

Approved 06/13/2006.

5.1

SEAL MINUTES
NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2006

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 6:02 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., and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogio, 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.

- **Jennie T. Ewart:** who passed away on Sunday, April 16, 2006, at the St. Clare Home in Newport. She was the mother-in-law of Dorothy Ewart, our Central Office Mail and Distribution Clerk.
- **Julia Sheehy:** who passed away on Friday, April 21, 2006, in Ormand Beach, Florida. She was the mother of Coggeshall School Kindergarten Para Educator Sheila DeAscentis and the mother-in-law of School Committee Member Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

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 of ongoing school activities to date.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Certificates of Achievement:

4.1.1 Newport Area Career and Technical Center (NACTC):

- 4.1.1.1: **Rhode Island Skills USA Competition.** On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Certificates of Achievement were presented by School Committee Members Jo Eva Gaines (Pin Design and Gold Medals), Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. (Silver Medals), and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. (Bronze Medals) to those students who participated and received awards in the annual Rhode Island Skills USA Competition. Newport Area Career and Technical Center Director Joseph Martins and Advisor Colleen Murray were commended for their leadership.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

- 5.1 **Approval of Minutes.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 11, 2006, as follows. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 11, 2006.** No amendments were made.

5.2 to

5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Jennifer Macias, Para Educator, Special Education, Sullivan School, effective on May 1, 2006; Dr. Hilton 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 Appointments of: Sarah F. Bagley, Head Girls' Tennis Coach,

Rogers High School, with a starting date of August 15, 2006; Andrew J. Martucci, Freshman Outdoor Track Coach, Boys' and Girls' Teams, Rogers High School, effective Immediately; and Andrew J. Martucci, Assistant Football Coach, Rogers High School, with a starting date of August, 2006. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Transfers. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Transfer of: Patricia Murgo, Custodian, First Shift, Cranston-Calvert School, with a starting date of June 26, 2006. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Renewals. **2006-2007 Contracts for Administrators.** At the request of Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, discussion followed relative to his opposition to the severance pay package offered to the administrators upon termination and/or resignation. Mr. Phelan stated that he had questions relative to salary. Mr. Phelan made a motion to move the Renewals—2006-2007 Contracts for Administrators to Executive Session. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6 Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Request for Waiver of Rental Fees from the Newport Public Education Foundation for a “run for Mom” Road Race, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.7 Requests for Field Trips. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Request for Field Trip from the Rogers High School Varsity Baseball Team to play in Cooperstown, New York, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Mr. Carlin made a motion wishing the Rogers High School Varsity Baseball Team good luck playing against Middletown at the Baseball Field in Cooperstown, New York. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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 May 2, 2006, as presented, with the exception of the Renewals. 2006-2007 Contracts for Administrators, which was moved to Executive Session.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Advanced Placement (A.P.) Tests—Payment Procedures. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, this item was tabled from last month until further research was conducted. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as a result of Counsel Galvin's review of the Commissioner's Decision on the issue of the A.P. Fees and whether the District could offer an A.P./Honors Course, the District could and will pay for students taking A.P. Exams beginning this year (at a total estimated cost of \$9,724). Dr. Ambrogi further stated that the students who have signed up for A.P. Courses will be apprised of the option in May that they may have the opportunity to take regular college prep courses should they desire to do so or take the course as "Honors" and not "A.P." This new procedure would be instituted next year. Discussion followed.

6.2 High Expectations for all Students: Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reminded the Committee that a Special Meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, May 16, 2006, at 7 p.m., in the Thompson Middle School Cafeteria, to discuss High Expectations for our Elementary School Students.

6.3 Subcommittee Reports:

6.3.1 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, hopefully at an upcoming Special Meeting this month. Mr. DeAscentis also indicated that the Facilities Planning Subcommittee was working diligently relative to the elementary schools' timeline for fewer and newer elementary schools.

6.3.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker reported out on the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting held on April 25, 2006, on the following items that were discussed: Shared Services relative to Trash Collection and Purchasing. The next Meeting of the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2006, with the following agenda items for discussion: Purchasing; Fewer, Newer Schools' Progress; GSAB; Rogers High School: Science Labs; Financial Services; and Potential Future Agenda Items: Software Services: Implementation/management of new software.

6.3.3 Policy. As reported by Mrs. Gaines, there was no new business of the Policy Subcommittee.

6.3.4 Wellness. As reported by Mrs. Gaines, Wellness Subcommittee Members have been invited to this evening's meeting in the event Committee Members have any questions on the development of the Wellness Policy, which is on the Action Portion of this Agenda for Second Reading. Wellness Subcommittee Members who addressed the Committee were: Thomas Galvin, Donna Walker, Susan Cooper, Dr. M. Jane Barry, and Linda Martin. The Wellness Subcommittee will be holding its next meeting tomorrow, April 12, 2006.

6.3.5 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 RIASC's Annual Meeting to be held in Newport, Rhode Island, at Salve Regina University, on May 14, 2006. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker publicly supported Jo Eva Gaines, as she will be elected President of RIASC.

6.3.6 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, as well as the upcoming Annual Awards Luncheon to be held in the Colonial Dining Room on Friday, May 5, 2006, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Authorization for Superintendent to Award Bids/Process Grants. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to process P.L. 81-815, P.L. 71-874, Title I, and all other Federal, State, and private grant applications as a representative of the School Committee of Newport and to award bids for instruction/office supplies, equipment, and services for the 2006-2007 school year. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.2 Newport School Committee Policy (New): Second Reading—Part 5. Students: Administrative Policies—5.1.15.6: Student Nutrition & Physical Activity. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, Policy Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, and invited Members from the Wellness Subcommittee reviewed the Second Reading of the Wellness Policy 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. Upon receiving no input from Committee Members between the First and Second Readings, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept for Second Reading the new Newport School Committee Policy: Part 6.

Students: Administrative Policies—5.1.15.6: Student Nutrition and Physical Activity, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin stated his objection to the expectation that it is the school department's responsibility, but out of respect for Mrs. Gaines and Members of the Wellness Subcommittee, he stated his support for the Second Reading. Discussion continued. Mr. Leary and Mr. Phelan stated that they would not be supporting the Policy. The motion 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.

- 7.3 Support for Construction of New Elementary Schools.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the results of the on-line survey that the School Department made available to residents relative to Fewer/Newer Schools and the community's preference for either the two- or three-school option. He did state that he was sorely disappointed with the small number of individuals who responded to this survey and further indicated that the survey results supported a three-school option, which would house approximately 400 students each. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to support the necessity for the construction of newer and larger elementary schools for the students of the Newport Public Schools. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.4 Request for Proposals from Architects for New Elementary Schools.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi defined the Necessity of School Construction Application Process through the Rhode Island Department of Education. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to solicit Request for Proposals from Architectural Firms to provide information regarding the construction of three new elementary schools, with the understanding that the preference for those three schools would be: Underwood School, Sullivan School, and Coggeshall School, and to ask the Architects to look at the Triplett School Site should the Coggeshall Site be problematic. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion, in support of the two-school option, were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr.
- 7.5 Adoption of 2006-2007 School Budget.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the proposed 2006-2007 School Budget before the Committee for adoption this evening. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the proposed 2006-2007 School Budget of \$37,973,408, as presented, and to forward the proposed 2006-2007 School Budget to the Newport City Council. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the

motion was: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary. A Special Joint Meeting of the Newport School Committee and the Newport City Council will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at Newport City Hall, in the Council Chambers.

8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff: Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, and Damage Reports.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports as of May 1, 2006. Discussion followed. Business Manager Michael Saunders answered questions from Committee Members. Mr. Carlin 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 April 27, 2006. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.3 Damage Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Vandalism Reports that reflected graffiti incidents to both Coggeshall and Thompson Middle Schools. He stated that the perpetrators of these acts of vandalism were arrested by the Newport Police and that restitution to the District will be sought. Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Vandalism Reports, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Ambrogi reviewed suggested meeting dates and agenda topics for the months of May and June, 2006, as follows: For the Month of May, 2006: Special Joint Meeting with Newport City Council and Newport School Committee on May 9, 2006, 6:30 p.m., at Newport City Hall Council Chambers regarding the 2006-2007 School Budget; Newport School Committee Special Meeting on May 16, 2006, 5:30 p.m., at Thompson Middle School Library for Executive Session; Newport School Committee Special Meeting on May 16, 2006, 7 p.m., at Thompson Middle School Cafeteria regarding High Expectations for all Students—Elementary Schools; JROTC Annual Awards Ceremony on May 22, 2006, 6:30 p.m., at Rogers High School Auditorium; Newport School Committee Employee Retirement Dinner on May 23, 2006, 6 p.m., at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center, Colonial Dining Room; Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting on May 30, 2006, 7 p.m., in Conference Room at Newport City Hall; For the Month of June, 2006: Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee on June 13, 2006, 7 p.m., at the Thompson

Middle School Cafeteria; Rogers High School Graduation on June 16, 2006, 6 p.m., at Rogers High School (Outside Exercises); Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Graduation on June 19, 2006, 7 p.m., at Rogers High School Auditorium; and Thompson Middle School Graduation on May 22, 2006, 6 p.m., at Rogers High School Auditorium.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 7:59 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).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 8:32 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

10.2 Renewals. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Renewals of the 2006-2007 Contracts for Administrators, as follows: Mario Andrade, Assistant Principal, Rogers High School; Jennifer Booth, Principal, Cranston-Calvert School; Maria O. Bradfield, Business Office Coordinator; Michael Breault, Principal, Coggeshall School; Nancy DaPonte-Easter, Principal, Underwood School; Patricia DiCenso, Principal, Rogers High School; Amy Donnelly-Roche, Coordinator of Special Education; Frances Eames, Coordinator of Human Resources; Paul Fagan, Director of Property Services; Wendy Gasior, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent; Kimberly Homer, Principal, Carey School; Maria Mare Schulz, Principal, Sullivan School; Eddie Merritt, Student Attendance Facilitator; Jacqueline Naspo, Assistant Principal, Rogers High School; Pamela O'Day, Literacy Coordinator, K-12; John Redmond, Systemwide Network Manager; Michael Saunders, Business Manager; Doreen Schlackman, School Accountability Specialist/Information Systems Manager; Eric Thomas, Assistant Principal, Thompson Middle School; and Mitchell Williams, Technology Coordinator. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary.

Adjournment. At 8:35 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