

Approved 5/08/2007.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 10, 2007

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.

ROLL CALL. 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. Thomas P. Galvin, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi, Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche (absent), Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D. (absent), 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE. No Moment of Silence was announced.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

- **Update: Marina Zambrotta.** In the absence of Student Council Representative Marina Zambrotta, Kristina Monillos provided a brief update on the spring activities to date at Rogers High School.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Resolution:

4.1.1: Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Team. On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Newport Public Schools, Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker recognized the Rogers High School Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Team and its Coach Frank Newsome and Athletic Director John Heino with a Resolution for recently winning the Rhode Island Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Championship on March 6, 2007, at North Kingstown. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the

Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Team Resolution, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

4.2 Certificates of Achievement:

4.2.1: Music:

4.2.1.1: Rhode Island All-State Festival. On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Newport Public Schools, School Committee Member Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., recognized:

three students for their participation in the 2007 Rhode Island Senior Division of the All-State Ensembles, which is an annual event sponsored by the Rhode Island Music Educators Association for chosen students throughout the state for Band, Orchestra, and Chorus each with a Certificate of Achievement.

six students for their participation in the 2007 Rhode Island Honors Division of the All-State Ensembles, which is an annual event sponsored by the Rhode Island Music Educators Association for chosen students throughout the state for Orchestra, Chorus, and Band each with a Certificate of Achievement; and

six students for the participation in the 2007 Rhode Island Honors Division of the All-State Ensembles, which is an annual event sponsored by the Rhode Island Music Educators Association for chosen students throughout the state for Band and Chorus each with a Certificate of Achievement.

4.2.1.2: New York City Heritage Music Festival. On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Newport Public Schools, Member Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., recognized:

The Rogers High School Symphonic Orchestra (received by Supervisor of the Arts Alan Bernstein), the Rogers High School Chamber Choir (received by Corey Greenhalgh), and the Rogers High School Jazz Ensemble (received by Supervisor of the Arts Alan Bernstein) each with a Certificate of Achievement for their participation in the 2007 "New York City Heritage Music Festival", which was held on March 30th at the Riverside Church in New York City. This was the fourth year that Rogers High School was invited to participate in this event.

Committee Member Dr. Thomas Galvin publicly recognized the success of the recently held Thompson Middle School Science Fair.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA. Mr. Phelan made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Mr. Phelan made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 13, 2007; as follows. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 13, 2007.** No amendments were made.

**5.2
to**

5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignations.

Mr. Phelan made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Nancy DaPonte-Easter, Principal, Underwood School, effective June 30, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Retirements.

Mr. Phelan made a motion to accept the Retirement of: Mary O'Malley, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective the 46th day of 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Phelan made a motion to accept the Retirement of: John Ripa, Third Shift Custodian, Rogers High School, effective June 30, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Leaves of Absence.

Mr. Phelan made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of: Donna Kelly, Kindergarten Teacher, Sullivan School, Maternity Leave, effective May 20, 2007, to the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Phelan made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of: Linda Smith, Grade 2 Teacher, Cranston-Calvert School, Leave Without Pay, effective April 3, 2007 to the end of the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments.

Mr. Phelan made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Kim Kelly, Kindergarten Para Educator, Underwood School, effective April 11, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6 Bid:

5.6.1: On-Call Services—Electrical Contractor. Mr. Phelan made a motion to award the low bidder, Coastal Electric, of Newport, Rhode Island, a three-year contract for On-Call Electrical Services at the regular hourly rate of \$34 and overtime rate of \$50 per hour, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated April 10, 2007, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 High Expectations for All Students: Update—

6.1.1: Truancy. The District's Student Attendance Facilitator, Eddie Merritt, provided the Committee with a Comprehensive Analysis of Truancy within Newport Public Schools. He reviewed: truancy statistics for the 2006-2007 school year: truancy referrals, home visitations, telephone contacts, court dates, and petitions; a newly designed residency form for all schools to use for all new families coming into the District; school district compliance on homeless laws; and to strengthen policies and procedures within the District relative to student tardiness records. Mr. Merritt answered questions from Committee Members. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker requested that Mr. Merritt submit to the Committee a five-year analysis of truancy statistics and thanked him for his efforts. Mr. Merritt indicated that he would try to compile these statistics for the Committee.

6.2 Berkshire Advisors' School Management Study—Remaining Action Plans: Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with an update on each of the remaining activities addressed this year, as listed by the Berkshire Report, relative to Item No. 3: Inadequate programs to deal with students, who because of their age, but are failing, are promoted to Rogers High School— Progress Update: We have begun to develop an alternative program for youngsters from Grades 7 through 10 for implementation in September, 2007; Item No. 4: Alternative pathway to graduation for students who have not been successful in the traditional program— Progress Update: With a combination of our proposed Alternative School Program and the Diploma Plus Program, directed by Stan Brown, through the Aquidneck Adult Learning Center, we believe we will have a comprehensive pathway to graduation for students who have not been successful in the traditional program; Item No. 28: Discontinue summer hours for clerks, etc.— Progress Update: The summer hours for clerks

and secretaries continues to be a topic of discussion between the Newport School Committee and Council 94—Local 841; Item No. 35: Three New Elementary Schools— Progress Update: HMFH Architects has been hired by the School Committee and have begun a Feasibility Study. The Study should be completed by the end of June, 2007, in preparation for the construction of new elementary schools; Item No. 36: Rebuild Rogers High School— Progress Update: Rogers High School has had their Science Wing and Library renovated this year. Next year, we will focus on the Academic Wing and the Boys' Locker Room; and Item No. 38: Shared Services— Progress Update: We have been working diligently with the City of Newport to bring on line a comprehensive computer program, which will allow both the City Side and School Side to operate more effectively. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin made a motion to endorse these six steps reported by the Superintendent. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.3 Subcommittee Reports:

6.3.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., stated that the contract with HMFH Architects has been executed and a Feasibility Study should be completed by the end of June, 2007, and a Building Committee is under draft formation by the District under the provisions of the proposed Rhode Island Department of Education School Construction Regulations.

6.3.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the Liaison Subcommittee Meeting held on Monday, April 2, 2007, at the City Hall Conference Room, which was that of an informational session, with topics of discussion on Special Education and the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, May 7, 2007, beginning at 4 p.m., at the Thompson Middle School Library.

6.3.3 Policy. Mrs. Gaines stated that Action Item 7.1.1 and 7.1.2, Policies for Early Admission to Kindergarten and Graduation by Proficiency, were before the Committee, for Third and Final Reading, this evening. She briefed the public as to the intent of the amendments to these Policies.

6.3.4 Wellness. Dr. Galvin stated that there was no new business to report on the Wellness Policy Subcommittee.

6.3.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines updated the Committee on the activities to date of the Rhode Island Association of Schools Committees: (1) The Rhode Island Association of School Committees held their 2007 Legislative Workshop on Saturday morning, March 24, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at

Rhode Island College. Workshop topics included: 2008 State Budget Analysis, RIASC's Legislative Initiatives, Review 2007 Education Legislation, and New State Education Aid Formula Update; (2) The Rhode Island Association of School Committees will hold a Workshop on Saturday, April 21, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Offices of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees. The Workshop will focus on the Proposed Changes to Rhode Island's Special Education Regulations and presented by Ken Swanson, Director, Office of Special Populations, at the Rhode Island Department of Education; (3) The Rhode Island Association of School Committees will hold its 2007 Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 12, 2007, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, and it is entitled "Found Dollars"; (4) Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker applauded Mrs. Gaines for receiving her appointment to the Funding Aid Technical Advisory Committee to study the new state education aid formula; and (5) Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker and Member Mrs. Gaines will be attending the National School Board Association's 67th Annual Conference in San Francisco on April 14 to 17, 2007.

6.3.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin stated that the Task Force met yesterday, April 10, 2007. He informed the Committee that the Task Force was still awaiting the award announcement on their recent Grant Application Submittal and anticipates to receive funding. If the grant is awarded, Mr. Carlin indicated that it will provide the City of Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force with \$200,000 for three consecutive years and promote a greater collaboration between Newport Public Schools and the City's Task Force. Mr. Carlin reminded Committee Members that on Friday, April 27, 2007, beginning at 11:30 a.m., the Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force will be holding their annual Awards Luncheon, at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center's Colonial Dining Room, in honor of three Rogers High School Seniors and retiring Newport Area Career and Technical Center's Technical Assistant/Energy Manager Richard Niejadlik for their community service. He encouraged Committee Members to attend.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Newport Public Schools' Policy Amendments—Third Reading:

7.1.1: Policy No.: 4.2.3.1—Early Admission to Kindergarten. Hearing no additional requests for amendments from the Committee's March Meeting, Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept for Third Reading Policy No.: 4.2.3.1—Early Admission to Kindergarten, as presented. Mr. Galvin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin received clarification of the standard deviation. He indicated that these standards to justify an appeal are too rigid (inflexibility) and could not support the Policy. He stated that he would like to see discretion vested in the Superintendent. Discussion continued. Policy Subcommittee Members

Dr. Galvin and Mrs. Gaines redefined the Policy amendments. The motion carried unanimously (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: David R. Carlin.

7.1.2: Graduation by Proficiency

Policy No.: 4.2.3.2—Early Admission to College

Policy No.: 4.2.3.6—Alternate School Programs

Policy No.: 4.4.3.3—High School

Policy No.: 4.4.5—Graduation Requirements

Policy No.: 4.4.5.1—Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements

Policy No.: 4.4.5.2—Honoring Prior Learning and Knowledge Acquired Outside of School

Policy No.: 4.4.5.3—[New]—Demonstration Timeline

Policy No.: 4.4.5.4—[New]—Measurement of Proficiency

Policy No.: 4.4.5.5—[New]—Appeal Process for Graduation Decisions

Policy No.: 4.4.7—[New]—Fairness of Assessments

Policy No.: 4.4.8—[New]—Bias Review Panel

Hearing no additional requests for amendments from the Committee's March Meeting, Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept for Third Reading the above-named Policies, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Carlin, Mrs. Gaines and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi defined the new Policy No.: 4.4.8: Bias Review Panel. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi defined the Appeal Process for Graduation Decisions under the new Policy No.: 4.4.5.5. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.2 Rogers High School—Lacrosse Team. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the request received from Rogers High School Patricia DiCenso and Athletic Director John Heino for the establishment of a self-funded Rogers High School/Tiverton High School Lacrosse Team for the 2006-2007 School Year, similar to that of the Hockey Team. Discussion followed. Dr. Galvin made a motion to approve the self-funded Rogers High School/Tiverton High School Lacrosse Team for the 2006-2007 School Year, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Dr. Galvin, Dr. Ambrogi spoke to the issue of insurance and liability coverage. 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 March 30, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Galvin 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 30, 2007. He stated that the projected 2007-2008 Kindergarten Registration Enrollments would be finalized shortly and shared with the Committee. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Galvin 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 activities to date: Positively Newport Schools, Electronic Personal Literacy Plans, Kindergarten Registration, Rhode Island School Superintendents Association, Summer Programming, NACTC Coordinating Committee, East Bay Educational Collaborative, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Cranston-Calvert School S.A.L.T. Visit/Readout, NSC Administrative Compensation Subcommittee, Energy Education, Newport Public Education Foundation, Rhode Island Public Expenditure Commission, Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust, HMFH Architects, City Manager Meeting, Parent Leadership Council, Summer Programming and Finances, Reading Week at Coggeshall, Carey, and Underwood Schools, Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center, Even Start Grant, RITER Grant, Reading Academy, NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee, Newport Partnership for Families, Kindergarten Para Educators' Interviews, Thompson Middle School Science Fair, RIDE School Construction Regulations, Council 94—Local 841 Negotiations, and Cranston-Calvert School—Century 21st Grant. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Carlin, he stated that he had been a Guest Reader during Reading Week and received student requests at the elementary level (grade 5) if we could expand our offering of books by Author R. L. Stine, as well as historical fiction offerings.
- 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. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed suggested meeting dates and agenda topics for the months of April and May, 2007, as follows:

- Monday, April 2, 2007, 4 p.m.:
Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting
City of Newport Conference Room, Second Floor
- Friday, April 6, 2007:
Good Friday—No School
- Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 7 p.m.:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Monday, April 16-20, 2007:
Spring Recess—No School
- Sunday, May 6, 2007:
Rogers High School National Honor Society Induction, 5 p.m.
Rogers High School Library
- Monday, May 7, 2007, 4 p.m.:
Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Library
- Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 7 p.m.:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Sunday, May 13, 2007, 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.:
NPEF Mother's Day 5K Walk/Run
Rogers High School
- Thursday, May 17, 2007, 6 p.m.:
Rogers High School JROTC Awards Ceremony
Rogers High School Auditorium
- Friday, May 18, 2007, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.:
Rogers High School Junior Prom
Easton's Beach Rotunda

- Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 6 p.m.:
NSC Employee Retirement Dinner
NACTC Colonial Dining Room
- Thursday, May 24, 2007, 7 p.m.:
Rogers High School Honors Night
Rogers High School Auditorium
- Monday, May 28, 2007:
Memorial Day—No School
- Tuesday, May 29, 2007, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: (*Tentative*)
NPEF Showcase
Rogers High School
- Wednesday, May 30, 2007, 6:30 p.m.:
Newport School Committee and Newport City Council
Special Joint Meeting—2007-2008 School Budget
Council Chambers

Dr. Galvin requested that the Agenda Item: Release of Sheffield School be placed on the Committee's May 8, 2007, Agenda.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:22 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. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

SEAL MINUTES

EXECUTIVE SESSION OPEN SESSION

At 10:15 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:17 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

