

Approve 09/08/2009

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Monday, August 17, 2009

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order.** Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:00 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 (absent), Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Patrick K. Kelley, Robert J. Leary, and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambroggi, Ed.D., and Director of Property Services Paul Fagan.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.**

- **Christopher Michael Kiernan:** who passed away at Newport Hospital on Monday, August 10, 2009. He was the father of Rogers High School Social Studies Department Head Coleen Hermes. Born in New York City, Mr. Kiernan began his administrative career at Assumption College in Worcester, MA, then to St. Joseph's College in Maine, before coming to Newport in 1980, where he served in many administrative capacities at Salve Regina University. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, four children, and six grandchildren.

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

**3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.** Student Activities—Student Council Update will be presented at the September Meeting.

**4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.** There were no Resolutions/Certificates of Achievement presented.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambroggi stated he would review projected student enrollment under Item No. 8.2—Enrollment Reports. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**5.1 Approval of Minutes.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 9, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 22, 2009, Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 2, 2009; Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, July 14, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 27, 2009, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, June 9, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 22, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, July 2, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, July 14, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 27, 2009.** No amendments were made.

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

**5.2 Resignations.**

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Glenna Johnson, Speech Language Pathologist, effective August 12, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

**5.3 Retirements.** N/A.

**5.4 Leave of Absence.**

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Maternity of: Sarah Bagley, Physical Education/Health, Rogers High School, effective September 8, 2009 to October 9, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

## 5.5 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.

### Appointments.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Erin Clark, Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach, Rogers High School, effective August 17, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Margaret Corcoran, Career Placement Specialist, Rogers High School, effective the 2009-2010 School Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Kacie Gallo, Girls Soccer Coach, Thompson Middle School, effective August 20, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Deborah Gemming, Bus/Playground Duty, Coggeshall School, effective the 2009-2010 School Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Cooper Gillis, Head Girls Tennis Coach, Rogers High School, effective August 17, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Elizabeth Khalfayan, Head Teacher, Coggeshall School, effective the 2009-2010 School Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Lisa Kirby, Newspaper Advisor, Thompson Middle School, effective the 2009-2010 School Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Andrew Martucci, Physical Education/Health Teacher, .6 FTE, Thompson Middle School/Rogers High School, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Rebekah Rosen-Gomez, Bus/Playground Duty, Cranston-Calvert School, effective the 2009-2010 School Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

**Transfers.**

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Raleigh Brennan, English Teacher, Rogers High School, to Dean of Students, Rogers High School, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

**Recalls.**

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the (Non-Tenured – Rescission of Non-Renewal of Contract) Recall of: Jessica Rosa, English Teacher, Rogers High school, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the (Tenured – Rescission of Suspension/Layoff) Recall of: Pamela Storey, Speech Language Pathologist, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- 5.6 Requests for Home Instruction.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the two (2) Requests for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated August 17, 2009, as presented.

**6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 Update on Transitions—Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School; Carey School to Underwood School; and Move of Administration to Rogers High School Campus.**

**Fifth Grade to Thompson Middle School.** Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi stated that the move of Grade 5 to Thompson Middle School was progressing well. He indicated that the students have been scheduled, the teachers' classrooms have been moved to the appropriate location, and the fifth grade teachers have been in to set up their classrooms in preparation for September. Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would be meeting with the Thompson Middle School Principal and Assistant Principal to continue review of the recommendations of the Parents/Educators' Committee regarding various protocols for the fifth graders' move to Thompson Middle School. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Kelley, Dr. Ambrogi stated that Business Manager Michael Saunders and First Student Transportation were in the process of configuring the bus routes.

**Carey School to Underwood School.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee regarding Carey School to Underwood School transition

activities, as follows: the visitors' parking area was repaved, the cafeteria ceiling was replaced, the cafeteria was repainted, a new dishwasher was installed in the kitchen, Coastal Electric will have the alarm system fully operational no later than Friday, August 28, 2009, the furniture from Carey School was moved to Underwood School, the hallways have been repainted with fire-resistant paint, the sprinkler system has been retested, and Lincoln Pest Control is doing an excellent job in continuing to bait outside traps to eradicate the mice in and around the school. Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee that he and Police Chief McKenna reviewed the drop-off/pickup procedures at Underwood School, as follows: the major drop-off/pickup point should be the visitors' parking lot and someone will monitor that area; parents will be able to drop-off and pickup their children at the semi-circle in front of the school; and that having parents park on Harrison Avenue was not an option. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary stated his concern with the drop-off and pickup at the semi-circle. Mr. DeAscentis stated parking spaces within the play area should not be permitted. He also requested a synopsis be provided to the Committee of itemized costs for the Underwood School Upgrades. Mr. Kelley reiterated the need to monitor students traveling between buildings, in that they should be traveling in groups and not alone.

**Move of Administration to Rogers High School Campus.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, the Central Office administrative functions of the Newport Public Schools moved from Broadway to 15 Wickham Road. He stated that the new location may be relatively temporary in nature (three to four years) and that, with the new elementary school construction, the administrative offices would make another move at that point in time to Rogers High School. Dr. Ambrogi publicly acknowledged Property Services Director Paul Fagan and his staff for all the hard work during these transitions, as well as his staff at central administration and, in particular, the Technology Director and her staff. Mr. Fagan then updated the Committee on the transitions.

**6.2 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and Property Services Director Paul Fagan updated the Committee on the work completed to date by ConEdison Solutions regarding the Rogers High School Energy Program's Investment Grade Audit and, in particular, the need to determine the status of requesting the City to allow the building of a Wind Turbine and the availability of state monies to begin the Request for Proposals' Process. Discussion followed.

**6.3 Subcommittee Reports:**

**6.3.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Discussion held under Agenda Item No. 6.2.

**6.3.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that the City Audit was completed last Friday.

**6.3.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Liaison Subcommittee would resume its meetings for this fiscal year beginning next month.

**6.3.4 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that the Policy Subcommittee would resume its meetings for this fiscal year beginning next month.

**6.3.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** The next meeting of the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines briefed the Committee on the details of the site visit of the Rhode Island Department of Education's new Commissioner, Deborah Gist, to Newport Public Schools, held on Wednesday, August 12, 2009.

**6.3.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees would be holding its next meeting on Saturday, August 22, 2009.

**6.3.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary stated that the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force would resume its meetings for this fiscal year beginning next month and that the Task Force's findings of the Student Survey recently administered to address under-age drinking had been recently distributed to Committee Members for their information.

**6.3.8 Wellness.** The Wellness Subcommittee will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 5 p.m., at the Newport Hospital Atrium.

Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on the efforts made to date by the Members of the Early Intervention Project, as follows: site visit to the Harlem's Children Zone (Baby College) in New York City, on Monday, August 3, 2009; and the need to establish, through grant funding, an outreach program for mothers-to-be in our schools incorporating Newport Hospital and local Obstetricians Offices.

**7.0 ACTION.** There were no Action Items presented.

**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 reminded the Committee that historically Expenditure and Revenue Reports have not been presented in August, since the previous year's expenditures are being closed out and the new year's expenditures have not yet begun to be billed. He stated that a complete Expenditure and Revenue Report would be presented at the September School Committee Meeting or earlier, if possible.

**8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Enrollment Reports as of June 25, 2009. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the student enrollment projections for September, indicating the possibility of opening two additional classrooms: one Kindergarten Classroom and one Third Grade Classroom, both to be located at Sullivan School. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

**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: NSC Public Relations Subcommittee Meeting (06-08-09); Newport Community School Annual Meeting @ Ochre Court (06-08-09); NSC Wellness Subcommittee Meeting @ Sullivan School (06-11-09); Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Graduation (06-15-09); HMFH Architects Meeting @ NACTC—Administration Move (06-16-09); Meeting @ Underwood School with Parents (06-16-09); NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (06-16-09); Baby College Meeting @ Chapel Terrace (06-17-09); Summer Moves—Meeting with Administration and Council 94—Local 841 (06-17-09); Non-Violence Institute Meeting (06-17-09); Human Services Mall—Funding Meeting with Newport County Mental Health Center (06-19-09); Rogers High School Graduation (06-19-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting @ Oliphant School (06-22-09); SCORES Meeting (06-24-09); Visitation to Schools (Last Day) (06-25-09); TMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotional Ceremony (06-25-09); Wellness Table Hosts for Lunch Time @ Underwood School (06-25-09); East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (06-26-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting @ Oliphant School (06-26-09); Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center and Newport Committee School Meeting (07-01-09); HMFH Architects Meeting @ NACTC—Administration Move (07-02-09); HMFH Architects Meeting—New School Construction (07-07-09); Baby College Meeting @ Chapel Terrace (07-08-09); Rhode Island Charter Day Ceremony @ Redwood Library [Ambassador Loeb Installation] (07-08-09); Tufts University—Obesity Workshop—Superintendent Pre-Workshop Interview (07-08-09); Tall Ships Meeting (07-08-09); Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Meeting—Review of Student Survey

(07-09-09); Island Moving Company Meeting—Funding Future Projects (07-09-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting @ Oliphant School (07-13-09); NSC Administrative Compensation Subcommittee Meeting (07-13-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC)—Aquidneck Island Consolidation & Feasibility Study Public Forum Presentation @ CCRI (07-13-09); NSC Community Workshop—New School Construction with HMFH Architects (07-14-09); Meeting at Rogers High School with Syd Williams—Records Retention Storage Room (07-16-09); McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant Meeting with Sharon Carter [Grant Evaluation and Continuation] (07-20-09); August 12<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Visit—Agenda Preparation with Newport Community School (07-22-09); Child & Family Services Meeting (07-22-09); Rogers High School Energy Project Kickoff Meeting @ Rogers High School (07-23-09); Urban Education Task Force—Rhode Island After School Plus Alliance—Expanded Learning Time Workshop with Administrators (2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting) (07-23-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust/Governmental Health Trust of Rhode Island—Joint Merger Meeting (07-27-09); NSC Public Hearing—NACTC Variance Request for NACTC Director Position Elimination (07-27-09); Barnes & Noble Public Relations Meeting (07-29-09); Urban Education Task Force—*Final* Meeting (07-29-09); Verizon Meeting—Transition Moves (07-30-09); Central Office Administrators' Meeting—Transition Moves (07-30-09); Touro Synagogue—Opening of Ambassador Loeb Visitors Center @ Patriots Park (08-02-09); Baby College Site Visit to Harlem, New York City (08-03-09); Early Intervention Meeting @ Chapel Terrace (08-05-09); Central Office Administrators' Meeting—Fuel Oil Contract (08-05-09); Building a Healthy Newport Education Coalition (BHNEC) Meeting @ Newport Hospital (08-05-09); Traffic Flow Meeting @ Underwood School (08-06-09); and RIDE's New Commissioner Site Visit to NPS (08-12-09). Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

## 9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS.

Dr. Ambrogi reviewed suggested meeting dates and agenda topics.

A Special Joint Meeting of the School Committee and City Council will be scheduled in September for the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council to present its "June, 2009, Aquidneck Island Consolidation and Feasibility Study" and to discuss next steps.

## 10.0 Executive Session.

At 7:52 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. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL**

**OPEN SESSION**

At 9:04 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

**Adjournment.** At 9:05 p.m., Dr. Flowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

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**Jo Eva Gaines**  
**Chairperson**

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