

Approved 09/12/2006.

5.1

SEAL MINUTES
NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2006

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 (arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., 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 Amy Donnelly Roche (absent), Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development (vacant), Business Manager Michael Saunders, 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.

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Alfred DiCenso:** who passed away on Monday, July 24, 2006, at home, in Providence. He was the father-in-law of Patti DiCenso, Principal, at Rogers High School.
- **Elizabeth Roque:** who passed away on Friday, July 7, 2006. She was a sixth grade student at Thompson Middle School.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. The Committee thanked Rogers High School Science Teacher David Goodburn for his support with the Rogers High School Science Wing—Lab Renovations and for his donating to each Member a piece of the old Lab bench.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

- **Update: Marina Zambrotta (No Report).**

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Resolution of Appreciation—Mary E. Ryan. On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary read aloud the Resolution of Appreciation to be presented to long-time retired educator Mary E. Ryan on August 14, 2006. A copy of the Resolution will be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee. Mrs. Gaines moved that we accept the Resolution, as presented. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the exception of 5.5: Appointments, by taking those three Appointments to be voted on individually, at the request of Mr. Carlin. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 13, 2006; Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 15, 2006, 7 p.m.; and Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 29, 2006; as follows. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 13, 2006.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 15, 2006, 7 p.m.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, June 29, 2006, 7 p.m.** No amendments were made.

5.2

to

5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Susan Winterbottom, Music Teacher, effective July 11, 2006; Maria Conca, Rogers High School Physical Education/Dance Teacher, effective July 21, 2006; Emily Shirley, Math

Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective July 24, 2006; and Cynthia Drew Etlar, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective July 30, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Retirements. N/A.

Leaves of Absence. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leaves of Absence for Maternity of: Aida LeVasseur, Payroll Processor, effective September 16, 2006, to January 2, 2007; and Bethany Borqueta, Science Teacher, Rogers High School, effective January 1, 2007, to May 1, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Mrs. Gaines made a motion to deny the Leaves of Absence without Pay of: Renee Moniz, Grade 5 Teacher, Coggeshall School, effective August 30, 2006, to June 18, 2007; and Jessica Austin, Grade 2 Teacher, Underwood School, effective August 30, 2006, to June 18, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments.

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Adams, Senior Army Instructor, effective August 30, 2006. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Beth Lutynski, Art Teacher, Sullivan, Coggeshall, and Underwood Schools, effective August 30, 2006. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Sarah Geremia, Music Teacher, effective August 30, 2006. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Transfers. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Transfers of: Maureen Martin, District Information Clerk, effective August 15, 2006; and Patricia Carney, Educational Diagnostician, effective August 30, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Recalls. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Recalls of: Pamela Storey, Speech/Language Pathologist, effective August 30, 2006; Sarah Bagley, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Rogers High School, effective August 30, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6 Requests for Home Instruction. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Discussion followed. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary requested that the Superintendent

research state law relative to the requirement for home-schooled students to present proof of immunization requirements in the event they participate in extracurricular activities at our schools.

5.7 Bid—

5.7.1: Rogers High School Science Wing—Interior Door Replacement. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the Rogers High School Science Wing—Interior Door Replacement Contract to the lowest bidder, New England School Services, for the fixed price of \$27,020, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.8 Fiscal Impact Analysis—

5.8.1 Consolidated Resource Plan. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Fiscal Impact Analysis—Consolidated Resource Plan, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated August 8, 2006, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Subcommittee Reports:

6.1.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., briefed the Committee on the Architectural Screening Committee results, as presented under Action No. 7.4.

6.1.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker reported out that the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 17, 2006, 7 p.m., had been cancelled at the City's request and no replacement meeting has been scheduled to date.

6.1.3 Policy. Mrs. Gaines stated that the 2006-2007 Policy Manual will be distributed in September.

6.1.4 Wellness. The Wellness Policy Subcommittee will resume its meetings this Fall.

6.1.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines indicated that a training session for both current and new school committee members was being planned for the Fall.

6.1.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin stated that the Task Force would resume its monthly meetings this Fall.

7.0 ACTION.

- 7.1 K-5 Standards-Based Student Achievement Progress Report.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the newly drafted K-5 Standards-Based Student Achievement Progress Report. He stated that the Report Card is tied into the standards on which our students are tested by the Rhode Island Department of Education; and, by modifying the Report Card in this way, it will enable both parents and teachers to focus on those skills that will enable our students to perform better on the state tests. Dr. Ambrogi thanked the involvement by parents and staff in the development of this Progress Report. Carey School Principal Kim Homer answered questions from Committee Members relative to the specifics of the proposed Progress Report. The School Committee commended those who served on this District's Progress Report Committee. Mr. DeAscentis requested that a parental survey be conducted to gain feedback on this newly drafted Progress Report. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the K-5 Standards-Based Student Achievement Progress Report, effective the 2006-2007 School Year. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.2 2006-2007 School Calendar.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi recommended to revise the 2006-2007 School Calendar, given the state law requires that schools in the State of Rhode Island be closed for Primary Election Day on September 12, 2006. He stated that June 18, 2006, would now be slated as the last day of school rather than the originally approved date of June 15, 2007. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the 2006-2007 School Calendar, as amended. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.3 Sheffield School—Formal Turnover to the City of Newport.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi recommended that Sheffield School be formally turned over to the City of Newport. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to turn over the property known as Sheffield School at 513 Broadway, to the City of Newport, as it is no longer needed for school purposes. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, discussion followed as to his suggestion to delay action on this issue for three months until professional feedback is sought from the proposed Architectural Firm to be hired by the Committee. Mr. Phelan echoed Mr. DeAscentis' suggestion. At the request of Mrs. Gaines, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with his professional position in support of the recommendation to turn over Sheffield School to the City of Newport. He cited that the Hearing Decision on the Closing of Sheffield School was based on the District's turnover to the City of Newport of Sheffield School. Dr. Ambrogi further indicated that the Request for Architectural Services for Fewer/Newer Elementary Schools did not provide

Sheffield School as an option. He reminded the Committee that Triplett School has the capacity to provide the District with additional housing, if necessary. Dr. Hilton stated his support to turn over Sheffield School to the City of Newport and reminded the Committee that he voted for the closing of Sheffield School. Mr. Carlin stated that he had voted against closing Sheffield School and will continue to support his position. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary echoed Mr. Carlin's position. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to table the motion on the floor for three months. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr.

7.4 Architectural Services: Elementary School Facilities—Recommendation.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Elementary School Facilities' Architectural Screening Committee to interview the following five (5) architectural firms: Design Partnership of Cambridge (MA), HMFH Architects, Inc. (MA), JCJ Architecture (CT), Kaestle Boos (MA), and Mount Vernon Group (MA). Dr. Hilton seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.5 Teachers' Association of Newport—2005-2008 Contract Ratification.

School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin provided the Committee with an update of the contract ratification recommended this evening. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to ratify the Collective Bargaining Final Agreement between the Teachers' Association of Newport and the Newport School Committee, effective September 1, 2005, through August 31, 2008, authorizing Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker as Executor of the Contract. 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. Both Mr. Leary and Mr. Phelan cited that they could not vote in favor of the final Contract since they had voted against the tentative Contract Agreement.

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. Ambrogio reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports as of June 30, 2006, citing that the estimated available balance will be firmed up by the Committee's September Meeting. Discussion followed. Business Manager Michael Saunders stated that the Request for Proposal for City Software was currently out to bid; and, once the Software is installed and operating, within the

next year, real-time financial data will be available to the District. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, with the transfer totaling \$70,000 to be transferred from 9120 Support Staff to 9152 Severance-Support, 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 June 23, 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.

8.4 Superintendent's Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on activities to date: Newport Housing Authority—Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; Rogers High School Graduation; Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Graduation; Sullivan School Assembly—Toyota Tapestry Grant Rogers High School Chemistry Class—Presentation of Books; Thompson Middle School Graduation; Pandemic Planning Meeting; Fewer/Newer Schools: Architectural Services Screening Subcommittee; Joint Island Meeting—RIPEC; and Sullivan School Summer Reading Academy: Bank of Newport Presentation. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, 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 August and September, 2006, as follows:

- August 15, 2006:
Newport School Committee Special Meeting, 12 Noon
Administration Center
- September 12, 2006:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Month of September, 2006:
Schedule Newport School Committee Meetings for:
Architectural Firms—Interviews

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:38 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 9:42 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 9:44 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk