

Approve 03/10/2009

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines 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 Jo Eva Gaines, Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Patrick K. Kelley, Robert J. Leary, and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

- **W. Jean Conheaney:** who passed away at her home, in Newport, on Monday, January 19, 2009. She was the wife of the late Thomas “Boo” Conheaney, Jr. Born in Newport, she was a graduate of Rogers High School in 1937 and taught for over 30 years for Newport Public Schools at Cranston-Calvert School, before retiring in 1985. She was the grandmother of Thompson Middle School Dean of Students Jared Conheaney.

**1.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.** No Public Comment was received.

**2.0 LAYOFF PROCESS.**

**2.1 Pre-Deprivation Hearings.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi briefed the Committee on the Pre-Deprivation Process. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to open the Hearings at 7:06 p.m. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Dr. Ambrogi explained that the individual teachers, the Teachers’ Association of Newport, the National Education Association Representative Jane Argentieri, and the School Committee all received copies of the non-renewal/suspension/layoff notices sent to the eighteen (18) General Education—Non-Tenured (Non-Renewal), ten (10) General Education—Tenured (Suspensions/Layoff), and nineteen (19) Continuing Education (Non-Renewal) Staff Members and that these Hearings were needed to comply with the March 1, 2009, notification deadline. Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Layoff Process with the Committee and stated that Process could be mitigated if state law permitted a

notification deadline of either May 15<sup>th</sup> or June 1st. Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines stated that individual teachers and/or their representatives might have an opportunity to address the Committee if they so desired. No teachers and/or their representatives addressed the Committee.

**2.2 Non-Renewal/Suspension/Layoff and/or Termination of Personnel.** Hearing no further discussion, Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adopt a Resolution for the non-renewal of the teaching contracts of the following personnel at the end of the 2008-2009 School Year: General Education—Non-Tenured: Alaina Behbehani, Beth Brugnoli, Justin Buffman, Hope Chella, Britany Coleman, Stephanie DeAscentis, John Dusel, Jennifer Green, Emma Hookway, Andrew Martucci, Christine Mathis, Lori McDowell, Talia Powers, Jeessica Rosa, Pamela Storey, Lisa Sullivan, Amy Taft, and Kaitlin Wilson; Continuing Education: Cindy Bosell, Kathleen Dickenson, Robert Dimery, Suzanne Harkness, Alice Jones, James Kenney, Jeffrey Lemler, Mary An Quick, Patrick Rossoni, Alina Sargent, Sandra Smith, Angela Soto, Peter Silveria, Mary Silvia, Patrick Sullivan, Dorcas Taylor, Thomas Varone, Susan VonVillas, and Patricia Wells; and suspension/layoff of the teaching contracts of the following personnel at the end of the 2008-2009 School Year: General Education—Tenured: Sarah Bagley, Susanne Blais, Scott Dickison, Julie Frederick, John Heino, Donna Kelly, Michal Kuriscak, Stacey Lyon, Lee Russell, and Steven Taylor. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). Dr. Ambrogi then read aloud the approved names (attached) of those individuals to receive non-renewal/suspension/layoff letters, as presented.

### **3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

#### **3.1 Student Council:**

**3.1.1 Update—Michael Turchetti.** Student Council Representative Michael Turchetti updated the Committee on Student Activities—Student Council: Pennies for Patients Campaign; Alumni Display Board; and School Improvement Team Meeting. Discussion followed.

### **4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. N/A**

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.** Discussion followed. Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

**5.1 Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, January 21, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 3, 2009, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 13, 2009.** No amendments were made.

- **Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, January 21, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 3, 2009.** No amendments were made.

**5.2- Personnel Actions.**  
**5.5**

**5.2 Resignations.**

Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Frank Brow, Varsity Baseball Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**5.3 Retirements.**

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: David Anderson, Grade 6 Science Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: Barbara Ring, Grade 3 Teacher, Coggeshall School, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: Charlotte Heineken, Clerk/Typist, Coggeshall School, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: Christine Pimentel, Secretary/Bookkeeper, Administration, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: Carol Potter, Clerk/Typist, Student Services, Administration, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Discussion followed. Mr. Leary read aloud the Retirement Letter received from Teacher Barbara Ring and thanked her for a wonderfully written letter.

**5.4 Leaves of Absence.**

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Maternity Leave of Absence of: Kathy Olsen, Physical Therapist (.5), effective on or about May 1, 2009, through August 31, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Paternity Leave of Absence of: Lee Russell, Grade 6 SS/ELA Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective on February 12, 2009, returning on March 16, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Maternity Leave of Absence of: Kerri Smith, Occupational Therapist, effective on or about June 23, 2009, returning on or about November 2, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**5.5 Appointments. N/A.**

**5.6 Requests for Home Instruction.** Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated February 10, 2009, as presented.

**6.0 DISCUSSION**

**6.1 Governor's Budget Recommendations—Federal Stimulus Package—Impact on Newport Public Schools.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Governor's Budget Recommendations—Federal Stimulus Package and how these recommendations would directly impact the District. He highlighted that the School Construction Monies were removed from the Package and hoped that within the next two weeks more information would be available on both the Federal Stimulus Package and the Governor's Budget Recommendations. Discussion followed.

**6.2 Fifth Grade Move to Thompson Middle School—September, 2009—UPDATE.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi informed the Committee that on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 6 p.m., at Thompson Middle School, Mr. Thomas and his staff held an Informational Meeting for parents of fourth and fifth grade students regarding the move up to Thompson Middle School and that it was well attended by parents and a tremendous success. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Leary, he read aloud a parent letter requesting bus transportation. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that, once bus transportation reconfiguration begins for next year's fifth grade move to Thompson Middle School, individual requests would be considered.

**6.3 Update on Fire Code Violations from State Fire Marshall Hearing—January 27, 2009.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee that he and Property Services Director Paul Fagan met with the State Fire Marshall in Cranston on January 27, 2009, at 1 p.m., and received verbal approval for its written Plan of Action for bringing the schools into compliance. He reviewed the contents of the written Plan. Discussion followed. At the request of Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Dr. Ambrogi will request Property Services Director Paul Fagan to ascertain the costs associated with each fire code violation to be corrected.

**6.4 Subcommittee Reports:**

**6.4.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis stated that the Facilities Subcommittee would be meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 4 p.m., at Triplett School, Room 104.

**6.4.2 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee would be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month, beginning in March, with a time to be set.

**6.4.3 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that she would soon have a date for the Policy Subcommittee to meet.

**6.4.4 Wellness.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee would be meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 3 p.m., at Coggeshall School Cafeteria.

**6.4.5 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees was preparing a Draft Resolution in support of the East Providence School Committee. Once the Draft Resolution is prepared, Mrs. Gaines stated that she would forward it to the School Committee.

**6.4.6 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary stated that the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force would be administering a Student Survey to address under-age drinking.

**6.4.7 Ad Hoc School Building Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Kelley stated that the Ad Hoc School Building Committee had met four times to date, briefing the Committee on the progress made to date. He indicated that the remaining meetings of the Ad Hoc School Building Committee were scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009, and Tuesday, February 24,

2009, followed by a Meeting with the School Committee on Thursday, February 26, 2009, to present their recommendation.

**7.0 ACTION.**

**7.1 Carey School—Formal Turnover to the City of Newport—No Later than September 1, 2009.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to release Carey School to the City of Newport no later than September 1, 2009. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Vice Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis stated he would not support the motion without a long-range plan in effect. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.

**8.0 Reports from Superintendent and Staff: Expenditure and Revenue Reports, Enrollment Reports, Damage Reports, Superintendent's Update, and Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report.**

**8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Expenditure and Revenue Reports from Business Manager Michael Saunders. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that Impact Aid federal monies had just been received by the District, of which the Reports did not reflect. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the February 3, 2009, Enrollment Reports. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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: Regionalization Meeting (01-12-09); Northwest Evaluation Association—Partnering to Help All Kids Learn—Demonstration (01-12-09); NSC—Ad Hoc School Building Committee—Meetings—(01-14-09); (01-22-09); (01-27-09); (02-03-09); Starbase-Atlantis Academy Meeting (01-15-09); Newport Fire Department Meetings—Fire Code Violations (01-15-09); (01-23-09); (01-26-09); Carey School Staff Meeting—Carey School Closure (01-16-09); Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day— Holiday Celebration (01-19-09)—Birthday Program @ TMS—Greetings and Luncheon @ Atlantic Beach Club Pavilion; Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust—Underwriting Committee Meeting @ RIIRMT Office (01-21-09); Meeting with John Simmons, Executive Director, RIPEC, @ RIPEC Office (01-21-09); RIDE-RISSA-RI Center for School Leadership—Commissioner's Forum (01-22-09); Underwood School Staff Meeting—Carey School Closure (01-22-09); Meeting with HMFH Architects (01-22-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust—Board of Trustees

Meeting (01-27-09); Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review Meeting in Cranston (01-27-09); WADK Talk Show—New School Construction Project (01-29-09); Urban Education Task Force Meeting (01-30-09); 2009-2010 Budget Meetings with Administrators (Week of February 2, 2009); New School Construction Project Meeting with RIDE @ RIDE (02-03-09); 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Move-Up Orientation Meeting @ TMS (02-05-09); and NACTC Coordinating Committee Meeting @ Oliphant School (02-06-09). Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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 monthly Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

## **9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS.**

Dr. Ambrogi reviewed suggested meeting dates and agenda topics.

## **10.0 Executive Session.**

At 7:56 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. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**SEAL MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

At 8:30 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Adjournment.** At 8:31 p.m., Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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**Jo Eva Gaines**  
Chairperson

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**John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.**  
Clerk