

Approved 08/14/2007.

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**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Special Meeting**  
Thursday, July 26, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Special Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:11 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 (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. Thomas P. Galvin, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., 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 (absent), Coordinator of Human Resources and Information Services Fran Eames (absent), School Building Principals (absent), Administrators (absent), and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin (absent).

**1.0 Personnel Actions.**

**Resignations.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Robert Barr, Summer Hockey Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: William Kimes, Freshman Football Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Janet Marshall, Girls' Volleyball Head Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**Leaves of Absence.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of: Steven Schreiner, Art Teacher, Rogers High School, for Paternity Leave, effective from September 24, 2007 to November 26, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**Appointments.**

Mr. Carlin made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Michael Franco, Principal, Coggeshall School, effective July 1, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Patricia Gablinske, Principal, Underwood School, effective July 1, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary commended the talent of the candidate pool. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi introduced and congratulated Patricia Gablinske who was present in the audience.

Mr. Carlin made a motion to approve the Appointment of: James Nelson, Assistant Principal, Rogers High School, effective July 30, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary commended the talent of the candidate pool. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Kathryn Caruolo, from Grade 2 Teacher at Cranston-Calvert School, to Teacher at Cranston-Calvert School, Reading Academy, effective immediately. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Phelan had hoped we would have secured an external candidate. The motion carried unanimously (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Thomas S. Phelan.

**Recalls—Non-Tenured (Recission of Non-Renewal of Contract).**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to Recall: Stephanie DeAscentis, Elementary Teacher, Sullivan School, Kindergarten, (One-Year Only), effective immediately. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried (6-1-0). Mr. DeAscentis abstained.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to Recall: Marjorie Brennan, Elementary Teacher, Underwood School, Grade 4, effective immediately. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**2.0 Fiscal Year 2007-2008 School Budget.**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the recommended revisions for the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 School Budget, as follows:

Expenditure Side: relates to revisions in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Rates, which were lowered subsequently to the last School Committee Budget Ratification vote. Therefore, Post Retirement Benefits should be reduced by \$69,486 and Employee Benefits be reduced by \$162,135, resulting in a total reduction of \$231,621 from the previously Approved Budget.

Revenue Side: no additional funds were received from the City of Newport, but \$75,000 in additional funding was received from the State of Rhode Island as a subsidy for the Group Homes that exist in the community. Therefore, an additional \$200,000 of the fund balance will need to be appropriated in order to balance Revenue and Expenditures for the coming School Year.

Dr. Ambrogi stated that he hopes that the District will end Fiscal Year 2008 with an available balance but indicated that we will be starting the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Process \$800,000 in deficit in terms of Revenue and is hopeful for either state aid, an additional City contribution, or have substantial numbers of Teachers retiring so that we can develop a Fiscal Year 2009 Budget that does not impact on the quality of services that we provide.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 School Budget, as revised, in the total amount of \$37,642,592. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

### **3.0 Thompson Middle School—Fifth Grade Move—September, 2008.**

Public Comment was received from: Mr. and Mrs. James and Sue Garvey, Residents and Parents, of two children who attend Carey School, who presented to the Committee a copy of the attached Letter published in the Newport Daily news on July 25, 2007, regarding moving the Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School. Both Mr. and Mrs. Garvey spoke to their research retrieved on school configuration data, which they will forward to the School Committee, relative to supporting a K-8 concept. Mr. James Asbel, Resident, Parent, Architect, and Member of Positively Newport Schools, provided further insight on school configuration of K-8 and K-5 concepts.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee his recommendation for moving the Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School beginning September of 2008.

Dr. Ambrogi then reviewed with the Committee two possible options regarding separation of the Fifth and/or Sixth Graders from the Seventh and Eighth Graders: One separates out the Fifth Grade by itself on the First level and the other separates out the Eighth Grade on the Third Level. There are some other options that could be presented to a group of parents and professional staff, but here are two which can show how the physical separation of the Grade Levels can be accomplished. Dr. Ambrogi stated that these options would be placed on the District's website for review.

Discussion followed by Committee Members.

The Committee will consider for action, at its Regular Meeting of August 14, 2007, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi's recommendation to move the Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School beginning September of 2008.

**4.0 Executive Session.** No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment.** At 8:10 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gaines 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