

Approved 09/11/2007.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 14, 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, 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).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Elaine J. DeMenezes:** who passed away on Tuesday, July 31, 2007, at Newport Hospital, at the age of 64. Mrs. DeMenezes is the mother of Cranston-Calvert and Thompson Middle Schools' Speech Language Pathologist Cheryl DeMenezes.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.

No Public Comment was received.

In the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Terri Flynn, local residents and parents, they submitted written communication to the Committee regarding their concern on the Early Admission to Kindergarten Policy.

Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker requested that Public Comment regarding Thompson Middle School—Fifth Grade Move—September, 2008 be held under its Action Item of No. 7.1.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES. Student Activities—Student Council Update will be presented at the September Meeting.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. There were no Resolutions/Certificates of Achievement presented.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the exception of Personnel Actions: Items No. 5.2 to 5.5, to be acted on separately, at the request of Vice Chairperson Mr. Leary and Member 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 12, 2007; Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 17, 2007; Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 24, 2007; and Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, May 30, 2007, as follows. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 12, 2007.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Friday, June 15, 2007.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 26, 2007, 4 p.m.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 26, 2007, 7 p.m.** No amendments were made.

**5.2
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5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignations.

Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Al Boutin, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective August 31, 2007, with regret, at the request of Mr. Leary. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Mr. Leary asked administration to consider amending the T.A.N. Contract, Article 14, Section C, to increase the required one year of service after a sabbatical leave is fulfilled to at least three years to five years of service.

Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Sharon Hoyt Martin, K-5 Instructional Math Coach, effective August 31, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Amy Nicodemus, Grade 6 Science Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective August 31, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Rebecca Vars Chilabato, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective June 30, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). At the request of Mr. Carlin, Dr. Ambrogi informed the Committee that Counsel Galvin confirmed that "silence" is perceived as acceptance of Resignation.

Mr. Carlin made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Robert Schoonover, Head Coach, Girls' Outdoor Track, Rogers High School, effective June 11, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Retirements.

There were no Retirements presented.

Leaves of Absence.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of: Donna Kelly, Kindergarten Teacher, Coggeshall School, Extension of Maternity Leave without Pay, from September 4, 2007, through December 21, 2007. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of: Ryan Perugini, Special Education Teacher, Thompson Middle School, Maternity Leave without Pay, from October 22, 2007, through February 1, 2008. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments.

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Andrea Clark, Early Childhood, Special Education Teacher, Sullivan School, effective September 4, 2007. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Carlin made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Talia Leary, Early Childhood, Special Education Half-Time (.5) Teacher, Sullivan School, effective September 4, 2007, pending certification. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-1-0). Vice Chairperson Mr. Leary recused himself, given that the appointment is that of his daughter, and indicated that he had completed the Conflict of Interest Form and that it would be filed accordingly with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Rachel Andrews, Grade 7 Teacher, ELA, Thompson Middle School, effective September 4, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Raleigh Brennan, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective September 4, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Lauren Dunbar, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective September 4, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Elizabeth Oestreich, Clerk Typist, Rogers High School, Guidance Department, effective September 1, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Brian Ferreira, Technical Assistant, Carpentry, Newport Area Career and Technical Center, effective September 5, 2007, pending certification. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Nicole Toppa, Head Girls' Cross Country Coach, Rogers High School, effective August 15, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Stanley Brown, Interim Director, Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center (part-time), not to exceed 90 days, effective for the 2007-2008 School Year Only. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Stipend Positions.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the 2007-2008 School Year Only Stipend Positions for Bus/Playground Duty, Head Teachers, Lead Team Teachers, Lead Team Mathematics Teachers, and Stipend Positions for Thompson Middle School, Rogers High School, and the Newport Area Career and Technical Center, as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

At the request of Vice Chairperson Mr. Leary, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio defined the qualifications of the Lead Teaching Positions. Mr. Leary requested that administration provide a budgetary analysis of the Lead Teacher Program. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker requested that Mr. Leary provide a set of questions regarding his request to Dr. Ambrogio.

Transfer(s).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Transfer of: John S. Callahan, Utility Custodian, Districtwide, effective August 15, 2007. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6. Bids:

5.6.1: Heating Fuel Oil—2007-2008. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the low bidder, Dennis K. Burke, Inc., of Chelsea, Massachusetts, the Heating Fuel Oil—2007-2008, in the amount of \$2.1742 per gallon, as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6.2: Collaborative Bid—Medicaid Billing Services. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the low bidder, CompuClaim, of Newport, Rhode Island, the Collaborative Bid—Medicaid Billing Services, with a Direct Billing Rate of 5 percent and an Administrative Billing Rate of 4.5 percent, for a three-year period with an additional two-years' extension, as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6.3: Gymnasium Interior Door Replacement—Rogers High School. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the low bidder, New England School Services, of Medford, Massachusetts, the Gymnasium Interior Door Replacement—Rogers High School, in the amount of \$8,303, as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6.4: Lease Portion of Existing Windmill Tower—Rogers High School. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated to the Committee that he was not ready to recommend a bid award on the Lease Portion of the Existing Windmill Tower located at Rogers High School. He stated that he and Counsel Galvin needed to review the matter and discuss the issue with the current bid tower company, Cingular, before the Committee authorizes the bid award.

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated August 14, 2007, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Subcommittee Reports:

6.1.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee. Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis stated that he had no new business to report.

6.1.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that he had no new business to report.

6.1.3 Policy. Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that she had no new business to report.

6.1.4 Wellness. Subcommittee Chairperson [Dr. Galvin](#) stated that he had no new business to report.

6.1.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that she had no new business to report.

6.1.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. [Carlin](#) stated that the only new business to report was that the Task Force did hire a Project Manager for its recently awarded Federal Grant.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Thompson Middle School—Fifth Grade Move—September, 2008. To move this item to the floor for discussion, at the request of Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the move of the Fifth Grade Students from Carey, Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, Sullivan, and Underwood Elementary Schools to Thompson Middle School, effective September, 2008. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion for purposes of discussion only. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi presented to the Committee the Proposal to move the Fifth Grade Students from Carey, Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, Sullivan, and Underwood Elementary Schools to Thompson Middle School, effective September, 2008. Additionally, he presented to the Committee the Proposal of the construction of a new K-2 elementary school at the Underwood Site; change Thompson Middle School from “Thompson Middle School” to “Thompson Elementary School”, and “Thompson Elementary School”: would house Grades 3,4, 5, and 6; and move Thompson Middle School, which would now be Grades 7 and 8, up to the Rogers Campus. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin requested that Action be delayed for approximately one month in order to receive more feedback. Mr. Leary echoed Mr. Carlin’s comments. In response to Mr. DeAscentis’ concern regarding clarification of the Fifth Grade Move, Dr. Shoemaker stated that if action was taken regarding the Fifth Grade Move, such action could be reversed at the Committee’s next meeting and emphasized that no action by the Committee was

irreversible. Public Comment was received by: Matthew Boyle, Thompson Middle School Teacher, Resident, and Parent; Sandra Flowers, retired Underwood Elementary School Teacher and Resident; Jennifer Quigley-Harris, Resident, Parent, and Member of Positively Newport Schools; Stephen Wasylean, Resident and Parent; Amy Lee-Phillips, Development Director for Newport Public Education Foundation, Resident, and Parent; and Joseph Pratt, Resident and Parent. At the conclusion of Public Comment, discussion continued by Committee Members. Mr. Carlin moved to table the motion until the Committee's Regularly Scheduled September Meeting. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried (4-3). Those Members who voted in favor of the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, David R. Carlin, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members who voted against the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Jo Eva Gaines, and Dr. Thomas P. Galvin.

- 7.2 HMFH Architects—Scope of Work.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi presented to the Committee the Proposal for additional Scope of Work of HMFH Architects regarding the cost and feasibility of moving the 7th and 8th Grades to the Rogers Campus as a newly established middle school, inclusive of the requirements to change, modify, or add minimal space to Rogers High School, so that the Middle School could be accommodated. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that should the Committee approve the additional Scope of Work that he could have a cost analysis on the new project for the Committee's review in September. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the additional Scope of Work of HMFH Architects to analyze the cost and feasibility of moving the 7th and 8th Grades to the Rogers Campus as a newly established middle school. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Carlin requested that administration seek guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Education relative to new school construction regulations for bonding. Mr. DeAscentis echoed Mr. Carlin's request. Dr. Galvin stated his opposition to the motion. Dr. Ambrogi reinforced the need to review "excess capacity". Mrs. Gaines, as a past member of that Board of Regents, reaffirmed that "excess capacity" is one of the most important questions to be answered in the evaluation of new school construction applications. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stressed the urgency for a decision to be made by the Committee this evening, as the architects need to provide this information. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker, Thomas S. Phelan, Jo Eva Gaines, and David R. Carlin. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Robert J. Leary, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Dr. Thomas P. Galvin.

8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff: Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, Damage Reports, and Superintendent's Update.

- 8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reminded the Committee that historically Expenditure and Revenue Reports

have not been presented in August, since the previous year's expenditures are being closed out and the new year's expenditures have not yet begun to be billed. He stated that a complete Expenditure and Revenue Report would be presented at the September School Committee Meeting.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Reports as of June 19, 2007. He stated that the projected 2007-2008 Kindergarten Registration Enrollments would be finalized shortly and shared with the Committee. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mr. Carlin 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: Island Moving Company Presentation—Coggeshall School; Newport County Fund Forum—Participant—"Your Role in Public Education—Does It Really Take a Village" @ CCRI Newport; Sullivan School Fifth Grade Graduation; Rogers High School Graduation; Underwood School Fifth Grade Graduation; Last Day of School—Visitations to Staff and Students at all Schools; Thompson Middle School 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony; Council 94—Local 841 Job Fair; Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association Executive Committee Meeting; Volunteers In Newport Education (VINE) Year-End Superintendent Meeting; Sheffield School Equipment and Furniture Auction; Rhode Island Risk Management Trust Board of Trustees Meeting; East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting; First Night Developmental Assets Program Meeting; International Yacht Restoration School—NACTC Meeting; Roger Williams University—Department of Education Meeting; RIPEC Meeting; Dunn Institute/Hasbro Center for Teaching Excellence—Hanson Initiative for Language & Literacy (HILL) Pilot Program Meeting; Elementary Enrollment Meeting; Women's Resource Center Meeting; and Energy Conservation Meeting. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Mr. Carlin 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 August and September, 2007, as follows:

- Tuesday, August 13, 2007:
Victory Day Holiday
- Tuesday, August 14, 2007, 1 p.m.:
Special Newport School Committee Meeting—Executive Session
Thompson Middle School Library

- Tuesday, August 14, 2007, 7 p.m.:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Monday, September 3, 2007:
Labor Day Holiday
- Tuesday, September 4, 2007:
Teacher In-Service Day
- Wednesday, September 5, 2007:
First Day of School, K-12, Full Day
- Tuesday, September 11, 2007, 7 p.m.:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria

Special Meetings may be scheduled, as required.

10.0 Executive Session. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 8:29 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk