

Approve 10/14/2008.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2008

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:03 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 (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Jo Eva Gaines, Dr. Thomas P. Galvin, and Thomas S. Phelan; School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogio, Ed.D., Property Services Director Paul Fagan, Business Manager Michael Saunders, and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Constance M. Krous:** who passed away at Newport Hospital, on Wednesday, August 13, 2008. She was the mother of Rogers High School Guidance Counselor Scott Krous.
- **John DeAscentis:** who passed away at the Country Cottage ALF, Palm Coast, FL, on Saturday, August 16, 2008. He was the uncle of School Committee Member Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and served for 25 years as a distinguished Newport Police Officer until his retirement in 1967.
- **M. Delores (Roderick) Boyle:** who passed away at St. Clare Home, in Newport, on Saturday, September 6, 2008. She was the wife of the late U.S. District Court Judge Francis J. Boyle and the mother of Thompson Middle School Social Studies Teacher Matthew Boyle. She also taught at Carey School as a Teacher and later became an Instructor in the English as a Second Language Program in American Citizenship.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES. As the Student Council Representative Michael Turchetti was not present, there was no update on Student Activities—Student Council.

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 the Personnel Actions: Item No. 5.5, to be acted on separately, at the request of Vice Chairperson Mr. Leary and Member Mr. Carlin, and Mr. Carlin requested the first Appointment to be taken separately and Mr. DeAscentis requested that the one Transfer be taken separately for discussion. Mr. Leary 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 Thursday, July 10, 2008; the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 21, 2008; the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 12, 2008; the Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, August 21, 2008; and the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 26, 2008. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 10, 2008, 4 p.m.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 21, 2008, 4:30 p.m.** At the request of Mr. DeAscentis,
- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 12, 2008, 7 p.m.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, August 21, 2008, 4 p.m.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, August 26, 2008, 1 p.m.** No amendments were made.

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to**

5.5 Personnel Actions.

Resignations.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of Lori Russell, Playground Duty, Underwood Schools, effective September 3, 2008. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of Michael Whaley, Senior Class Advisor, Rogers High School, effective September 3, 2008. 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 Bethany Borgueta, Science Teacher, Rogers High School, Maternity, on or about October 14, 2008, to on or about January 5, 2009. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of Rebecca Braman, School Psychologist, Maternity, on or about November 7, 2008, to on or about March 31, 2009. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence of Glenna Johnson, Speech/Language Pathologist, Sullivan School, Maternity, on or about November 26, 2008, to on or about March 26, 2009. Mr. Carlin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Appointments.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of Jessica Rosa, English Teacher, Rogers High School, effective September 2, 2008. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of Guia Coleman, Playground Duty, Carey School, effective 2008-2008 School Year Only. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of Michael Whaley, Senior Class Co-Advisor, Rogers High School, effective 2008-2009 School Year Only. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of Theodore Hackman, Senior Class Co-Advisor, Rogers High School, effective 2008-2009 School Year Only. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of Mark Gaynor, Systems Operator Perkins Grant, Newport Area Career and Technical Center, effective 2008-2009 School Year Only. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Transfers.

At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi explained this transfer was a result of the Newport Area Career and Technical Center Variance approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education for the elimination of the Guidance Counselor. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Transfer of Patrick O'Connell, Guidance Counselor, Newport Area Career and Technical Center, to Guidance Counselor, Rogers High School, effective September 2, 2008. Dr. Galvin seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Mr. DeAscentis voted against the motion.

- 5.6 Requests for Home Instruction.** There were no Requests for Home Instruction presented this month.

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated September 9, 2008, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION.

6.1 School Opening—School Enrollment: Update.

6.1.1 Opening Day. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that this was one of the smoothest opening days in his career—even the elementary school cafeteria issue at Cranston-Calvert, Coggeshall, and Carey Schools seemed to have gone well. He indicated that as he went around the District, teachers and students were already engaged in meaningful instructional activities.

6.1.2 School Enrollment. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee enrollment figures from the beginning of school, stating that the District has 123 fewer students this year than last year. Discussion followed. Dr. Galvin suggested that the District determine where the 23 students who would have been in the third grade this year from second grade last year have gone outside the System. Mr. Carlin echoed Dr. Galvin's suggestion. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that once this analysis was determined that he would share the results with the Committee.

- 6.2 Facilities: Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and School Committee Members had their annual walk-through of the school facilities on Friday, August 29, 2008. Dr. Ambrogi and Committee Members were pleased to report that the buildings were clean and well maintained. Of note was the work that was being done at Rogers High School with the replacement of floor tile in the Math Wing and the replacement of stair treads in the two main stairwells. Additionally, at Coggeshall School, it was noted that the main first floor corridor was repainted. Finally, the cafeterias at Coggeshall, Cranston-Calvert, and Carey Schools were moved from the basement levels to areas on the first floor of

those locations due to fire code compliance. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary, as he stated at last month's School Committee Meeting, reminded the Committee of his concerns relative to the high energy costs at Rogers High School. Property Services Director Paul Fagan addressed Mr. Leary's concerns and questions from Committee Members. This item was suggested to be discussed at next month's meeting to recommend ways to address this issue. Mrs. Gaines suggested solar energy as an alternative to be addressed, as well.

6.3 Subcommittee Reports.

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

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

6.3.3 Policy. Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Policy Manual for 2008-2009 had been distributed and that the Policy Subcommittee would be meeting regarding the recently revised State Policy on Peanut/Nut Allergies.

6.3.4 Wellness. Subcommittee Chairperson Dr. Galvin stated that the Wellness Subcommittee is continuing to work to improve Wellness throughout the District and would be scheduling its next meeting shortly.

6.3.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Subcommittee Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that she had no new business to report but that the upcoming Executive Board Meeting had been scheduled and an upcoming School Committee Workshop (101) would be taking place in the fall.

6.3.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. Subcommittee Chairperson Mr. Carlin stated that he had no new business to report. He did state that the Task Force was working closely with the Newport Police for the development of a strong program for enforcement of under-age drinking.

7.0 ACTION. [No Items]

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 the Expenditure and Revenue Reports dated August 31, 2008. He stated that some time this month, the District would need to readjust its Official Budget to reflect the reduction in contribution from the City and the results of the oil bid and teacher contract settlement. Additionally, he stated the close-out for

Fiscal Year 2008 had not been completed but that as soon as it was done, the Committee would receive that information. Dr. Ambrogi then reviewed the new financial format established as a result of the state mandated Chart of Accounts and the District's new software package, which is tied in with the municipal government's system. Discussion followed. At the request of Vice Chairperson Mr. Leary, Business Manager Michael Saunders reviewed with the Committee the new financial format to reflect the state mandated Chart of Accounts. Mrs. Gaines commended Dr. Ambrogi for hiring Mr. Saunders and that a good job has been done with the financial reporting system. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Enrollment Reports were taken under Discussion Item No. 6.1.2 of the Agenda this evening.

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: Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association—General Membership Meeting (08-13-08); Sodexo Food Services Meeting (08-14-08); Wellness Subcommittee Meeting (08-18-08); New Teacher Mentor Orientation—Greetings (08-19-08); Public Hearing NACTC Guidance Counselor Variance (08-21-08); Annual School Facilities Tour (08-29-08); Professional Development Day—Greetings and General Opening (09-02-08); and First Day of School for All Students—Visitations to All Schools and Classrooms (09-03-08). 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.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 7:50 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. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

SEAL MINUTES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 8:20 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 8:21 p.m., Mr. Phelan 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