

Approve 10/13/2009.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 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, 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.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Joyce Marie Bennett:** who passed away at her home in Middletown on Sunday, August 23, 2009. Retiring in 2006, Mrs. Bennett had been a Secretary for the Newport Public Schools for 16 years. She was the wife of the late Frederick "Joe" Bennett and is survived by her two children, four siblings, and five grandchildren.
- **Mark Stephen Weed:** who passed away at his home in Newport on Saturday, August 22, 2009. Born in Newport, Mr. Weed was a 1978 graduate of Rogers High School and a 1985 graduate of Salve Regina University. While in high school, he began working at Eastern Ice Company in Newport and continued his career there for the next 30 years as Production Manager. He was a communicant of Jesus Saviour Church and a member of many local organizations within the community. Mr. Weed is survived by his wife, Rhode Island Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed, and is survived by his parents, six siblings, and many nieces and nephews.
- **John F. Hogan:** who passed away at Heatherwood Nursing Center in Newport on Saturday, September 5, 2009. Born in Newport on May 23, 1920, he was the son of the late John and Anna (Bric) Hogan. Mr. Hogan grew up in Newport and graduated from Rhode Island College in 1941. He began his career as a teacher in 1946; and, by 1954, he became a Principal in the Newport Public Schools. He served Newport Public Schools for 39 years, mostly as the Principal in the elementary schools, including Callendar, Mumford, Lenthal, and Cranston-

Calvert Schools, until his retirement in 1985. He is survived by his sons Paul J. Hogan of Newport and Peter M. Hogan of Charlotte, North Carolina, and five grandchildren.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

3.1.1 Update—Bethany Richards. The Committee welcomed this school year's Student Council President and School Committee Representative Bethany Richards. Ms. Richards provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council planned for this fall.

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. Leary, the Renewal of 2009-2010 Contracts for Administrators will be acted upon separately for discussion. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 17, 2009, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Monday, August 17, 2009.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions.

5.5

5.2 Resignations.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Emma Hookway, Music Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective September 2, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Rebecca Bronk, Para Educator, Sullivan School, effective September 3, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.3 Layoff.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Layoff of: Joshua Hayes, Custodian, Second Shift, Thompson Middle School, effective September 15, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.4 Leave of Absence.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Maternity of: Britany Coleman, .6 Science Teacher, Rogers High School, effective September 8, 2009, to November 13, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.5 Appointments/Renewals/Transfers/Recalls.

Appointments.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Ryan Zilly, Physical Education Teacher, Thompson Middle School, one-year only, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointments of: Donna Kelly, Instructional Team Leader, Coggeshall School; Roberta Chapman, Dance Team Advisor, Rogers High School; John Heino, Senior Class Advisor, Rogers High School; John Heino, Yearbook Advisor, Rogers High School; John Heino, Newspaper Advisor, Rogers High School; Lisa Kirby, Newspaper Advisor, Thompson Middle School; and Elizabeth Gibbs, Student Council Advisor, Thompson Middle School; effective September 9, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Renewals.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Renewal of 2009-2010 Contracts for Administrators, as follows: Kimberly Behan, Principal, Underwood School; Jennifer Booth, Principal, Cranston-Calvert School; Robert Campion, Assistant Principal, Thompson Middle School; Patricia DiCenso, Principal, Rogers High School; Amy Donnelly Roche, Director of Student Services, Frances Eames, Director of Human Resources; Paul Fagan, Director of Property Services; Michael Franco, Principal, Coggeshall School; Caroline Frey, Literacy and Numeracy Coordinator; Wendy Gasior, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent; Maria Mare Schulz, Principal, Sullivan School; Eddie Merritt, Attendance Facilitator; Jacqueline Naspo, Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development; James Nelson, Assistant Principal, Rogers High School; Lee Rabbitt, Director of Technology; Michael Saunders, Business Manager; Doreen Schlackman, School Account Specialist; Barbara Smith, Coordinator of Special Education; and Eric Thomas, Principal, Thompson Middle School. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary stated he would not support the motion given that the carryover of vacation days between fiscal years should be further reduced. Mr. DeAscentis stated he

would not support the motion given an increase of 2.99 percent was not reasonable due to current economical hardships. The motion carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Patrick K. Kelley, and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. Those Members voting against the motion were: Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., and Member Robert J. Leary.

Transfers.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Carmen Scott, Thompson Middle School, Special Education Para Educator, PCA, to Sullivan Kindergarten Para Educator, effective September 9, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Talia Powers, Sullivan School, Grade 2, to Sullivan School, Early Childhood Special Education, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Robert Coyne, Administration Custodian to Second Shift, Custodian, Central Administration/NACTC/IT Offices, effective August 17, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Suzanne Platt, Grade 4, Coggeshall School, to Grade 3, Coggeshall School, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Vinny Butler, Rogers High School Third Shift Custodian, to Rogers High School Second Shift Custodian, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Matt Dougherty, Underwood School, Second Shift Custodian, to Cranston-Calvert School, Second Shift Custodian, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Andrew McCarthy, Rogers High School Second Shift Custodian, to Underwood School, Second Shift Custodian, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Recalls (TAN—Rescission of Non-Renewal of Contracts).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the (TAN—Rescission of Non-Renewal of Contract) Recall of: Christine Mathis, Sullivan School, Grade 2 Teacher, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the (TAN—Rescission of Non-Renewal of Contract) Recall of: Jennifer Green, Sullivan School, Kindergarten Teacher, effective September 8, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Recalls (Council 94—Local 841).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the (Council 94—Local 841) Recall of: Stephanie Biello, Thompson Middle School, Special Education Para Educator, PCA, effective September 9, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the (Council 94—Local 841) Recall of: Elizabeth Desrosiers, Cranston-Calvert School, Special Education Para Educator, PCA, effective September 9, 2009. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 5.6 Requests for Home Instruction.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the nine (9) Requests 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 September 8, 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.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi informed the Committee that the Fifth Grade Move to Thompson Middle School, the Carey School Move to Underwood School, and the Move of Administration to the Career and Technical Center have been completed for tomorrow's opening of school. He thanked the custodial staff, the technology staff, secretaries, and administrators for their hard work in ensuring that the transitions that occurred this summer went well. Discussion followed.

- 6.2 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the work completed to date by ConEdison Solutions regarding the Rogers High School Energy Program's

Investment Grade Audit. Review and discussion followed regarding: options for removing the old boilers, National Grid's recommendation for conversion of oil to natural gas, and the feasibility for the construction of a windmill. Discussion followed.

6.3 Facilities—Update/Report on Building Tour. Committee Members expressed their thanks to the custodial and maintenance staff for their hard work during the summer preparing the schools for tomorrow's opening.

6.4 Subcommittee Reports:

6.4.1 Facilities Subcommittee. Discussion held under Agenda Item No. 6.2.

6.4.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee. Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that the City Audit was completed last Friday and results would be forthcoming.

6.4.3 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. She also reminded the Committee that a Special Joint Meeting of the School Committee and City Council would be held Thursday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the Thompson Middle School Cafeteria, for the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council to present its "June, 2009, Aquidneck Island Consolidation and Feasibility Study" and to discuss next steps.

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

6.4.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee. Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the next meeting of the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting would be held on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center.

6.4.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC). Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees was preparing for its upcoming Northeast Area Conference to be held in Providence during the first week in October, that the Chairs recently met, and a meeting was held on the proposed mandatory binding arbitration legislation.

6.4.7 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 on Monday, September 21, 2009, at 12:30 p.m., at the Newport Police Department.

6.4.8 Wellness. Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee would be holding its first annual meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Newport Hospital Courtyard. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi informed the Committee that Newport Public Schools would be receiving the District Level Award by the Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition at a breakfast to be held on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

7.0 ACTION

7.1 Opposition to Binding Arbitration Legislation for Teachers' Contracts—Resolution. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines read aloud the proposed Resolution for the Opposition to Binding Arbitration Legislation for Teachers' Contracts. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to pass the Resolution for the opposition to binding arbitration legislation for teachers' contracts. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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 updated the Committee that the Fiscal Year 2009 Closeout Financial Statements and Fiscal Year 2010 Expenditure and Revenue Reports would be presented at the October School Committee Meeting.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi indicated to the Committee that, given school starts tomorrow, the first-day enrollment statistics could not be provided. He did review with the Committee the projected enrollment as of Thursday, September 3, 2009, which indicated an increase of approximately 70 students in comparison to last June, 2009, and an increase of 50 students over the projection that was performed by Whitehall Associates. As a result, Dr. Ambrogi informed the Committee that two additional Kindergarten Classes were added, one at Sullivan School and one at Cranston-Calvert School; and, that during the next few weeks, he would be analyzing the reason for this variability in Kindergarten enrollment. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Dr. Ambrogi indicated he would check with surrounding communities as to Kindergarten enrollment projections versus actual enrollment statistics.

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: H1N1 Meeting with Director of Student Services (08-17-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting @ Oliphant School (08-18-09); Rhode Island Center for Agricultural Promotion & Education (RICAPE) Meeting (08-18-09); Rhode Island School Superintendents Association Membership Meeting (08-19-09); Fifth Grade Transition Meeting with TMS Administrators (08-24-09); Crossing Guards Meeting with Sergeant Barker (08-24-09); Back-to-School Administrative Team Meeting (08-24-09); Triplet School Tour (for possible rental of space) (08-25-09); H1N1 Briefing Meeting for Superintendents (08-26-09); Secret Garden Tour Promotional Event on B101 (08-27-09); Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center and Newport Community School Meeting (09-02-09); Rhode Island Teacher-of-the-Year (2010) Selection Committee Meeting (09-02-09); Newport Public Education Foundation Board Meeting (09-02-09); Parents-for-Partners Meeting (09-03-09); Rhode Island National Public Radio Meeting (09-03-09); NSC Annual Tour of School Buildings (09-03-09); and Meeting with High School Principal on I-Parent Implementation (09-04-09). Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on the efforts made to date by the Members of the Early Intervention Project, as follows: (1) to begin meetings with young mothers in November, (2) to develop curriculum, and (3) to apply for grant funding. Mr. DeAscentis requested that a presentation be held for the School Committee on the I-Parent Implementation. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Flowers 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. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 8:14 p.m., Dr. Flowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeAscentis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk