

Approved 01/09/2007

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, December 12, 2006

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:00 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 7:03 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, 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.**

- **Manuel “Manny” Faria:** who passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2006, at Newport Hospital. He was the father-in-law of Thompson Middle School Science Teacher Barbara Walton-Faria.
- **Mildred “Jonnie” Mallen:** who passed away on Friday, November 24, 2006, in New Hampshire. She was the mother of Central Office Administration’s Special Education Coordinator Barbara Smith.
- **Margaret Sheehan:** who passed away on Monday, November 27, 2006, at Newport Hospital. She was the mother of Social Worker Mary Sheehan who services our Sullivan School, Underwood School, and Preschool students.
- **Stanley P. Brown:** who passed away on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at home in Newport. He was the father of both Stanley P. Brown, Jr., Director of the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center, and Christine Pimentel, Purchasing Secretary/Bookkeeper of Central Administration’s Business Office.

- **Calvin S. Chrupcala:** who passed away on Friday, October 6, 2006, in San Jose, Costa Rica. He was a long-time educator with the Newport Public Schools as both an Art Teacher and Art Supervisor, retiring in 1990.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.** No Public Comment was received.

**3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

**3.1 Student Council:**

- **Update: Marina Zambrotta.** Ms. Zambrotta welcomed the Girls' Soccer Team and provided an update on the *Adopt-A-Family Program* with Child and Family Services which will provide an opportunity for the students to help less fortunate families for the holiday season. Seniors are busy with the college application process.

**4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.**

**4.1 Resolution RHS Girl's Soccer Team.**

On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker publicly read aloud the Resolution honoring the 2006-2007 Rogers High School Girls' Soccer Team for their successful season culminating in winning the RI Division IV State Championship on November 11, 2006. Members of the Girls Soccer Team, and coaching staff accepted the Resolution.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resolution honoring the 2006-2007 Rogers High School Girls' Soccer Team as presented. Mr. DeAscentis, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.2 Certificate of Achievement: Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr..**

On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker publicly read aloud a Certificate of Achievement honoring Dr. O. William Hilton, Jr. for his service to the students of the Newport Public Schools from 1997-2001 and from 2005-2006. Dr. Hilton thanked the members of the committee and the public for the opportunity to serve.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, 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, November 14, 2006; as follows. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 14, 2006.** No amendments were made.

#### **5.2-5 Personnel Actions.**

**5.2 Retirements.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the retirement of Bonnie Marvelle, Kindergarten Teacher, Cranston-Calvert effective December 31, 2006. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**5.3 Resignations.** N/A

**5.4 Leaves of Absence.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Maternity Leave of Absence of: Marianne Menas, Grade 1 Teacher, Cranston-Calvert School, and effective February 1, 2007 to June 1, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

#### **5.5 Appointments.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Michael Whaley, Assistant Basketball Coach, Rogers High School effective Immediately. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Kathleen Loftus, Sixth Grade Leader, Thompson Middle School, effective Immediately. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Margaret Landry, Eighth Grade Math Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective 12/13/2006. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Marvin L: Abney II, Food Tech Assistant, NACTC, effective 01/02/2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

The following appointments are for the 2006-2007 School Year Only:

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Caitlyn Booth, June McGreavy, Kathy Owens, Jane Perry, and Tina Rose to the Extended School Day program at Carey Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Meg Corrigan, Nona Gilmore and Kirsten Kirwin to the Extended School Day program at Coggeshall

Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Cheryl Demenezes, Jocelyn Doherty, Kate Faerber, Cheryl Demenezes, Jocelyn Doherty, Kate Faerber, Erika Lacey, and Barbara O'Neill to the Extended School Day program at Cranston-Calvert Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Caitlyn Booth, June McGreavy, Kathy Owens, Jane Perry, and Tina Rose to the Extended School Day program at Carey Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Mary Falcone, Nancy Folcarelli, Pam Hill, Tricia Milburn and Traci Westman to the Extended School Day program at Sullivan Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Deb Berdy and Christine Camardo to the Extended School Day program at Underwood Elementary School. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

#### **5.6 Requests for Home Instruction. N/A**

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated November 14, 2006, as presented.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

**6.1 High Expectations for All Students: Update—Elementary Curricular Enrichment Opportunities.** Dr. Ambrogi reported on the Rosecliff Nutcracker Ballet activity that was enjoyed by all third graders. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that there are many unique opportunities that our students are able to experience through our partnerships with others in the community. Dr. Jacqueline Naspo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development reported on several opportunities available to our students through our community partners including: Newport Public Library, Newport Historical Society, Potter League for Animals, The Providence Journal, Newport Art Museum, Island Arts, DeBloise Gallery, Newport Yacht Club, Navy Band Northeast, Music Dolce, Newport Fire Department, US Navy Starbase Atlantis, Newport Police Department, Roger Williams University & University of Rhode Island Office of Marine Programs, Audubon Society, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Roger Williams University Bridge to Success Program, Artist in Residence

Program, City Year Rhode Island, Friends of Ballard Park, Preservation Society of Newport County and Tall Ships. Dr. Naspo introduced Mr. Patrick Rossoni of Starbase Atlantis Academy Newport to the Committee. Mr. Rossoni then addressed the Committee. At the conclusion of Mr. Rossoni's presentation, he answered questions from Committee Members relative to Starbase Atlantis. Mr. Carlin requested disaggregated data provided by Starbase Atlantis. Dr. Shoemaker reported that he and Dr. Ambrogi have had preliminary discussions with two more local groups: International Yacht Restoration School and the Naval War College Foundation.

**6.2 Berkshire Advisors: School Management Study  
– Remaining Action Plans: Update**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the committee with updated status on six Berkshire Advisor recommendations (No. 3, 4, 28, 35, 36 & 38).

**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 Library and Science Wing at Rogers High School. Next projects to be tackled at the high school include locker rooms and the gymnasium. Mr. DeAscentis also briefed the Committee on his recent attendance with Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi at the AIA Contracts Workshop held in Providence.

**6.3.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker indicated that preliminary discussions with the newly elected council indicate that a better relationship between the City Council and the School Committee is desired by all. Dr. Shoemaker stated that the Liaison Subcommittee meeting will resume in January once the new council and committee takes office and appoint subcommittee members.

**6.3.3 Policy.** Mrs. Gaines stated that, although there are several policies that need to be reviewed and revised, there was no new business to report at this time.

**6.3.4 Wellness.** Mrs. Gaines stated that the Wellness Policy Subcommittee met on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, with an emphasis on expanding the Wellness Subcommittee community-wide.

**6.3.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Mrs. Gaines stated that there was no new business to report.

- 6.3.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Mr. Carlin reported that a holiday “Mocktail” party will be held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Chaperones are needed.

**7.0 ACTION.**

**7.1 Architectural Services – Elementary School Facilities:**

- 7.1.1 Selection of Architectural Firm.** Mr. DeAscentis, Jr. made a motion to approve a contract between HMFH Architects and the Newport School Committee for an initial study and recommendations regarding the number and locations of proposed new elementary schools and, furthermore, subsequent plan for the recommended new school construction of elementary schools in Newport. The aforementioned contract is contingent upon administrative and legal review. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin moved to table the motion until the school committee could review a copy of the contract. The motion to table carried (6-1 Mrs. Gaines voting in opposition).

**7.2 Roger’s High School Athletics’ Program – Acceptance of Donation.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the charitable gift from Mr. Philip M. Bilden to the Rogers High School Athletics’ Program of a universal fitness machine valued between \$18,000 and \$20,000. Mr. DeAscentis, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**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 November 30, 2006. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis 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 November 30, 2006. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 8.3 Damage Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee one Break-in Report— at Rogers High School. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Break-In Report, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 8.4 Superintendent's Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on activities to date: The Ceremony for Sgt. Michael Weidemann, meeting with City Manager Edward Lavalley, Police and Fire Emergency Procedures Presentation, Educational Success Committee Meeting, Secret Garden Tour Check Presentation, Newport County Legislative Breakfast, Cost Sharing Meeting in Middletown, Meeting with Tall Ships Education, HMFH Meeting, Design Partnership of Cambridge Meeting, Mathematics Program Meeting, Third Grade Field Trip to Rosecliff, Personal Literacy Plan Meeting, East Bay Educational Collaborative meeting, Administrators' Meeting-07-08 Budget Workshop, Newport Public Education Foundation Meeting, Trim a Tree at the Elms, Youth Success/Young Parents Program, Newport Community School Meeting, Rogers High School Science Lab/Library Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Alternative Learning Program Meeting, AIA Contracts Seminar in Providence. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendents Update as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 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. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 8.6 Newport Area Career and Technical Center Accreditation Report.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the committee the Newport Area Career and Technical Center Accreditation Report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Newport Area Career and Technical Center Report as presented. Mr. DeAscentis 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 December, 2006 and January, 2007 as follows:

- Wednesday, December 6, 2006, 9 a.m.:  
Wellness Subcommittee Meeting  
Administration Center—Conference Room No. 2
- Tuesday, December 12, 2006, 7 p.m.:  
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting  
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria

- Friday, December 22, 2006:  
Last Day of School for Teachers, Students, & 10-Month Employees
- Monday, December 25, 2006:  
Holiday—Christmas
- Tuesday, December 26, 2006:  
Holiday—Day After Christmas
- Wednesday, December 27, 2006:  
Holiday—Day Before Christmas
- Thursday, December 28, 2006:  
Work Day for: 12-Month Employees
- Friday, December 29, 2006:  
Holiday—Day Before New Year's Day
- Tuesday, January 2, 2007:  
Back to School for Teachers, Students, & 10-Month Employees/12-Month Employees
- Wednesday, January 3, 2007:  
NSC Wellness Subcommittee Meeting, 9am. @ Central Administration
- Tuesday, January 9, 2007:  
Regular School Committee Meeting, 7pm. @ TMS Cafeteria
- Monday, January 15, 2007:  
Holiday---Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

**10.0 Executive Session. N/A**

**Adjournment.** At 8:33 p.m., Dr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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

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