

Approved 01/08/2008.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, December 11, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

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 Frank E. 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 (absent), 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., Business Manager Michael Saunders (absent), Director of Property Services Paul Fagan (absent), Director of Technology Anthony Tomah (absent), Director of Human Resources Fran Eames (absent), School Building Principals, Administrators, and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin (absent).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Caroline F. (Cavaliere) Murgo:** who passed away on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Mrs. Murgo was the mother of Jennifer Murgo a Special Education Teacher at Rogers High School.
- **Frances G. Batey:** who passed away on Friday, November 16, 2007. She was a foster grandparent at Coggeshall School. She was the mother of Mrs. Barbara Hargrow, a lunch aide at Coggeshall School and the grandmother of Michael Browner, a Social Studies Teacher at Thompson Middle School.
- **Leah E. Bachman:** who passed away on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at Newport Hospital, at the age of 96. She is the mother of Brenda Bachman , a Social Worker for The Newport Public Schools.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

3.1.1 Update—Amelia Dias. Ms. Dias reported on the Thanksgiving Food drive recently completed at Rogers High School. Students are engaged in working on the Child & Family Services Adoptive Family Program as this year's Holiday project.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. None.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the exception of Personnel Actions: Item No. 5.1, to be acted on separately, at the request of Member Mr. 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, November 13, 2007; as follows. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2007.** As corrected on page 6.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 4, 2007.** As corrected to reflect Mr. Leary's absence from the Collective Bargaining discussions.

5.2-5 Personnel Actions.

5.2 Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Andrew Martucci, Assistant Head Coach Boys' Indoor Track, RHS, effective immediately. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Andrew Martucci, Assistant Head Coach Boys' Outdoor Track, RHS, effective immediately. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.3 Retirements.

There were no Retirements presented.

5.4 Leaves of Absence.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Maternity Leave of Absence of Lori Delemos, Grade 1 Teacher, Cranston-Calvert Elementary School, on or about

April 1, 2008, through June 19, 2008. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.5 Appointments/Transfers.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: JoAnne Ritchie, Special Education Department Head, RHS, effective December 12, 2007. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-1) with Mr. Leary opposing, due to the recommendations of the Berkshire Advisors report to eliminate the position of Department Heads at Rogers High School.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Catherine Ratcliff, Guidance Clerk, RHS, to Yearbook Co-Advisor, 2007-2008 School Year Only, effective December 12, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Elizabeth Oestreich, Guidance Clerk, RHS, to Yearbook Co-Advisor, 2007-2008 School Year Only, effective December 12, 2007. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Transfer(s).

No transfers.

- 5.6. Requests for Home Instruction.** There were two (2) Requests for Home Instruction presented. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the following Requests for Home Instruction: Mary Viveiros, and Jillian McGranaghan. 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 December 11, 2007, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 High Expectations for All Students: Rogers High School Advanced Placement Program: Update.** Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso gave a brief update on the AP Program and introduced three students, Matthew Combs, Emma Sconyers and Tricia Clark who addressed the committee on their experiences with the AP program. The students expressed their thanks for the opportunity to participate in the Advanced Placement Program at RHS. Mrs. DiCenso reported that the elimination of fees associated with the AP testing has really opened access to all students. Three teachers from the AP program, Steven Ferris (AP European History), Colleen Hermes (AP US History), Zinovia Canale (AP English), also addressed the committee and thanked them for the support of the AP Program. A discussion of the AP program was held.

- 6.2 School Level Bonus for Performance:** Dr. Shoemaker presented a power point outlining a program to reward teachers within a school with a bonus, if the school meets certain objective goals such as an increase in test scores. A program such as this would require the buy-in of the Committee, the Union and the Administration in order to be successful. Several committee members indicated that it was probably too late to be included in this round of contract negotiations, but that discussions about the concept and the possible future implementation should be brought to the bargaining table.
- 6.3 Broadcasting School Committee Meetings:** Dr. Shoemaker presented an article about broadcasting school committee meetings. Mr. Leary reported that he has met with Mr. David Wolfenden, who produces the videos for the Newport City Council. We have quality equipment, and some simple connections between the sound board and the camera audio input should improve the recordings. Mr. Leary will work with Mr. Wolfenden and Mr. Anthony Tomah to resolve any recording problems and report back to the committee next month.
- 6.4 Subcommittee Reports:**
- 6.4.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee.** Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis stated that he had no new business to report.
- 6.4.1.1 Ad Hoc Building Committee.** Dr. Ambrogi reported that a Stage I application for our new school construction has been submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Education. Dr. Ambrogi has not received a reply to the application.
- 6.4.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker stated that one issue has risen is that of if the unfunded liability is a city-wide liability or a department problem. Is the entire city responsible or is the School Department responsible for our retirees? This has to be discussed and worked out.
- 6.4.3 Policy.** Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines reported that the policy committee has met and prepared two changes that will be considered under the action section of the agenda tonight.
- 6.4.4 Wellness.** Subcommittee Chairperson Dr. Galvin stated that the wellness committee has not met, but Newport seems to be well ahead of the wellness curve.
- 6.4.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Dr. Shoemaker reported that Mrs. Gaines received an award for professional development from RIASC. Mrs. Gaines reported that January 20th, will be PD session.

6.4.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin reported no action by the Task Force at this time.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Policy Amendments. Mrs. Gaines reported that the policy committee believed that the appropriate place for the appointment of the school committee counsel would be at the organizational meeting in January following the election. The following language was presented (in italics).

(Article I – Organization – Section 3, Appointments)

Section 3. Appointments

- a. Sub-committee Chairs and members; Liaison representatives shall be appointed annually.
- b. *The Superintendent, in his/her position, of Clerk of the Newport School Committee, shall publicize the position of Legal Counsel for the School Committee at the Regular Meeting in January after the election of School Committee Members.*

Mr. Carlin moved to approve second reading of Article I, Section 3, Subsection B, Appointment of Legal Counsel Policy as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously (7-0).

(Article II – Meetings – Section 7, Order of Business)

Section 7. Order of Business

1. Call to Order by Clerk
2. Election of Chair
3. ~~Sub-committee Appointments (City Council Liaison, Policy, etc.)~~

Mr. Carlin moved to approve second reading of Article II, Section 7, Order of Business, Subsection 3, Appointment as presented. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Gaines presented for second reading, Policy 5.2.4 Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities.

5.2.4 Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities

Students may participate in Newport Public School Department sponsored extracurricular activity only if they are academically eligible.

At Rogers High School, a student with one "F" is on academic probation throughout the entire quarter. Every two weeks, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the teacher and ask for the progress report to be completed. If the form is not completed the student is removed from the team or activity.

*Any **Rogers High School** student receiving more than one grade of "F" for a quarterly grading period will be declared academically ineligible for participation in any extracurricular activity for the next quarter. A grade of "F" for a course worth two or more credits (meeting 10 or more periods per week) will be considered two "F's" for eligibility purposes, and the student will be academically ineligible.*

*Students attending **Thompson Middle School** who earn an "F" at the end of a marking period, shall be placed on academic probation until mid-term assessments. Every two weeks, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the teacher and ask for the progress report to be completed. If the form is not completed, the student is removed from the team or activity. If, by the mid-term assessment, a passing grade has not been achieved, the student shall be deemed academically ineligible.*

~~Students must pass all courses in the grading period immediately preceding that during which they wish to participate in the extracurricular activity.~~

Mrs. Gaines moved to approve second reading of Policy 5.2.4 Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities as presented by the Policy Committee and changed by the committee at the November meeting. This policy concerns academic eligibility at the secondary level. Language being deleted is ~~struck through~~ and new language is in *italics*. The motion was seconded by Dr. Galvin.

There was an extensive discussion regarding the pros and cons of allowing the one F policy for Rogers High School Students.

The motion to approve second reading of the proposed policy change was defeated (3-4) with Mrs. Gaines, Dr. Galvin and Mr. Leary voting in favor and Dr. Shoemaker, Mr. Carlin, Mr. Phelan and Mr. DeAscentis voting in opposition.

The Superintendent will notify RHS that the Academic eligibility has changed. Mrs. Gaines indicated that the language crossed out is language we will proceed with. For a long time, RHS was operating

on the belief that they has a separate eligibility policy. RHS aspect is more stringent than the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. The current policy will remain in place. Dr. Ambrogi will investigate the original policy.

Dr. Galvin moved to stay the course with the existing policy, allowing until the end of the second marking period to bring everyone into compliance with policy. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

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 reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports as of November 30, 2007. 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, 2007. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.3 Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report for the month of November 2007. 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).

8.4 Superintendent's Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on activities to date: Newport Initiative for Nonprofit Leadership Workshop at Viking Hotel; Cranston-Calvert School PTO Meeting; Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Meeting; East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Meeting—Review of Report; Fire Department Meeting; Carey School Thanksgiving Celebration; Nutcracker Performance; Viking Café Opening Celebration at Rogers High School; NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting; Environmental Team Meeting at Newport Hospital; Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update,

as presented. Mrs. Gaines 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 December 2007 and January 2008, as follows:

- Tuesday, December 11, 2007:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Monday – Tuesday, December 24, 2007 – January 1, 2008:
Holiday Recess [No School]
- Tuesday, January 8, 2008:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria

Special Meetings may be scheduled, as required.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 9:21 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. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES SEALED

At 9:55 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to uphold the decision of the Superintendent of Schools to non-renew Ms. Gabrielle Hart's employment for the 2007-2008 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leary, and was carried unanimously (7-0).

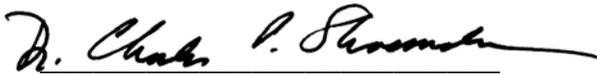
At 9:56 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to go into **Executive Session** under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a)(1) Personal Matters, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in an open session; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES SEALED

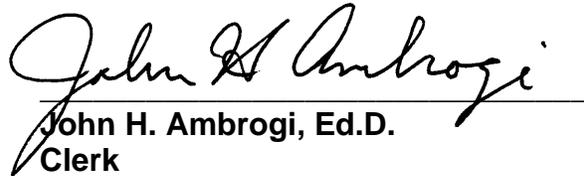
OPEN SESSION

At 9:55 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 9:56 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).



Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson



John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MEMORANDUM

TO: Building Principals, Central Office Administration, and Union Presidents
FROM: John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools 
RE: **Personnel Actions – December 11, 2007**
DATE: December 12, 2007

The following personnel actions were taken at the December 11, 2007 Newport School Committee Meeting:

5.2 RESIGNATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Andrew Martucci	Assistant Head Coach Boys' Indoor Track, RHS	Immediately
Andrew Martucci	Assistant Head Coach Boys' Outdoor Track, RHS	Immediately

5.4 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Type of Leave</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lori Delemos	Gr. 1, Cran-Cal	Maternity	On or about 4/1/08 thru end of 07-08 school year

5.5 APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
JoAnne Ritchie	Special Education Dept. Head, RHS Special Education, RHS	12/12/07
Catherine Ratcliff Guidance Clerk, RHS	Yearbook Co-Advisor, RHS 07-08 school year only	12/12/07
Elizabeth Oestreich Guidance Clerk, RHS	Yearbook Co-Advisor, RHS 07-08 school year only	12/12/07