

Approve 05/12/2009

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 5:01 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 (absent), Robert J. Leary (excused himself from the remainder portion of the meeting at approximately 5:34 p.m.), and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker (arrived at the meeting at approximately 5:07 p.m.). School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., and Director of Property Services Paul Fagan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **John C. “Larry” Nelson:** who passed away in New York on Saturday, April 4, 2009. He was the husband of Barbara Nelson and the father of Rogers High School Assistant Principal James Nelson. Mr. Nelson was the Head of the Real Estate Department at Milbank Tweed and involved in many major development projects and sales in New York City, including Lincoln and Rockefeller Centers and Battery Park City. He leaves five children and ten grandchildren.
- **Michael “Mike” Anderson:** who passed away on Thursday, April 16, 2009. He was the husband of Becky Anderson and the father of Rogers High School English Teacher Anna Anderson. As a 1971 Graduate of Brown University, he worked for many years as an accountant, loved sports, and was an avid golfer and softball player. He leaves two children and two grandchildren.
- **Richard S. Lacey:** who passed away on Friday, April 17, 2009, at home, in Middletown. He was the husband of Thompson Middle School Para Educator Karen (Sanders) Lacey. Born in Newport, he was the son of the late William J. and Nancy (Shepley) Lacey. Mr. Lacey was an Army Veteran of the Vietnam War, serving with the 1st Air Cavalry, 2/7th. He worked as a Purchasing Manager at Newport Grand and the Officer’s Club on the Newport Naval Base. He leaves two daughters and two grandsons.

- **Patricia A. Banks:** who passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at home, in Newport. She was the husband of James O. Banks and the father of Judith H. Phelan, Wife of Former School Committee Member Thomas S. Phelan. Born in Providence, Mrs. Banks moved to Newport at the age of four years old and was a 1956 Graduate of Rogers High School. Mrs. Banks served as a long-time and devoted Member of many Community Organizations: St. Augustin's Church, Wanumetonomy Country Club, Seaside Garden Club, Over-the-Bridge Book Club, and The Lion's Club Clown Unit. She leaves five children, preceded in death by her youngest son, and 20 grandchildren.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

3.1.1 Update—Michael Turchetti. Student Council Representative Michael Turchetti was not present to update the Committee on Student Activities.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. There no Resolutions and/or Certificates of Achievement presented this month.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA. Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 10, 2009, Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 11, 2009, Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, March 23, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, April 8, 2009, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 10, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 11, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 18, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, March 23, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, April 8, 2009.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions.
5.5

5.2 Resignations.

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Resignation of: Adrian Poland, Literacy Coordinator K-12, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

5.3 Retirements.

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: Ann Green, Head Teacher/Grade 4 Teacher, Cranston-Calvert School, effective June 30, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: Thomas S. Krous, Guidance Counselor, Rogers High School, effective June 30, 2009, contingent upon successful appeal with the Employees' Retirement System of Rhode Island. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Retirement of: William Mackin, culinary Arts Teacher, Newport Area Career and Technical Center, effective December 31, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

5.4 Leaves of Absence. N/A.

5.5 Appointments.

Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the Appointment of: Alyssa Michon, Girls' Softball Coach, Thompson Middle School, effective March 10, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the Appointment of: Linda Moitoza, National Honor Society Advisor, Rogers High School, effective March 25, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

5.6 Requests for Home Instruction. Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Requests for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated April 21, 2009, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

At approximately 5:07 p.m., Dr. Shoemaker arrived at the meeting.

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 the most recent communications from the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding the allocation of federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the allowable use of these funds. Dr. Ambrogi also reviewed with the Committee the revised Fiscal Year 2009 Education Aid, in that, minimally, Newport would lose approximately \$240,000 worth of Aid this year from the Rhode Island Department of Education; but, that this loss of Revenue would be offset by an unexpected increase in Revenue from Federal Impact Aid and Newport Area Career and Technical Center Tuitions. He further indicated that the issue with the Pension Contributions had not yet been resolved at the State Level. Discussion followed.

6.2 Update on Transitions—Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School and Carey School to Underwood School.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the planned activities for the transitions of both Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School and Carey School to Underwood School, as follows:

Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School—

- Students and parents were invited to all three grade-level Faculty/Student Basketball Games: March 13, 20, and 27.
- The first Mall Coffee Hour was held on Monday, April 6th, and three more are planned for April 20 and 27, and May 1.

Carey School to Underwood School—

- The Administration contacted Eric Earls, City of Newport, and requested a hearing in front of the Newport Interdepartmental Traffic Committee. The purpose of this request is to allow parent/visitor parking in front of Underwood School during a two-to-three hour period in the afternoon. This would allow parent/guardians to pick up their children at the end of the school day and late programs that will be run at Underwood during the next school year. This request was to be heard today, April 21, 2009. Discussion followed.

- The Administration received a quote (\$14,270) for asphalt repaving of the teachers parking area at Underwood School. The company supplying this quote is the same company (Narragansett Improvement Company) that is currently contracted by the City of Newport for road improvements. Newport Public Schools would receive the same pricing that the City is receiving for asphalt repaving. Unfortunately, according to Neil, we will have to go out to bid on this and a proposed paving project at Rogers High School because of problems with the bid laws.
- Administrators are organizing Joint School Improvement Plans to resubmit to the Rhode Island Department of Education.
- Administrators met with PTO on Wednesday, April 8th, to discuss Yearbooks.
- Administrators planned Joint May 6th and May 21st PTO Meetings—Discussion & Design Family Event Calendar for 2009-2010.
- Administrators met with Property Services Director to review space and furniture for smooth move from Carey School to Underwood School.
- Administrators plan to schedule a Joint Field Day to Rogers High School with Island Moving Company—To be Determined—in June.
- Administrators plan to hold a Cookout at Underwood School—To Be Announced.

6.3 Subcommittee Reports:

6.3.1 Ad Hoc School Building Committee. There was no Report from the Ad Hoc School Building Committee.

6.3.2 Facilities Subcommittee. Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis stated that a Special School Committee Workshop would be held next Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 5 p.m., at Rogers High School, for the purpose of discussing Rogers High School Facilities Upgrades. Discussion also followed regarding the plan to address paving of Underwood School's Visitors' Parking Lot and areas at Rogers High School.

6.3.3 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee. There was no Report from the Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.

6.3.4 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee held their first Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., at the Administration

Center, and their next Meeting would be taking place this coming Thursday, April 23, 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the City of Newport Council Chambers.

- 6.3.5 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that the Policy Subcommittee held their second Meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at 4 p.m. She indicated that the two state-mandated Policies [Special Education Staffing and Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, and Anti-Bullying (adding: Dating Violence and Sexual Violence)] were before the Committee this evening for Second Reading. The next scheduled Meeting of the Policy Subcommittee will take place on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 4 p.m., at the Administration Center.
- 6.3.6 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee held their second Meeting on Monday, April 6, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at the Administration Center, and reviewed (1) the draft Newport Public Schools' Public Relations Flyer, soon to be finalized and circulated throughout the community, possible through monies provided from the SCORES Grant and (2) the proposed plans for the establishment of a Community Group to promote new elementary school construction. Mrs. Gaines indicated that on the Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 1:30 p.m., the first of a series of air time (second Wednesday of each Month) on WADK for Newport Public Schools to promote Public Relations and Community Outreach was held. Topics of discussion were: Wellness, Newport Public Education Foundation, and new elementary school construction. She indicated that topics for next month's Radio Talk Show would be: An appearance by Urban Education Task Force Executive Director Warren Simmons and the moves of both the upcoming Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School and Carey School to Underwood School for the next school year. The next scheduled Meeting of the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee will take place on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at Central Administration.
- 6.3.7 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees would be planning an upcoming Energy Workshop.
- 6.3.8 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary requested that the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Chairperson David Roderick address the Committee at next month's Meeting regarding the Task Force's administration of the Student Survey to address under-age drinking and their efforts in reaching out to the community/businesses regarding the prevention of substance abuse.

6.3.9 Wellness. Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee would be holding their next meeting tomorrow afternoon, Wednesday, April 22, 2009, beginning at 4 p.m., at Underwood School Cafeteria. She indicated that the Wellness Subcommittee was focusing its efforts on the upcoming renewal process for the Food Services Contract and establishing a Table Host Program to promote good table manners and to introduce new foods, while promoting fruits and vegetables. The next scheduled Meeting of the Wellness Subcommittee will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2009, beginning at 4 p.m., at Sullivan School Cafeteria.

7.0 ACTION.

7.1 Newport Public Schools' 2009-2010 School Calendar. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adopt the Newport Public Schools' 2009-2010 School Calendar, as presented. Mr. Leary seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At approximately 5:34 p.m., Mr. Leary excused himself from the remainder portion of the meeting. Discussion continued. The motion carried (4-1). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.

7.2 Policy No. 4.5.1: Special Education Staffing—Amendment—Second Reading. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to amend, for Second Reading, Policy No. 4.5.1, Special Education Staffing, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

7.3 Policy No. 5.4.6: Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, and Anti-Bullying (Adding: Dating Violence and Sexual Violence)—Amendment—First Reading. Dr. Flowers made a motion to amend, for Second Reading, Policy No. 5.4.6, Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, and Anti-Bullying (adding: Dating Violence and Sexual Violence), as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

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. Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the March 31, 2009, Enrollment Reports. Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).
- 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: Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting at Oliphant School (03-09-09); Teacher Education Partnerships' Meeting at Rhode Island College (03-09-09); Newport Public Education Foundation Annual TEA Gathering (03-11-09); Urban Education Task Force—Cross-System Collaboration Meeting (03-12-09); Volunteers in Newport Education (VINE) Meeting—Relocation from RHS to Coggeshall School (03-12-09); St. Patrick's Day Parade Festivities (03-14-09); Sullivan School Family Center—Fiscal Management Meeting (03-17-09); NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (03-17-09); Superintendent's Parent-Teacher Organization Leadership Council Meeting (03-18-09); Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association (RISSA)—Commissioner's Forum (03-19-09) [Funding Formula/CTE/BEP]; Carey School to Underwood School Transition Meeting (03-19-09); Naval War College Conference Call Meeting—Registration Orientation Program (03-19-09); Newport Families First: 12th Annual Breakfast Meeting @ Brick Alley Pub (03-20-09); RHS Japanese Exchange Students—Welcome Ceremony (03-23-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting w/ Island Superintendents—@ Oliphant School (03-23-09); NSC—Wellness Subgroup Meeting—Food Services' RFP (03-24-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust (RIIRMT) Underwriting Committee Meeting (03-25-09); SCORES Leadership Team Meeting (03-25-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust (RIIRMT) Loss Prevention Awards Meeting (03-26-09); Urban Education Task Force Meeting (03-27-09); Building a Healthy Newport Environment Coalition (BHNEC)—Leadership Team Conference Call Meeting (03-30-09); Reading Week at Coggeshall School—Jan Campbell's Kindergarten Classroom (03-31-09); Roger Williams University—Bridge-to-Success Meeting (04-01-09); NSC—Policy Subcommittee Meeting (04-01-09); Parent-to-Parent Meeting (04-02-09); Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook—Policy Breakfast Meeting (04-06-09); NSC—Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting (04-06-09); Reading Week at Carey School—Dale Blaess' Kindergarten Classroom (04-07-09); SCORES—Evaluation Meeting (04-07-09); Newport Community School—Newport Public Schools Summer Programming Meeting (04-08-09); Public Relations/Community Outreach—WADK (04-08-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust (RIIRMT)—Board of Trustees' Meeting (04-09-09); and Urban Education Task Force/Newport Public Education Foundation Meeting—Re: Community Workshop (04-13-09). Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

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. Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS.

Dr. Ambrogi reviewed suggested meeting dates and agenda topics.

Ms. Bolan requested that the Island Moving Company provide a Presentation to the Committee at an upcoming Meeting regarding planned student activities.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 5:44 p.m., Dr. 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. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 6:00 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 6:01 p.m., Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk