

Approve 12/08/2009.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 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., Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, Energy Manager Richard Niejadlik, Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Director Stanley P. Brown, Jr., and Newport Community School Executive Director Tracy L. Shea. Also present were: ConEdison Solutions' Representatives Ken Nathanson, Director of National Accounts, John Johnson, Senior Project Engineer/Developer, and Ray Biszko, Senior Project Manager; and Aquidneck Island Planning Commission Executive Director Tina Dolen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Henry S. Prario:** who passed away at the Village House Nursing Home in Newport on Saturday, October 17, 2009. Mr. Prario was the father of Administrative Assistant Wendy Gasior. Born in Quincy, Massachusetts, he was a 1942 Graduate of Boston University, Decorated World War II Veteran, and retired Sales Executive with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Mr. Prario was the husband of the late, Emily Edith (Angell) Prario, and is survived by a son, Richard Prario, of Hampton, Connecticut, a daughter, Wendy Gasior, of Newport, and a grandson, Kyle Andrew Gasior, of Bristol.

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 and Homecoming Dance held last week and future fundraising opportunities.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Proclamation: American Education Week. On behalf of both the Teachers' Association of Newport and Council 94—Local 841, Suzanne Blais and Gary Michael were present to accept the American Education Week Proclamation read aloud by Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to pass the Resolution, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 13, 2009, as follows. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 13, 2009.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions.

5.5

5.2 Resignations. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, discussion followed regarding proposed exit interviews for personnel.

Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Aaron Sherman, Instructional Support Team Teacher, effective November 12, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Christina Camardo, Instructional Support Team Teacher, effective November 12, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.3 Retirements. N/A.

5.4 Leave of Absence.

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Paternity of: Steven Schreiner, Art Teacher, Rogers High School, effective approximately from December 2, 2009, to February 1, 2010. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.5 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.

Appointments.

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Margaret Leary, Special Education Para Educator, Sullivan School, effective November 12,

2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Karen Potter, Special Education Para Educator, Sullivan School, effective November 12, 2009. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6 Requests for Home Instruction. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, discussion followed regarding options for alternative student placement and special services. Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.7 2009-2010 Tuition Rates. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, discussion followed regarding tuition calculations. Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 Tuition Rates, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated November 10, 2009, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update. At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, ConEdison Solutions' Representatives Ken Nathanson, Director of National Accounts, John Johnson, Senior Project Engineer/Developer, and Ray Biszko, Senior Project Manager presented the findings of the Rogers High School Energy Program—Investment Grade Audit recently completed and next steps. Discussion followed. At the request of Dr. Shoemaker, the Committee and Administration agreed to the following: to contract with a third-party external consultant to review the Audit findings, to apply for state and federal funding, and to hold a Committee Workshop to review and accept an agreeable Audit. Public input was received from Aquidneck Island Planning Commission Executive Director Tina Dolen, who offered assistance in obtaining a third-party external consultant.

6.2 Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center—Merger with Newport Community School—Update. At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Director Stanley Brown and Newport Community School Director Tracy Shea updated the Committee regarding the proposed merger of the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center with the Newport Community School and transition of control from the Newport School Committee to the Newport Community School. They stated that the proposed merger would offer an expanded program of services and funding sources, while minimizing operation costs to the District. Discussion followed. At the request of

Mr. Kelley, Mr. Brown defined Title 16. Dr. Ambrogi stated that, once the Board of Directors of the Newport Community School accepts fiscal and programmatic responsibility for the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center, the proposed Agreement would be brought forward to the Committee for approval.

- 6.3 Birth to Age 3 initiative—Update.** School Committee Member Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on the Birth to Age 3 Initiative and the draft Agenda Program for their first meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 21, 2009, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Florence Gray Center.
- 6.4 Curriculum/Parent Report Issues—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the (1) i-Parent implementation at Rogers High School, the percentage of school families accessing the utilization of this program, and automated announcements to school families introducing the program; and on the (2) analysis conducted of the NECAP results from last year, indicating that the District's high mobility rate could not substantiate lower test scores. Discussion followed.
- 6.5 Regionalization Activities—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and the Committee discussed the substance of their Joint Workshop held last evening with Middletown and Portsmouth School Committees regarding regionalization and collaboration activities, to consider authorizing, by each communities' school committee and council, the contribution of \$5,000 for the purpose of conducting an Educational Benefits Study to analyze the impact of the Regionalization of Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport School Departments, and the consensus of the Committees to continue to meet jointly on a bi-monthly basis, again on January 11, 2010. Discussion followed. Public Input was received from: Aquidneck Island Planning Commission Executive Director Tina Dolen who spoke to the benefits of a proposed Educational Benefits Study.
- 6.6 Demographic Study—Update—November, 2009.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi presented to the Committee the Demographic Study, updated as of November 2, 2009, prepared by Dr. Richardson from Whitehall Associates. He reviewed the projected PK-Grade 4 increase of 150 students and its impact on the opening of the new elementary school in School Year 2013-2014, citing its highest enrollment year. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that Laura Wernick of HMFH Architects has begun to utilize the updated enrollment projections in her planning for the new school. Discussion followed.
- 6.7 Subcommittee Reports:**
- 6.7.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson DeAscentis stated that the update was held under Discussion Item 6.1.

- 6.7.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that there was no update.
- 6.7.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Liaison Subcommittee Meeting was held on October 20, 2009, to discuss regionalization and energy management issues. The next meeting of the Subcommittee has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009.
- 6.7.4 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that Policies would be considered for Second Reading under the Action Items 7.1 through 7.4.
- 6.7.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting was held on Monday, November 9, 2009, at 11:30 a.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center. She also stated that the Department of the Navy has implemented the School Liaison Officer Program and appointed a School Liaison Officer to provide transitional support services to military students, in collaboration with parents, schools, and the military community.
- 6.7.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees would be holding its Quarterly Meeting for Chairs on Saturday, November 21, 2009, and the Executive Board was considering new legislation on binding arbitration.
- 6.7.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary stated that updated language in the Substance Abuse Policy would be considered in the near future.
- 6.7.8 Wellness.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee met on Monday, November 9, 2009, at the Administration Center, and that Newport Public Schools had received the Governor's Award for Wellness Innovation at a ceremony held at the State House on Monday, November 2, 2009. She indicated that pictures of the Award Ceremony would be placed on the District's website.

7.0 ACTION

- 7.1 Policy No. 4.6: English Language Learners—New—Second Reading.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve, for Second Reading, Policy No. 4.6: English Language Learners, as presented. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 7.2 Policy No. 2.6.9: Anti-Idling—New—Second Reading.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve, for Second Reading, Policy No. 2.6.9: Anti-Idling, as amended, in Bullet No. 4, to strike the words “space for”. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis stated he could not support the motion given he did not think such a Policy could be enforced. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.
- 7.3 Policy No. 2.4.4: Use of Schools Buildings (Addition: “and Grounds”)—Amendment—Second Reading.** Mr. Leary made a motion to amend, for Second 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. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.4 Policy No. 2.2.6.2: Gate Receipts and Admissions—Amendment—Second Reading.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to amend, for Second Reading, Policy No. 2.2.6.2: Gate Receipts and Admissions, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Discussion followed.
- 7.5 Lease Agreement with Aquidneck Island Planning Commission—Former Administration Offices at 437 Broadway.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the proposed Lease Agreement with the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement between the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission and the Newport School Committee. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Aquidneck Island Planning Commission Executive Director Tina Dolen provided the specifics of the proposed Lease Agreement to the Committee. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.6 Contribution to Educational Benefits Study for Regionalization.** Ms. Bolan made a motion to authorize the contribution of \$5,000 for the purpose of conducting an Educational Benefits Study, which will analyze the impact of the Regionalization of Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport School Departments, contingent upon the contribution of the other entities of Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth of the same amount of \$5,000, and that the entities agree to the scope of the study. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis stated that it was premature to authorize the motion because of the lack of details on the content of such a Study. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.

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 October 31, 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 (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed, with the Committee, the Enrollment Reports as of October 30, 2009, noting an increase of 21 more students this year than last year, at the same time period. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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: Thompson Middle School Faculty Meeting (10-13-09); Even Start Program Meeting @ Florence Gray Center (10-14-09); Rhode Island School Superintendents Association (RISSA) Meeting (10-15-09); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust (RIIRMT) Annual Meeting in Newport—(10-16-09); Regionalization Initiative Meeting @ Oliphant School (10-19-09); NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting @ City Hall (10-20-09); Early Intervention Meeting @ Sullivan School (10-21-09); World of Work (WOW) Meeting @ Rogers High School (10-21-09); New School Construction Meeting w/ City Administrators (10-21-09); Ad Hoc School Building Committee Meeting @ Administration Center (10-21-09); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Meeting (10-23-09); RI Urban Education Task Force Meeting w/ Governor @ Central Falls High School (10-27-09); Newport Family & Child Opportunity Zone—FITNESSGRAM Meeting (10-27-09); Sodexo Education Services Meeting with Regional Manager (10-28-09); East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting in Warren (10-29-09); Family Services Coordinators/SCORES Meeting (10-29-09); Even Start Program Evaluation Meeting with Director (10-30-09); Science NECAP Scores Administrative Meeting (10-30-09); Newport Public Schools' State-Level Wellness Award presented by Governor Carcieri—@ State House (11-02-09); Truancy Administrative Meeting (11-03-09); Security Meeting—H1N1 Clinics (11-03-09); Meeting with Truancy Court Magistrate (11-05-09); and H1N1 Vaccination Clinic—Sullivan School—4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (11-06-09). Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Report, 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:

- Annual Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting with Council (March, 2010)
- Three-Year Revenue and Expenditure Forecast 2011-2013 (December, 2009)
- Investment Grade Audit Workshop (To be Determined)
- Academics Outcomes Workshop—
Suggested Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2009, 6 p.m.

10.0 Executive Session. No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment. At 9:54 p.m., Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk