

Approved 06/10/2008

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER.** Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, MD called the Regular May 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., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. Thomas P. Galvin, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

- **Bernice Gaines:** who passed away at Village House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Newport, on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. She was the wife of the late Albert P. Gaines and sister-in-law of both School Committee Member Jo Eva Gaines and her husband Paul Gaines. Mrs. Gaines was retired from the Newport Public Schools as a Clerk Typist in June 1986, after serving over 25 years.
- **Agnes R. Clarke:** who passed away at the Grand Islander Health Care Center in Middletown on Wednesday, April 9, 2008. She was the mother-in-law of Rogers High School Physical Education Teacher David Stinson.
- **Kathleen Kelly:** who passed away at the St. Clare Home in Newport on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. She retired from the Newport Public Schools as a Clerk Typist in June, 1985, after serving 17 years.
- **Alice Connolly Clancy:** who passed away at Newport Hospital on Saturday, May 3, 2008. She retired from the Newport Public Schools as Principal of Cranston-Calvert School. Prior she also had taught as Reading Specialist at Sullivan School, Rogers High School, and Thompson Middle School, after serving 31 years.
- **Michael Pruitt:** who passed away at Newbury Hospital in Ohio on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. He was the brother of Jackie Naspo, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. N/A**

**3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

**3.1 Student Council:**

**3.1.1 Update—Amelia Dias.** No Report.

**4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.**

4.1 On behalf of the Newport School Committee, Chairman Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker congratulated thirteen (13) students who participated in the 2008 Annual Skills USA Awards Ceremony held on March 27, 2008 at Rhodes-on-the Pawtuxet in Cranston. Gold medal winners will advance to the national Skills USA competition in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines presented Gold Medal Winners with Certificates of Achievement to: Kate Russo, Customer Service; and Deon Thompson, Esthetics/Facial Make-up;

Dr. Thomas Galvin presented Certificates of Achievement to Silver Medal winners: Christopher Isherwood, Web Design; Kayla Lanio, Web Design; Vanessa Botelho, Esthetics/Facial Make-up; Mollie Reynolds, Photography; Julie Lanio, Advertising Design; Dmitriy Kaplan, Automotive Service;

Bronze Medalists were presented certificates by Vice Chairman Robert Leary: Erica DeMello, TV Video Production; Kimberly Gardner, TV Video Production; Sophie Gineo, Photography; Anne Galvin, Computer Applications; Dayne Johnson, Cosmetology;

Mr. Hugo DeAscentis, Jr. presented Certificates of Achievement for Pin Design to : Maggie Calcagno, Competitors Pin Design; Julie Lanio, Judges Pin Design;

Mr. David Carlin presented Certificates of Achievement for Wedding Cake Competition to: Katelyn Colon, Staci Glewski, and Carrissa Kenyon.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Mr. Carlin 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 Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 8, 2008 and Tuesday, April 22, 2008 and Thursday, April 24, 2008 as follows. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 8, 2008.
- Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 22, 2008.
- Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, April 24, 2008

**5.2-5 Personnel Actions.**

**5.2 Resignations.** N/A

**5.3 Retirements.** N/A

**5.4 Leaves of Absence.** N/A

**5.5 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Deborah Berdy, Head Teacher, Underwood School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Ann Green, Head Teacher, Cranston-Calvert School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Judith Harrington, Head Teacher, Carey School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Jim Psaras, Head Teacher, Dr. Michael H. Sullivan School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Barbara Ring, Head Teacher, Coggeshall School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Tina Brownell, Lead Lab Teacher, ELA, Thompson Middle School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Suzanne Dunbar, Lead Lab Teacher, Social Studies, Thompson Middle School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Sharon McDonnell, Lead Lab Teacher, Math, Thompson Middle School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Stephanie Sullivan, Lead Lab Teacher, Social Studies, Thompson Middle School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Barbara Blakeley, Mentor Coordinator, Elementary School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Tina Brownell, Mentor Coordinator, Middle School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the appointment of Tia Scigulinsky, Mentor Coordinator, High School, 2008-2009 School Year. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

**5.6. Requests for Bids.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award a bid for the **Interior Door Replacement Work at Rogers High School to New England School Services** for the amount of **\$40,164.00**. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award a bid for the **Stairway Resilient Flooring Removal/Installation at Rogers High School to Rene and Son Carpet Center, Inc.** for the amount of **\$4,989.00**. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award a bid for the **Vinyl Composition Tile Removal/Installation at Rogers High School to Rene and Son Carpet Center, Inc.** for the amount of **\$10,355.00**. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion which carried unanimously (7-0).

**5.7. Requests for Home Instruction.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the following Requests for Home Instruction for **Ryan Chaves (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated May 13, 2008, as presented.

**5.8. Requests for Budget Transfers Over \$10,000.00.**

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the budget transfer **request to transfer \$277,090 from 51110-Regular Salaries to 51322-Severance** to pay severance

for the 22 retirees projected for June 2008. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the budget transfer **request to transfer \$11,000 from 51110-Regular Salaries-Certified Staff to 52710-Worker's Compensation Premium** to comply with audit requirements. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Subcommittee Reports:

#### 6.1.1 Facilities Planning Subcommittee

Dr. Shoemaker reported that there was no meeting of the Facilities Planning Subcommittee or the Ad Hoc Building Committee.

#### 6.1.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Dr. Shoemaker indicated that a Liaison Subcommittee has not met.

#### 6.1.3 Policy. Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines reported that the "Pass/Fail" policy will be presented for first reading tonight from the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Eligibility.

#### 6.1.4 Wellness. Dr. Galvin reported that Salve Regina University will be working with the wellness committee to develop a survey to follow up on the initial study. A parent study is being considered.

#### 6.1.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Mrs. Gaines reported that State Annual meeting was held May 3, 2008 at the Pell Center for International Studies and Public Policy. Michael Crowley from Middletown School Committee was installed as President. The Rhode Island Auditor General presented the new statewide universal chart of accounts. Further discussion on the new universal chart of accounts was held. The Audit Committee was also discussed. Each community is encouraged to establish an audit committee.

#### 6.1.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Mr. Carlin reported that the Task Force is continuing work on planning for the grant. There is interest in the state to regionalize the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Forces. Specifically, Salve Regina will be studying underage drinking in Newport. Mr. Carlin reported that Newport Police Officer Kevin Parsonage does a very good job on the task force in combating Newport's substance abuse issues.

#### 6.1.7 Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Eligibility. Mr. Carlin reported that the committee has met several times, including the Principals from both the

Middle School and the High School. The members of the committee have reached consensus on a new policy suggested by the Superintendent. It was noted that the policy to be presented was a compromise policy which all stakeholders felt they could support.

## **6.2 School Construction Plan – Next Steps.**

A discussion was held concerning the next steps for a school construction plan. It was indicated that lots of decisions need to be made, options need to be examined and a plan needs to be approved by the Newport School Committee, the Newport City Council and the taxpayers of Newport and the State Board of Regents. It was suggested that a subcommittee be created that takes another look at this issue and that represents a cross section of the community. Dr. Shoemaker will meet with key stakeholders, including School Committee members, City Councilors, and RIDE staff. Several members of the committee felt that public engagement was lacking during this last plan.

## **6.3 School Starting Time.**

A discussion was held concerning the starting time of the Aquidneck Island High Schools. Currently, Middletown and Newport begin the day at 7:30 a.m. (in seats) while Portsmouth begins at 7:25 a.m. (in seats). The Aquidneck Island group that is working with RIPEC would like to see more collaboration between the island school systems in the coordination of a bell schedule. Closer coordination between the local high school will allow for additional distance learning of AP courses and courses offered outside of the “traditional” school day. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that it would probably be too late to suggest any changes for the 2008-2009 school year, but that perhaps changes can be considered for the 2009-2010 school year.

## **7.0 ACTION.**

### **7.1 Authorization for Superintendent to Process Grants/Authorize Purchases.**

Mr. Leary made a **motion authorize the Superintendent of Schools to process P.L. 81-815, P.L. 71-874, Title I, and all other Federal State and private grant applications as a representative of the School Committee of Newport and to authorize the purchases for instructional/office supplies, equipment, and services for the 2008-2009 school year.** Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion which was carried unanimously (7-0).

### **7.2 Long-Range Strategic Plan.**

Dr. Ambrogi reported that the RI Department of Education had agreed to allow Newport Public Schools to provide an annual update to existing action plans due to the anticipated change in configuration of elementary schools in Newport. Next year, a comprehensive update to the long range district strategic plans will need to

be completed. Mrs. Gaines made a **motion to approve the Action Plans' Update to the 2005-2009 District Strategic Plan.** Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion which was carried unanimously (7-0).

**7.3 Approval of FY 2009 Budget.**

Mrs. Gaines made a **motion to approve the Tentative Budget as recommended by the Superintendent for the 2008-2009 School Year.** Dr. Galvin seconded the motion which was carried unanimously (7-0).

**7.4 Newport Public Schools Policy Amendments.**

**7.4.1 Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities Policy Revisions.**

Mr. Carlin presented for First Reading, a revised Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities policy. **Mr. Carlin made a motion to approve the first reading of the proposed changes to the Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities.** Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion which was carried unanimously (4-3) with Drs. Shoemaker and Galvin, Mr. Carlin and Mrs. Gaines voting to approve and Messers Leary, DeAscentis and Phelan 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 April 30, 2008. **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 April 30, 2008 Enrollment Report. **Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Report, as presented. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).**

**8.3 Damage Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the School Vandalism/Malicious injury to Property Report for the April 17, 2008 incident at Rogers High School. **Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the School Vandalism/Malicious Injury to Property 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 his activities during the past month to date: Reading Week at Carey School with Sue Moore's Class; meeting on Project Even Start; SCORES Leadership Team meeting; Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Ceremony; Healthy Newport Task Force; Newport Daily News Award for Volunteer Service – Myra Duvally; meeting with ARISSA representatives and Aramark at RIC; Underwood SALT Visitation team meeting; Aquidneck Island Planning Group meeting with RIPEC at CCRI; Aquidneck Island Planning Group meeting with RIPEC at Middletown Public Schools; Visitation with Puerto Rico Superintendents visiting Newport; North Kingstown Meeting regarding Technology Cooperation. **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 April 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 May and June, as follows:

- Wednesday – May 21, 2008 - 6:30 p.m. (Council Chambers):  
Newport City Council & School Committee Budget Workshop
- Thursday, May 22, 2008 (6:00 p.m.):  
Newport School Committee Employee Retirement Dinner  
Brick Alley Pub, Top of the Brick, 140 Thames Street, Newport, RI
- Tuesday, June 10, 2008 (7:00 p.m.):  
Regular Newport School Committee Meeting  
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria
- Friday, June 13, 2008 (6:00 p.m.):  
High School Graduation  
William S. Rogers High School
- Monday, June 16, 2008 (7:00 p.m.):  
Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Graduation  
William S. Rogers High School Auditorium

- Friday, June 20, 2008 (10:00 a.m.):  
Frank E. Thompson Middle School Graduation  
Thompson Middle School Cafeteria

Special Meetings may be scheduled, as required.

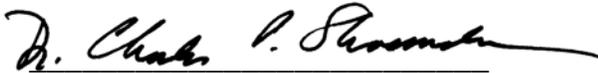
**10.0 Executive Session.**

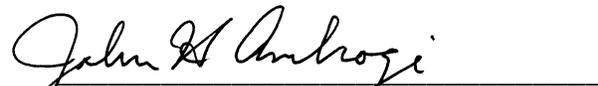
At 9:25 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to go into **Executive Session** under jurisdiction of Rhode Island State Law, Chapter 46, 42-46-5 – Exceptions (a)(1) Personal Matters, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in an open session; and (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**OPEN SESSION**

At 9:50 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Adjournment.** At 9:51 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

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 –May 13, 2008**  
DATE: May 14, 2008

The following personnel actions were taken at the May 13, 2008 Newport School Committee Meeting:

**5.5 APPOINTMENTS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Deborah Berdy	Head Teacher, Underwood School	2008-2009 School Year
Ann Green	Head Teacher, Cran-Cal School	2008-2009 School Year
Judith Harrington	Head Teacher, Carey School	2008-2009 School Year
Jim Psaras	Head Teacher, Sullivan School	2008-2009 School Year
Barbara Ring	Head Teacher, Coggeshall School	2008-2009 School Year
Tina Brownell	Lead Lab Teacher, ELA, TMS	2008-2009 School Year
Suzanne Dunbar	Lead Lab Teacher, Social Studies, TMS	2008-2009 School Year
Sharon McDonnell	Lead Lab Teacher, Math, TMS	2008-2009 School Year
Stephanie Sullivan	Lead Lab Teacher, Social Studies, TMS	2008-2009 School Year
Barbara Blakeley	Mentor Coordinator, Elementary School	2008-2009 School Year
Tina Brownell	Mentor Coordinator, Middle School	2008-2009 School Year
Tia Scigulinsky	Mentor Coordinator, High School	2008-2009 School Year