

Approved 01/12/2010.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2009

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:02 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. Ambrogio, Ed.D., Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Director Stanley P. Brown, Jr., and Newport Community School Board Member William Ferreira and Executive Director Tracy L. Shea. Also present was: School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE. There was no Moment of Silence.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

3.1 Student Council:

3.1.1 Update—Bethany Richards. In the absence of Student Council President and School Committee Representative Bethany Richards, no update was presented.

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

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 10, 2009, and the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 24, 2009, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 10, 2009.** No amendments were made.

- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 24, 2009.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions.
5.5

5.2 Resignations. N/A.

5.3 Retirements. N/A.

5.4 Leave of Absence.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request without Pay of: Brenda Bachman, Social Worker, Cranston-Calvert, Thompson Middle, and Rogers High Schools, effective for the 2010-2011 School Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Maternity of: Katherine Gardullo, Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective approximately from April 26, 2010, to June 30, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence Request for Maternity of: Candace Lewia, Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective approximately from March 8, 2010, to June 30, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.5 Appointments/Transfers/Recalls.

Appointments.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Steve Kalble, Food Services Instructor, Newport Area Career and Technical Center and Rogers High School, effective January 4, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Justin Buffman, Sports Supervisor, Thompson Middle School, effective December 9, 2009, for one-year only. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.6 Requests for Home Instruction. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the two 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 December 8, 2009, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the need for a third-party consultant to represent the interest of the District and to monitor carefully the assumptions that ConEdision Solutions made regarding the Rogers High School Investment Grade Audit Findings. Director of Property Services Paul Fagan provided the Committee with details of next steps to determine whether or not there would be ARRA funding to support contracting a third-party consultant and the options available in the selection process of the third-party consultant, such as (1) sole source or (2) Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals. Dr. Ambrogi stated that, once the District receives direction from the State of Rhode Island Energy Office, appropriate next steps will be reviewed with the Committee. Discussion followed.
- 6.2 Birth to Age 3 initiative—Update.** School Committee Member Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on the Birth to Age 3 Initiative and its first meeting held on Saturday, November 21, 2009, at the Florence Gray Center. The second meeting is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010.
- 6.3 Regionalization Activities—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the progress made to date regarding regionalization activities of the Aquidneck Island School Committees, their endorsement of the \$5,000 contribution to the Educational Benefits Study, and the Educational Study Subcommittee's development of a scope of work for a request for qualifications. The next Joint Workshop of the Island School Committees has been scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2010.
- 6.4 New Elementary School—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the District continues to move forward with the Claiborne D. Pell Elementary School Project and, that after several meetings of the Construction Advisory Committee, a new and exciting design concept resulted. He reviewed with the Committee that most recent iteration, which was presented by Laura Wernick at last Wednesday's meeting, introducing the concept of two schools—upper and lower. Discussion followed. A Public Presentation will be held in January, 2010, to introduce this concept; and, thereafter, the School Committee would act upon the acceptance of the concept, as part of the Stage II Application for the Necessity of School Construction, for submittal to the Rhode Island Department of Education for approval. The next meeting of the Construction Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held next Wednesday, December 16, 2009.

6.5 Subcommittee Reports:

- 6.5.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson DeAscentis stated that the update was held under Discussion Item 6.1. Discussion followed regarding the city's consideration in investing in a potential wind turbine.
- 6.5.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that the Finance Advisory/Audit Committee would be meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.
- 6.5.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Liaison Subcommittee Meeting was held on November 17, 2009, to discuss regionalization, elementary school construction, and finances. The next meeting of the Subcommittee has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010.
- 6.5.4 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that Policies would be considered for Third Reading under the Action Items 7.1 through 7.4.
- 6.5.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee was continuing its efforts, especially most recently with an aggressive campaign in the recruitment process of students to Rogers High School and its Open House for eighth graders to be held this evening.
- 6.5.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees held its Quarterly Meeting for Chairs on Saturday, November 21, 2009, and discussion centered on the Commissioner's announcement regarding the elimination of Seniority-Based Teacher Assignments and the newly adopted Educator Evaluation System Standards. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines requested that the Committee hold a Workshop on the new Teacher Evaluation Process recently implemented by the District.
- 6.5.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary stated that the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force was continuing its educational training with local establishments.
- 6.5.8 Wellness.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee was continuing its efforts regarding nutrition and school gardens.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines indicated that the proposed Academic Rigor Subcommittee would begin meeting in January.

7.0 ACTION

- 7.1 **Policy No. 4.6: English Language Learners—New—Third Reading.** Mr. Leary made a motion to approve, for Third Reading, Policy No. 4.6: English Language Learners, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.2 **Policy No. 2.6.9: Anti-Idling—New—Third Reading.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve, for Third Reading, Policy No. 2.6.9: Anti-Idling, as amended, in Bullet No. 4, to strike the words “space for”. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which 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—Third Reading.** Mr. Leary made a motion to amend, for Third 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. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.4 **Policy No. 2.2.6.2: Gate Receipts and Admissions—Amendment—Third Reading.** Ms. Bolan made a motion to amend, for Third Reading, Policy No. 2.2.6.2: Gate Receipts and Admissions, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.5 **Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center—Contract Services to Newport Community School—For Remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio reviewed with the Committee the proposed Agreement to contract services for the Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center to the Newport Community School for the remainder of the Fiscal Year 2010. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to enter into an Agreement with the Newport Community School to provide Adult Education Services for the remainder of the 2010 Fiscal Year. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis and Mr. Kelley, School Committee Counsel Galvin reviewed the contents of the Agreement, Lease, and the need to revise, prior to the next Fiscal Year, the School Committee Policy on Adult Education to reflect a more advisory role in the process. Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Director Stanley P. Brown, Jr., and Newport Community School Board Member William Ferreira and Executive Director Tracy L. Shea provided additional input to the Committee. The motion carried (6-1). The Member who voted against the motion was: Patrick K. Kelley.
- 7.6 **Lease Agreement with Newport Community School—For the George H. Triplett Elementary School at 435 Broadway—Effective January 1, 2010.** Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Lease Agreement between the Newport Community School and the Newport School Committee for the George H.

Triplett Elementary School at 435 Broadway effective January 1, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. DeAscentis and Mr. Kelley, School Committee Counsel Galvin defined the terms of the Lease Agreement. The motion carried (6-1). The Member who voted against the motion was: Patrick K. Kelley.

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 November 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 (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed, with the Committee, the Enrollment Reports as of November 30, 2009, noting an increase of 23 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 seconded 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: NSC Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting (11-09-09); NSC Wellness Subcommittee Meeting (11-09-09); Joint Meeting with Aquidneck Island School Committees (11-09-09); Family Services Coordinators/SCORES Meeting (11-10-09); Newport Public Education Foundation Student Art Exhibit @ Easton's Beach Rotunda (11-11-09); Legislative Breakfast Meeting @ Best Western (11-12-09); Department of Navy School Liaison Officer Program Meeting (11-13-09); Newport School Committee Retreat (11-14-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Meeting @ Oliphant School (11-16-09); Newport Heights Dedication Ceremony @ Veteran's Circle (11-16-09); NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (11-17-09); Construction Advisory Committee Meeting (11-18-09); Rhode Island School Superintendents Association (RISSA) Professional Development Workshop @ Johnson & Wales University Culinary Archives Museum (11-19-09); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Meeting @ Oliphant School (11-20-09); Early Intervention (Baby Steps) Program—First Meeting @ Florence Gray Center (11-21-09); World of Work (WOW) Program Meeting with Superintendents @ Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training in Cranston (11-23-09); Rhode Island Foundation Meeting in Providence (11-24-09); Underwood School Students—Thanksgiving Lunch at Rogers High School (11-24-09); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Meeting (11-30-09); Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center/Newport Community School Meeting (12-01-09); Newport County Chamber of Commerce (NCCC) Breakfast Meeting @ Tennis Hall of Fame (12-02-09); Construction Advisory Committee Meeting (12-02-09); and Child & Family Services—Group Home Meeting (12-03-09). 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. Discussion followed. 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.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:56 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 (7-0).

OPEN SESSION

At 9:19 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 9:20 p.m., Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk