to Committee Members under the federal Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children Reauthorization Act of 2004, that states that “all school districts participating in the federal lunch or breakfast programs are required to establish a local school wellness policy by July 1 of this year.” Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin stated that he could not support the Policy as it should not be the School Department’s responsibility for its implementation. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary echoed Mr. Carlin’s position. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for First Reading the new Newport School Committee Policy: Part 6. Students: Administrative Policies—5.1.15.6: Student Nutrition and Physical Activity, as presented, noting the omission of the second bullet under “Beverages” on Page 4. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, discussion followed relative to questions he had with the Policy language. Mrs. Gaines indicated that no further modifications to the Policy could be made by the Wellness Subcommittee under the federal guidelines. Mr. DeAscentis cited concern with specific language and contents of the Policy.

The motion failed (3-4). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan. Dr. Ambrogi requested that Committee Members reconsider the support of the Policy for its First Reading and to submit comments before its Second Reading in May. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis indicated that he would reconsider his position and vote in favor of the motion for First Reading. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept for First Reading the new Newport School Committee Policy: Part 6. Students: Administrative Policies—5.1.15.6: Student Nutrition and Physical Activity, as presented, noting the omission of the second bullet under “Beverages” on Page 4, and that the specific language and contents of the Policy would be further reviewed before its Second Reading in May. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which 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.

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 April 7, 2006. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Reports as of March 31, 2006. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Hilton 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: High Expectations for All Students, Coggeshall School—Class Reading, Newport Public Education Foundation, Rogers High School Football Championship Dinner, Secondary School Regulations, Rogers High School Facilities Sub Group, PTO Bi-Monthly Meeting, Carey School—SALT Visit, Rogers High School National Honor Society, Rhode Island Kids Count, Carey School—Class Reading, Coggeshall School—Classroom Project, Rotary Club, and the Rhode Island

Emergency Management Agency. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.5 Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the third 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. Dr. Hilton 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:

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 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 | To be Determined:
[Met: 12 Noon, March 29, 2006] | Newport School Committee
Policy Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Newport Public Schools: Administration Center |
| 9.3 | 9:00 a.m., April 12, 2006:
[Met: 9:00 a.m., March 8, 2006] | Newport School Committee
Wellness Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Newport Public Schools: Administration Center |
| 9.4 | 7:00 p.m., April 25, 2006:
[Met: 7 p.m., March 13, 2005] | Newport School Committee
and
Newport City Council
Liaison Subcommittee
<u>Topic:</u>
Regular Meeting
<u>Location:</u>
Newport City Hall, Conference Room, Second Floor |
| 9.5 | 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 |

- 9.6 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
- 9.7 6:00 p.m., May 2, 2006: Newport School Committee
Regular Meeting
Topics:
Fewer, Newer Schools
07' Budget Adoption
Regular Meeting Agenda Items
Location:
Thompson Middle School
Beatrice Berman Bazarsky
Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria
- 9.8 6:30 p.m., May 9, 2006: Newport School Committee/Newport City Council
Special Joint Meeting
Topic:
2006-2007 School Budget Workshop
Location:
City of Newport Council Chambers, Second Floor
- 9.9 6:00 p.m., May 23, 2006: Newport School Committee
Employee Retirement Dinner
Location:
Newport Area Career and Technical Center
Colonial Dining Room

10.0 Executive Session.

At 9:10 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 (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION OPEN SESSION

At 9:32 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 14, 2006, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Adjournment. At 9:38 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

