

Approve 11/10/2009.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 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 (absent), and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D., Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche, Director of Technology Lee Rabbitt, and Coordinator of Literacy and Numeracy Caroline Frey, Ed.D.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE. Taken out of order after Item No. 4.0.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

3.1.1 Update—Bethany Richards. Student Council President and School Committee Representative Bethany Richards provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council: Pep Rally, Homecoming, Spirit Week, and Commissioner's Visit to Rogers High School held on October 1, 2009.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. Susan Moore was present to accept the Resolution read aloud by Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines and was commended by the Newport School Committee as the "2010 Newport Teacher of the Year" and as the Newport Public Schools' Nominee to the Rhode Island Department of Education for consideration as the "2010 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year." Ms. Moore thanked the Committee. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to pass the Resolution, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Joan L. Ferris:** who passed away at her home in Newport on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Mrs. Ferris was the mother of Rogers High School Social Studies Teacher Stephen Ferris. Born in Newport, she was a 1952 Graduate of St. Catherine's Academy and employed by New England Telephone and Harold's Camera Centre. Mrs. Ferris is survived by her husband, Anthony Ferris, to whom she was married for 51 years, and her two sons, daughter-in-law, sister, and three grandchildren.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 8, 2009, and the Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Thursday, September 10, 2009, as follows. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 8, 2009.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Thursday, September 10, 2009.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions.
5.5

5.2 Resignations.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Stamatia Logothets, Special Education Para Educator, Sullivan School, effective October 1, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.3 Leave of Absence.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Paternity of: Ted Hackman, Mathematics Teacher, Newport Alternative School/Rogers High School, effective October 28, 2009, to November 3, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.4 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.

Appointments.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Ian Gollub, Music Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective September 28, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Megan McCauley, Kindergarten Teacher, Cranston-Calvert School, effective October 14, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointments of: Stephen Ferris, Class Advisor, Grade 10, Rogers High School; William Kimes, Class Advisor, Grade 9, Rogers High School; Carla Jewell, Bus/Playground Duty, Sullivan School; and Patricia Mace, Bus/Playground Duty, Sullivan School; effective October 14, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Transfers.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Transfer of: Kathleen Silvia, Sullivan School, Special Education Para Educator, to Cranston-Calvert School Kindergarten Para Educator, effective September 28, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Recalls (Council 94—Local 841).

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the (Council 94—Local 841) Recall of: Kendra Tarlton, Cranston-Calvert School, Special Education Para Educator, effective September 9, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.6 Requests for Home Instruction. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Requests for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated October 13, 2009, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Communication with Parents/i-Parent.** At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Dr. Naspo and Director of Technology Lee Rabbitt provided a PowerPoint Presentation to the Committee on this year's implementation of the i-Parent Program at the high school and middle school. Discussion followed.
- 6.2 Improving Academic Outcomes/Using Computers to Improve Instruction.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the major initiatives to improve academic outcomes for the District's students on a K-12 basis. Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Dr. Naspo, Coordinator of Literacy and Numeracy Dr. Caroline Frey, and Director of Technology Lee Rabbitt provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the use of technology-based systems to support student achievement: Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Tests that are called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP); AIMSweb that provides continuous student performance data on students determined to need corrective action; and Technology for Improving Education (TIENET) that is a web-based Instruction Data Management System to organize the instructional process and monitor its impact on achieving educational standards. Discussion followed.
- 6.3 Regionalization—Next Steps.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and the Committee discussed next steps regarding Regionalization of the School Districts on Aquidneck Island: (1) that the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council would provide an Executive Summary of the Regionalization Study for insertion into the Newport Daily News, followed up by a Public Forum sponsored by the Newport Daily News; (2) that there might be an interest in seeking funds for an additional study to analyze educational benefits and that the Rhode Island Public Expenditure's Aquidneck Island Group would be requesting money from the state for the study; and (3) that a joint meeting of the Island's School Committees would be arranged through the Rhode Island Public Expenditure's Aquidneck Island Group.
- 6.4 Birth to Age 3 Initiative.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on the Birth to Age 3 Initiative: (1) that there have been ongoing meetings regarding the Birth to Age 3 Initiative, not only in Newport, but with representatives from the Rhode Island Department of Education; (2) that there appears to be no comprehensive birth to 3 system and universal preschool system in place, so many different organizations are doing a part of this concept and trying to determine how many of the children, birth to 3, are actually receiving services and the nature and extent of those services; (3) that the group would be working in cooperation with the Even Start Program of Newport; and (4) that the group's first meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2009.

6.5 Subcommittee Reports:

6.5.1 Facilities Subcommittee. Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis briefly discussed the status of the proposed Wind Turbine and its size for placement at Rogers High School. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that, after a recent meeting with the City Manager, a partnership between the School District and the City may be formed to make the Wind Turbin Project a reality. There was also an update provided regarding the Broadway Streetscape and the repositioning of crosswalks at Thompson Middle School and Cranston-Calvert School.

6.5.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee. In the absence of Chairperson Mr. Leary, Mr. Kelley updated the Committee that the Finance Advisory/Audit Committee Meeting was held on Monday, October 5, 2009, and discussion was held regarding the audit and financial practices. The next meeting of the Committee has been scheduled for January 5, 2009.

6.5.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Liaison Subcommittee Meeting was held on September 21, 2009, to discuss regionalization, as a result of the Special Joint Meeting of the School Committee and City Council held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, wherein the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council presented its "June, 2009, Aquidneck Island Consolidation and Feasibility Study" and discussed next steps. The Subcommittee also discussed energy management issues. The next meeting of the Subcommittee has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2009.

6.5.4 Policy. Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that the Policy Subcommittee Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, and new and amended Policies would be brought forward this evening under Action for First Reading and that discussion of the Field Trip and Homework Policies were currently under review by the Subcommittee. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines reviewed with the Committee Policy Prerequisites required by state regulations for new school construction.

6.5.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee. Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting was held on Monday, September 14, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center, and would be meeting again before November's Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting.

6.5.6 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 and that they recently held a meeting relative to the proposed mandatory binding arbitration legislation.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines shared with the Committee the No Child Left Inside Act introduced in April of 2009 by Senator Jack Reed. Mrs. Gaines indicated that the No Child Left Inside Coalition's focus is passage of this federal Act, which would authorize major new funding for states to provide high-quality, environmental instruction and encourage states to create Environment Literacy Plans.

6.5.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force. In the absence of Representative Mr. Leary, no update was provided regarding the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Meeting held on Monday, September 21, 2009, at 12:30 p.m., at the Newport Police Department.

6.5.8 Wellness. Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee held its first annual meeting on Thursday, September 30, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Newport Hospital, and that Newport Public Schools recently received the District Level Award by the Rhode Island Healthy Schools Coalition at a breakfast held on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi informed the Committee that written communication was received today from Governor Donald Carcieri that Newport Public Schools has been selected as the recipient of a Governor's Award for Wellness Innovation in the Schools' Category to be presented to the District at a ceremony scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2009. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009, beginning at 4 p.m., at the Administration Center.

7.0 ACTION

7.1 Professional Services Supplement Agreement—HMFH Architects. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated the need to have an analysis conducted of the site at the Sullivan School by HMFH Architects. He reviewed the proposed Addendum to HMFH Architects' original Contract, approved by Legal Counsel Neil Galvin, to provide those services of hazardous materials and topographic surveys. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve HMFH Architects' Professional Services Supplement Agreement. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

7.2 Policy No. 4.6: English Language Learners—New—First Reading. At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche reviewed, with the Committee, the requirement that the District establish a staffing plan to support English Language Learners, as a result of newly revised state regulations. Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve,

for First Reading, Policy No. 4.6: English Language Learners, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- 7.3 Policy No. 2.6.9: Anti-Idling—New—First Reading.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed, with the Committee, the District's need to establish a new Policy entitled Anti-Idling, to serve two purposes: (1) that the District show concern with the environment and health of its students, parents, and staff; and (2) that it is a requirement for the District, under the regulations for Necessity of School Construction, to be in compliance with the CHPS requirements for new school construction. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve, for First Reading, Policy No. 2.6.9: Anti-Idling, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis stated he could not support the motion given he did not think the City's Ordinance mandated such a Policy. The motion carried (5-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.
- 7.4 Policy No. 2.4.4: Use of Schools Buildings (Addition: "and Grounds")—Amendment—First Reading.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated, to the Committee, that this Policy would need to be updated to include Buildings "and Grounds", as a requirement for the District's Stage II Application for new school construction, as well as to then change the title of "Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds" to "Director of Property Services", to reflect the current title of the person assuming that responsibility. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to amend, for First Reading, Policy No. 2.4.4: Use of School Buildings (Adding: "and Grounds") and to change the title of "Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds" to "Director of Property Services", as presented. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- 7.5 Policy No. 2.2.6.2: Gate Receipts and Admissions—Amendment—First Reading.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated, to the Committee, that the proposed amendment to this Policy would eliminate sequentially numbered tickets given the newly established procedures for the accounting of athletic event gate receipts. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to amend, for First Reading, Policy No. 2.2.6.2: Gate Receipts and Admissions, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Public Comment. Given that members of the public arrived late to this evening's meeting and had wished to speak under Item No. 2.0—Public Comment, Ms. Bolan made a motion to amend the Agenda to include Public Comment, at this time. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0). Public Input was then received from both: Susan Sullivan, Newport Resident, and Bari George, Newport Resident, for the need to create a community task force to look at additional ways to increase student achievement.

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, as of September 30, 2009, provided by Business Manager Michael Saunders, stating that the District appears to be in fine financial shape for this school year. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed, with the Committee, the Enrollment Reports as of October 1, 2009, as well as this year's increase in kindergarten enrollment and the results of the District's recently administered Kindergarten Parent Survey. Dr. Ambrogi stated that he has authorized an updated Demographic Study to be performed by Whitehall Associates. 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: Districtwide Professional Development Day @ RHS Auditorium (09-08-09); First Day of School—Visitations to Schools (09-09-09); NSC/NCC Meeting—RIPEC Regionalization Presentation @ TMS (09-10-09); East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting in Warren (09-11-09); NSC Public Relations Subcommittee Meeting (09-14-09); ConEdision Meeting (09-15-09); Fifth Grade Scheduling Meeting (09-16-09); Construction Advisory Committee Meeting @ Administration Center (09-16-09); RI Healthy Schools Coalition Meeting—NPS' Wellness Award Presentation (09-17-09); Sodexo School Lunch Award Presentation @ RHS Cafeteria (09-17-09); Fifth Grade Scheduling Meeting (09-18-09); Salve Regina University—President Induction Ceremony (09-18-09); NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting @ Administration Center (09-21-09); I-Parent Implementation Meeting with Administrators (09-22-09); Child & Family Services Annual Meeting @ Rosecliff (09-23-09); Aquidneck Collaborative for Education—Annual Meeting @ Naval War College (09-24-09); Broadway Streetscape Meeting with Paige Bronk (09-24-09); SCORES Annual Meeting @ Administration Center (09-24-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) Meeting @ Oliphant School (09-28-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust (RIIRMT) Board Meeting (09-29-09); NSC Wellness Subcommittee—Annual Meeting @ Newport Hospital (09-30-09); Commissioner's Visit to Newport Public Schools (10-01-09); Board of Regents Meeting @ Sullivan School (10-01-09); Urban Education Task Force Conference Call—Final Briefing on Task Force Report (10-02-09); Early

Intervention Meeting @ Sullivan School (10-05-09); NSC Finance Advisory/Audit Committee Meeting @ Administration Center (10-05-09); Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook Meeting @ Newport Public Library (10-06-09); NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting @ Administration Center (10-06-09); RI Urban Education Task Force Meeting @ Annenberg Institute—Tap System for Student and Teacher Advancement and Teacher Incentive Fund (10-07-09); Construction Advisory Committee Meeting @ Administration Center (10-07-09); RI Dropout Prevention Summit @ Providence Marriott (10-08-09); and Early Intervention Meeting @ RIDE (10-09-09). Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

8.5 Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed, with the Committee, the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Monthly Report prepared by its Director Stanley Brown. He updated the Committee that the District has been working in conjunction with the Newport Community School and the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center to transition the Learning Center's fiscal and programmatic responsibilities to the Newport Community School. Once the Board of Directors of the Newport Community School accepts fiscal and programmatic responsibility for the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center, Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would bring a proposed Agreement to the Committee for approval. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, 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.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 9:38 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).

Vice Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis excused himself from the remaining portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 10:00 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:01 p.m., Mr. Kelley 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