

Approved 11/14/2006.

5.1

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

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:03 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 7:05 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 Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D., Business Manager Michael Saunders (absent), 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 (arrived at 7:43 p.m.).

ROLL CALL.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Judge Francis J. Boyle:** who passed away on September 11, 2006, at home. He was the father of Thompson Middle School Social Studies Teacher Matthew Boyle.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

- **Update: Marina Zambrotta.** Ms. Zambrotta provided a brief update on the Fall activities planned for Rogers High School.

At approximately, 7:05 p.m., Mr. Carlin arrived at the meeting.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Resolution:

4.1.1 Loren Palmer, Music Educator: 2007 Newport Teacher of the Year.

On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker publicly read aloud the Resolution for Loren Palmer, Music Educator, for Newport Public Schools, as the 2007 Newport Teacher of the Year and as the Newport Public Schools' Nominee to the Rhode Island Department of Education for consideration as the 2007 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year. Mr. Palmer was presented the Resolution, and he thanked the Committee, administration, students, peers, the community, his family in attendance, and the Selection Committee for this commendation. Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Resolution, as presented. Mrs. Gaines 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 the Appointments, which will be voted upon separately, at the request of Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary. 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, September 12, 2006; Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 7, 2006; Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 19, 2006; Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 21, 2006; and Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 26, 2006; as follows. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 12, 2006.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 7, 2006.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 19, 2006.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, September 21, 2006.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 26, 2006.** No amendments were made.

5.2
to

5.5 **Personnel Actions.**

Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations of: Stephanie Martland, Junior Class Advisor, effective September 21, 2006; and Rebecca Vars, Freshman Class Advisor, effective September 20, 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 Maternity Leave of Absence of: Melissa Greengrass, Special Educator, Thompson Middle School, effective January 17, 2007 to June 18, 2007; and the Paternity Leave of Absence of Thomas Milburn, Grade 5 Teacher, Sullivan School, effective November 27, 2006 to February 9, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Suzanne Platt, Grade 4 Lead Team Mathematics Teacher, Coggeshall School, effective Immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Peter Corr, Co-Senior Class Advisor, Rogers High School, effective Immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Michael Whaley, Co-Senior Class Advsior, Rogers High School, effective Immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Peter Corr, Drama Advisor, Rogers High School, effective Immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Mary Beth Vieira, Grade 9 Class Advisor, Rogers High School, effective Immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointments of the twenty one (21) Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Positions, as listed below, effective Immediately. Dr. Hilton seconded the motion, which carried (6-0). Mr. Phelan recused himself.

Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Patrick Rossoni | ABE/GED Evening | Triplett | Immediately |
| Patricia Wells | ABE/GED Evening | Tiverton HS- | Immediately |
| Sandra Smith | ABE/GED Evening | Portsmouth HS | Immediately |
| Angelo Soto | ABE/GED Daytime | Triplett-Days | Immediately |
| Mary Buckwalter | ABE/GED Daytime | Lucy's Hearth/Visiting Nurse | Immediately |
| James Kenney | Diploma Plus | Triplett | Immediately |
| Patrick Sullivan | Diploma Plus | Triplett | Immediately |
| Suzanne Harkness | ESL | Thompson MS | Immediately |
| Alina Sargent | ESL | Thompson MS | Immediately |
| Alice Jones | ESL | Middletown HS | Immediately |
| Dorcas Taylor | ESL | Middletown HS | Immediately |
| Cindy Boswell | ESL | Triplett | Immediately |
| MaryAnn Quick | EL/CIVICS | Triplett | Immediately |
| Judith Phelan | VTA-Nursing | Triplett | Immediately |
| Kathy Langley | VTA-Nursing | Triplett | Immediately |
| Peter Silveria | VTA-Plumbing | Triplett | Immediately |
| James Grundy | VTA-Pipefitting | Triplett | Immediately |
| Robert Dimery | VTA-Electrical | Triplett | Immediately |
| Michael Melchione | VTA-Electrical | Triplett | Immediately |
| Jeffrey Lemler | VTA- Computer Software Applications | Triplett | Immediately |

5.6 Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the two Requests for Waiver of Rental Fees, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.7 Requests for Home Instruction. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the one Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.8 Bid:

5.8.1: Four-Wheel Drive Pick-Up Truck. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award Herb Chambers Ford the Bid for the Four-Wheel Drive Pick-Up Truck in the total amount of \$20,889, 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 October 10, 2006, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 High Expectations for All Students: Update—Discipline and Attendance. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated to the Committee that the first step in High Expectations for All Students is the expectation that all students attend school each and every day and arrive on time and that we cannot expect teaching and learning to take place if students are not in the classroom ready to

learn. Rogers High School and Thompson Middle School Administrations and Student Attendance Facilitator Eddie Merritt then presented to the Committee the issues regarding the maintenance of safe and orderly schools at the secondary level. They discussed new procedures that have been put in place during this past school year. Discussion followed. On behalf of the Committee, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker commended the administrations, faculties, and the Teachers' Association of Newport for the implementation of these new procedures. Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary requested that a quarterly report be received by the Committee relative to alternative placements of students. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi commended his administrations.

6.2 Architectural Services—Elementary School Facilities:

6.2.1 On-Site Visitations. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee information received from the three architectural firms: Design Partnership of Cambridge, HMFH Architects, Inc., and JCJ Architecture regarding the recommended elementary schools for on-site visitations, as well as their pre-referendum activities' costs. Discussion followed relative to making a determination as to who should go on the visitations, when the visitations should occur, and which elementary schools should be the subject of those visitations. It was agreed that the Committee would spend three days visiting two of the school sites from each architect's listing, preferably Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

6.3 Subcommittee Reports:

6.3.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., briefed the Committee on progress to date with the major improvements at Rogers High School and elementary school facilities, which were discussed above.

6.3.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that the School Committee was still working diligently to schedule an upcoming Liaison Subcommittee with the Council.

6.3.3 Policy. Mrs. Gaines stated that the 2006-2007 Policy Manual was distributed throughout the District last week.

6.3.4 Wellness. Mrs. Gaines stated that the Wellness Policy Subcommittee will resume its meetings beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, October 11, 2006, with an emphasis on expanding the Wellness Subcommittee community-wide. Mrs. Gaines also stated that she represented the District by attending the Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition's Breakfast for School Leaders held on Thursday, September 21, 2006.

6.3.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines indicated that a training session for both current and new school committee members has been scheduled for this Saturday, October 14, 2006, on roles and responsibilities and that invitational flyers have been distributed. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that Mrs. Gaines was a participant on the statewide panel discussion entitled “Property Taxes: Issues, Perspectives, Reform” sponsored by Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty held on Wednesday, September 27, 2006.

6.3.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin stated that there was no new business to report.

7.0 ACTION. No Action Items came before the Committee.

8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff: Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, Damage Reports, Superintendent’s Update, 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 September 29, 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).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Reports as of September 29, 2006. He stated that once Whitehall Associates has compiled the most recent demographics relative to our Enrollment Reports of September 29, 2006, the Committee will receive this information. 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.

8.4 Superintendent’s Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on activities to date: Newport Teacher of the Year Selection Committee Meeting, Newport County Fund Meeting at Pell Center, Architectural Firms—Walk Through, Newport Hospitality Commission Meeting; Rogers High School Department Heads Meeting, Student Attendance Facilitator Meeting, Newport School Committee Special Meetings—Architectural Firms’ Interviews, Child & Family Services Annual Meeting, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission Legislative Breakfast, AP Consultant Meeting, Cost Share Meeting, Rhode Island Mentoring Partnership Meeting—Thompson Middle School, Summer Reading Academy Meeting—Sullivan School, Rogers High School

Senior Project Program Breakfast, Positively Newport Schools Celebration at Braga Park, East Bay Community Action Program Molar Express Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Sullivan School, and 2006 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook Meeting. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

School Committee Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi spoke to the Position Paper, developed by Dr. Shoemaker, which was distributed to the Committee Members for review addressing the issue of ownership of the Newport Area Career and Technical Center to be forwarded to the Commissioner of Education.

- 8.5 Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Monthly Report. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, as presented. Mrs. Gaines 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 October and November, 2006, as follows:

- Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 9 a.m.:
Wellness Subcommittee Meeting
Administration Center—Conference Room No. 2
- Date and Time to be Determined:
Newport City Council/Newport School Committee Liaison Subcommittee Meeting
Location: To be Determined
- Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 7 p.m.:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria

10.0 Executive Session.

At 9:03 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).

At approximately 9:04 p.m., Mrs. Gaines left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 10:00 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:02 p.m., Dr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk