

Approved 04/08/2008

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER. Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, MD called the Regular March 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, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr. (arrived 7:02 p.m.), Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. Thomas P. Galvin, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Marilyn R. Corrigan:** who passed away in Sarasota, Florida, on Saturday, February 16, 2008. She was the mother of both: Meg Corrigan retired educator and substitute Evaluator for the Newport Public Schools' Special Education Evaluation Team Meetings, and Elizabeth Khalfayan, Reading Teacher, at Coggeshall School.
- **Athena S. Damaskos:** who passed away at the Heatherwood Health Care Center in Newport, on Saturday, February 23, 2008. She was both: grandmother of Cranston-Calvert Clerk Typist Catherine Jennings and mother of Irene Damaskos, Underwood School Clerk Typist retiree.
- **Jason David Mello:** who passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, February 21, 2008. He was the brother-in-law of Thompson Middle School Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher Tara Mello.
- **Dr. Anthony L. Mazza:** who passed away on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at Roger Williams Medical Center. He was a long-time School Psychologist for the Newport Public Schools for 26 years, retiring in 1999.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Mari O'Sullivan, 28 Stockholm Street, Newport addressed the committee regarding her concerns about bullying at Thompson Middle School.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

3.1.1 Update—Amelia Dias. Ms. Dias reported that students are busy with planning for "*Pennies for Patients*" fundraising drive during March for and April. Students are also planning a cookie bake-off fundraiser as well as completing their senior projects and research papers and preparing for History Day, this Thursday, March 13, 2008. The *Pennies for Patients* activities will be organized by Advisories.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. None.

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 Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 22, 2008 as follows. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 12, 2008.**
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, February 18, 2008.**
- **Special Joint Meeting NSC/NCC of Wednesday, March 5, 2008**

5.2-5 Personnel Actions.

5.2 Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the resignation of Robert Schoonover, Head Boys' Cross Country Coach, RHS. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the resignation of Steven Schreiner, Head Assistant Girls' Track Coach, RHS. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.3 Retirements. N/A

5.4 Leaves of Absence. N/A

5.5 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls. N/A

5.6. Requests for Home Instruction.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the following Request for Home Instruction: Mackenzie Caldwell (4th Grade) and Kamryn Caldwell (1st Grade). 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 March 11, 2008, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 High Expectations for All Students: Alternate Learning Program

Dr. Ambrogi introduced Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D., Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Professional Development. Dr. Naspo reviewed the latest state testing results with the committee and addressed the district and individual school plans to address improving achievement. Dr. Naspo discussed the protocol used by the schools in examining their student's data to determine surprises, trends, gaps, and steps they are implementing for the rest of the year to address these results. The committee discussed state testing and requested information on the students that are partially proficient and substantially below proficient.

6.2 Subcommittee Reports:

6.2.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee

6.2.1 Ad Hoc Building Committee

Dr. Shoemaker reported on the Ad Hoc Building Committee. The committee met last week with two representatives from RIDE. They hedged and indicated that Stage I was almost complete. The bottom line is the issue of the location of the elementary schools. The Stage II plan needs to be approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education, a School Construction Group, the Board of Regents, the Legislature, and then the public. Once approved by the Regents, a 60 day clock for voter approval begins. At some point, the School Committee and the City Council must agree on a plan in order to go forward.

6.2.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Dr. Shoemaker indicated that a Liaison Subcommittee meeting is trying to be rescheduled.

6.2.3 Policy. Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines reported that the policy committee has prepared a change to the Anti-Bullying Policy that will be considered under the action section of the agenda tonight.

6.2.4 Wellness. No report.

6.2.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines reported that the national meeting will be taking place in Florida and that the State Annual meeting has been set for May 3, 2008 at the Pell Center for International Studies and Public Policy, The Young Building, Corner of Bellevue and Ruggles Ave., Newport, Rhode Island.

6.4.5 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin reported that the Task Force is continuing work on planning for the grant. Mr. Carlin also reported that a presentation by Ray Davis, David Roderick and Jill Pfitzenmayer will make a presentation to the Newport City Council and School Committee tomorrow, Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mr. Carlin reported that Salve Regina University has joined the task force.

6.4.6 Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Eligibility. Mr. Carlin reported that the committee will be meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2008 to continue work on a middle of the road compromise position to bring to the Committee.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Newport Public Schools Policy Amendments.

7.1.1 Anti-Bullying Policy Revisions – “Cyber Bullying Language”. Mrs. Gaines presented changes to the Anti-Bullying Policy which incorporates “cyber-bullying” into current policy. This policy change is presented for second reading. Mr. Neil Galvin offered several suggestions for the committee to consider. **Dr. Galvin made a motion to approve the second reading of the proposed changes incorporating Mr. Galvin’s suggestions, to Policy 5.4.6 Anti-Bullying. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which was carried unanimously (7-0).**

7.2 2008-2009 School Calendar. Discussion was held on the 2008-2009 school calendar. Mr. DeAscentis expressed concern about the Rogers High School graduation date being on Friday night, possibly conflicting with the Portsmouth graduation date. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that he would have the high school principals see if they could work it out. He indicated that with the state tightening the 180 day requirement for graduating seniors, and limited Friday nights in June, limit the available dates for graduation. Mr. Carlin made a motion **to accept the 2008-2009 School Calendar as proposed. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion which carried (6:1) with Mr. DeAscentis opposing.**

7.3 Additional Scope of Services for HMFH Architects – Stage II Application Cost. Dr. Ambrogi briefed the committee on the current status of the Stage II application with RIDE and HMFH’s involvement in the process. These requirements are necessary to complete the Stage II application for RIDE. The

latest request from RIDE asks the district to examine two other alternatives they would like us to take a look at. The first option would be two (2) K-8 Schools would work in Newport, and the second option would be a K-1 Early Childhood Center and Grades 2-6 at Thompson with the Middle School Grades 7-8 moving to the Rogers Campus. HMFH has presented a proposal for a not to exceed \$28,000.00 to complete the Stage II application requirements

Mr. Carlin moved to approve the proposed agreement with HMFH Architects, Inc. for a not to exceed amount of \$28,000.00 for additional scope of service work for the Stage II Application to the Rhode Island Department of Education for new school construction. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAscentis and was carried (4:3) with Dr. Shoemaker, Mr. Carlin, Dr. Galvin and Mr. Phelan voting in favor of the motion and Mr. Leary, Mr. DeAscentis and Mrs. Gaines opposing the motion.

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 February 29, 2008. Mr. Michael Saunders, Newport Public Schools Business Manager reported that as the year progresses, encumbrances will decrease and actual costs to date will increase. Mr. Saunders also reported that the School Department would be transitioning to the City of Newport's new financial system effective April 15, 2008. As part of the transition to the new financial system, the School Department is also implementing the new Universal Chart of Accounts which was recently mandated by RI General Laws. **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 Truancy and Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Monthly Truancy Report and the 2006-2007 Truancy Report and the February 29, 2008 Enrollment Report. **Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Truancy and Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).**

8.3 Damage Reports. N/A

8.4 Superintendent's Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on his activities during the past month to date: Stage I Meeting with RIDE Joe daSilva; Stage II Meeting with RIDE Joe daSilva; Childhood Obesity Program Meeting; RISSA Executive Board Meeting; RIDE Hearing—Kindergarten Eligibility; Island

Moving Company @ RHS; AASA Convention; Newport Public Library Meeting; Environmental Committee Meeting; New State Representative Steve Coaty Meeting; Ad Hoc Academic Eligibility Meeting; RHS Black History Assembly; EBEC Board Meeting; RIPEC Meeting; Budget Meeting with Mayor and Council; Ad Hoc Building Committee; Governor's PK-16 Council @ RI Convention Center. **Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent's 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 February 2008 monthly report from the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center. **Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Learning Center monthly report as presented. Mr. DeAscentis 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 January 2008 and February 2008, as follows:

- Wednesday, March 12, 2008 – 6:30 p.m. (Council Chambers):
Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Presentation
- Thursday, March 13, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.
Ad Hoc Building Committee
Administration Center, Newport Public Schools
- Tuesday, April 8, 2008:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Tuesday, May 13, 2008:
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Wednesday – May 21, 2008 - 6:30 p.m. (Council Chambers):
Newport City Council & School Committee Budget Workshop

Special Meetings may be scheduled, as required.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 9:20 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. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

OPEN SESSION

At 10:45 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:45 p.m., Mr. Carlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeAscentis 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 *Jack*
RE: **Personnel Actions – March 11, 2008**
DATE: March 12, 2008

The following personnel actions were taken at the March 11, 2008 Newport School Committee Meeting:

5.2 RESIGNATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Robert Schoonover	Head Boys' Cross Country Coach, RHS	Immediately
Steven Schreiner	Assistant Girls' Track Coach, RHS	Immediately