

Approve 04/21/2009.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL  
Special Joint Meeting, 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** City of Newport Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano called the Special Joint Meeting of the Newport School Committee and Newport City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Newport Council Chambers.

**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; City Council Members: Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano, Vice Chairperson Justin McLaughlin, Mary C. Connolly (absent), Stephen R. Coyne, Charles Y. Duncan, Kathryn Leonard, and Stephen C. Waluk (absent); School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., and Business Manager Michael Saunders. City of Newport Administration: City Manager Edward Lavallee and Finance Director Laura Sitrin.

**1.0 2009-2010 Pre-Budget Consultation.** As required by state law, the 2009-2010 Pre-Budget discussion followed between the Council and School Committee. School Committee Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi presented the Fiscal Year 2010 Tentative Budget. Dr. Ambrogi stated that the Budget increased from the current year's Budget (representing an Appropriation of \$38,124,384), by 1.34 percent, (representing an Appropriation of \$38,634,105) and, as a result of decreases in state aid from the Twin River revenues, an additional 2.64 percent from the City Appropriation would be needed. He indicated that this increase was substantially below the state cap for tax levy, which, next year, would be 4.75 percent. He also indicated that this Budget didn't eliminate any programs, but did result in a reduction of five (5) positions—one Principal, one School Clerk, one Custodian, one Third Grade Elementary School Teacher, and a Business Office Coordinator. Review and discussion followed relative to tentative enrollment, staffing, expenditures, capital improvement funding, unfunded liability, City's projected revenues, School Department's projected revenues, health care benefits, and an analysis of the projected total surplus and spending gap.

**2.0 Executive Session.** No Executive Session was held.

**Adjournment.** At 6:16 p.m., Dr. Flowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bolan 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

**Newport School Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**

**Special Joint Meeting Minutes**