

Approve 03/09/2010.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

MINUTES

Call to Order. Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:01 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, Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Patrick K. Kelley (absent), Robert J. Leary, 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 Technology Lee Rabbitt, Business Manager Michael Saunders, and Director of Property Services Paul Fagan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **M. Osmond “Ozzie” Grimes, M.D.:** who passed away at the St. Clare Home in Newport on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Dr. Grimes was the father-in-law of: School Nurse Maureen Grimes, Rogers High School Mathematics Department Head Brian Sullivan, and School Committee Member Patrick Kelley. Born in Newport, Dr. Grimes graduated from De La Salle Academy, the College of the Holy Cross, and received his medical degree from the Bellevue (New York University) College of Medicine in 1939. Dr. Grimes was a member of the Newport Hospital Medical Staff for 47 years where he practiced Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Medicine and Ophthalmology until his retirement in 1998. He served on numerous professional and community groups and was a lifelong parishioner of St. Joseph’s Church. Dr. Grimes was the husband of the late Elin C. (Nelson) Grimes, the son of the late Martin L. and Margaret (Devins) Grimes, the father of the late Gregory Grimes, and the brother of the late Margaret Drake. He is survived by 15 children, 31 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and daughter-in-law (wife of his late son, Gregory).

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: Fundraising Event for Haiti.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Student Recognition:

4.1.1 Winner of the City of Newport—2010 Resident Parking Sticker Contest. On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Newport Public Schools, Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines presented a Certificate of Recognition to Underwood School Fourth Grader Henry Rayner for his award winning design of the 2010 Resident Parking Sticker for the City of Newport.

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, January 12, 2010, and the Special Meeting Minutes of: Thursday, January 21, 2010, Monday, January 25, 2010, and Tuesday, January 26, 2010, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 12, 2010.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, January 21, 2010.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 25, 2010.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 26, 2010.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions.

5.5

5.2 Resignations.

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Resignation of John Burns, Boys' Freshman/JV Baseball Coach, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Resignation of Emily Winsor, Girls' Varsity Volleyball Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.3 Retirements.

Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Retirement Requests of:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
	<u>Teachers' Association of Newport</u>	
Joanne Cadenazzi	Teacher, RHS	6/30/10
Judith Cooper	Speech Language Pathologist	6/30/10
Kathleen Hole	Grade 6, Math Teacher, TMS	11/18/10
Denise Kelly	School Nurse, RHS	6/30/10
Thomas S. Krous	Guidance Counselor, RHS	11/12/10
Deborah Light	Guidance Counselor, TMS	6/30/10
Stephanie Martland	Business Teacher, RHS	6/30/10
Carol Richards	Science Teacher, RHS	6/30/10
Marilyn Roderick	Grade 2 Teacher, Coggeshall School	6/30/10
	<u>Council 94—Local 841</u>	
Peter Bolhouse	Plant Engineer, RHS	8/13/10
Dorothy Ewart	Mail Clerk, Administration	6/30/10
Maureen Laurie	Special Ed Para Ed, Cranston-Calvert School	6/30/10
Thomas Murphy	Custodian, RHS	6/30/10
Paulette Ritchie	Special Ed Para Ed, Sullivan School	6/30/10
Janice Shea	Library Media Clerk, RHS	6/30/10

as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.4 Appointments.

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Marianne Menas, Instructional Support Team Teacher, Coggeshall School, effective February 10, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Discussion followed. Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Lorraine Pfeifer, Grade 5 Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective February 10, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.6 Requests for Home Instruction.

Discussion followed. Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the first Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried (5-1). The Member who voted against the motion was: Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr.

Mr. Leary made a motion to approve the second Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.7 Bids:

5.7.1: 2010 Four-Wheel Drive Pickup Truck Chassis without Body.

Discussion followed. In the future, Mr. DeAscentis requested that the solicitation of Proposals be expanded to reach more businesses within Newport and surrounding communities. Mr. Leary made a motion to award the Bid for one (1) 2010 Four-Wheel Drive Pickup Truck Chassis without Body to Colonial Automotive Group of Action, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$24,107, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.7.2: Walk-In Utility Body for 2010 Four-Wheel Drive Pickup Truck. Mr.

Leary made a motion to award the Bid for one (1) Walk-In Utility Body for the 2010 Four-Wheel Drive Pickup Truck to Dejana Truck & Utility Equipment Company of Smithfield, Rhode Island, in the amount of \$9,391, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.7.3: Care and Maintenance of Grounds. Discussion followed. In the future,

Mr. Leary requested that the solicitation of Proposals be expanded to reach more businesses within the Newport community. Mr. Leary made a motion to award the Bid for one (1) Walk-In Utility Body for the 2010 Four-Wheel Drive Pickup Truck to Four Seasons Home & Lawn Care of Newport, Rhode Island, in the amount of \$74,490, 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 February 9, 2010, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Academic Rigor.

6.1.1 NECAP Results.

6.1.2 Tests and Curriculum Analysis.

6.1.3 Thompson Middle School Initiatives.

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 briefed the Committee, with a PowerPoint Presentation, on the recently released NECAP Results and Tests and Curriculum Analysis.

At the request of the Committee, a Workshop will be scheduled to further address Academic Rigor, inclusive of the NECAP Results and Tests and Curriculum Analysis.

6.1.3 Thompson Middle School Initiatives.

This topic was deferred to the Workshop on Academic Rigor.

6.2 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee that two firms had been interviewed to act as the District's Representative to oversee the implementation of aspects of the Investment Grade Audit from ConEdision Solutions. He stated that the Facilities Planning Subcommittee would need to meet to review those aspects of the Investment Grade Audit that should be implemented and those aspects that would not be beneficial in a cost-benefit analysis of the Project. Although Celtic Energy is being considered to oversee the Project, Dr. Ambrogi indicated that an agreement could not be entered into until the District negotiates a price based upon the scope of the work and whether or not the necessary federal funds would be received for this activity. Director of Property Services Paul Fagan updated the Committee regarding the allocation of federal funds. Discussion followed.

6.3 Birth to Age 3 initiative—Update. School Committee Members Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Flowers updated the Committee on the Birth to Age 3 Initiative and its second meeting held on Saturday, January 30, 2010, at the Florence Gray Center. Dr. Shoemaker stated that, to date, thirty-four families have expressed interest in the Initiative, as well as many community members. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2010.

6.4 Regionalization Activities—Update. Dr. Shoemaker stated that, as a result of yesterday's Aquidneck Island Regionalization Planning Committee Meeting, Portsmouth Town Council might reconsider its position on supporting the Educational Benefits Study, in light of suggested modifications to the Regionalization Proposal and RIPEC's willingness to revisit Revenue

Expectations. As a follow-up Meeting held on November 9, 2009, the next Joint Meeting of the School Committees has been tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2010. Discussion followed.

- 6.5 Teacher Quality—State Initiative.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed with the Committee the Rhode Island Department of Education's Initiative in the development of a standard Educator Evaluation System to be implemented statewide and the six standards recently adopted by the Board of Regents regarding Educator Evaluations. He stated that, until the state law changes, Newport's newly developed Teacher Performance Management System, implemented during the 2008-2009 School Year, would be the most effective way of ensuring that the District maintains a high quality teaching staff on a long-term basis. He also reviewed with the Committee the District's newly established relationship with the Rhode Island Fellows Program to further expand the pool of qualified candidates for hard-to-fill positions of math, science, and secondary special education. Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would keep the Committee updated on the progress of this statewide Initiative. Discussion followed.
- 6.6 New Elementary School—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that Laura Wernick is continuing to work on the Stage II submittal for the Claiborne Pell Elementary School and believed that the District has addressed the issue of excess capacity at Rogers High School and the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. A Special Meeting will be scheduled later this month for the approval of the Stage II Application for submittal to the Rhode Island Department of Education.
- 6.7 2010-2011 School Calendar.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed, with the Committee, the District's Policy in determining the start date for the first day of school. Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would provide a recommendation to the Committee at their March Meeting, as a result of surveying teachers, staff, students, and parent/guardian organizations as to their preference: (1) to start school for students on September 2nd and end on June 15th or (2) to start school for students on September 8th, the Wednesday following Labor Day, (according to School Committee Policy) and end on June 20th. He did indicate, however, that if the recommendation is to start school before Labor Day that it would conflict with the existing Policy. Discussion followed.
- 6.8 Subcommittee Reports:**
- 6.8.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson DeAscentis stated that the update was held under Discussion Item 6.2.
- 6.8.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that the Finance Advisory/Audit Committee would be scheduling a meeting for next week.

- 6.8.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee met on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. The next meeting of the Subcommittee has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2010, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center.
- 6.8.4 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that the Policy Subcommittee Meeting met on January 22 and February 3, 2010, and that its newly developed Adult Education Policy would be brought forward this evening under Action for First Reading.
- 6.8.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee was continuing its efforts, and the next Subcommittee Meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at 11 a.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center.
- 6.8.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees has been meeting regularly, and the Chairs' Quarterly Meeting was recently held to review the specifics of the Basic Education Program recently passed by the Board of Regents and to be in effect on July 1, 2010.
- 6.8.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary updated the Committee on the efforts to date of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force and the outcomes of their most recent meeting held on Monday, January 25, 2010, at 12:30 p.m., at the Newport Police Department, including professional development training and student scholarship opportunities.
- 6.8.8 Wellness.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Wellness Subcommittee was continuing its efforts on health education throughout the schools. The next meeting of the Wellness Subcommittee will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 4 p.m., at Cranston-Calvert Elementary School, in the Cafeteria.

7.0 ACTION

- 7.1 Transfer of Available Balance Funds to—
Newport Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio reviewed, with the Committee, the agreement that it made with the City Council to transfer the unreserved fund balance in excess of \$500,000 to the City's OPEB Trust for School Department

employees. Business Manager Michael Saunders reviewed the specifics of the request for transfer with the Committee. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to transfer the unreserved fund balance of \$1,285,465 from the School Department's Operating Fund to the Newport Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund for School Department Employees. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- 7.2 Policy No. 4.2.3.3: Adult Education Policy—Amendment—First Reading.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines reviewed the Adult Education Policy that was developed and approved by the Policy Subcommittee, indicating the School Committee support of Adult Education and its desire to work with a community partner by providing input to the Adult Education Program and conveying standards for the Diploma Plus Program which will meet the graduation requirements of Rogers High School. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve, for First Reading, Policy No. 4.2.3.3: Adult Education Policy, as presented. Mr. Leary seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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 reviewed, with the Committee, the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as of January 31, 2010, provided by Business Manager Michael Saunders, stating that the District appears to be in fine financial shape for this school year. Discussion followed. Mr. Saunders reviewed specific line items with the Committee. 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 January 29, 2010, noting an increase of six more students this year than last year, at the same time period. 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: Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Meeting @ Oliphant School (01-11-10); Race-to-the-Top Initiative—Application Review Session @ RIDE (01-12-10); Construction Advisory Committee Meeting (01-13-10); Newport Community School—U-Turn Project Meeting (01-14-10); East Bay Community Action Program—Funding Meeting (01-14-10); Parent Organization Leadership Meeting (01-14-2010); Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—Celebration Program @ TMS and Luncheon @ Atlantic Beach Club (01-18-2010); Newport Community School Meeting w/Executive Director and

Board Member (01-19-10); NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (01-19-10); Early Intervention (Baby Steps) Program Meeting (01-20-10); World of Work (WOW)—Mid-Year Progress Meeting (01-20-10); Rhode Island School Superintendents Association (RISSA) Meeting (01-21-10); Rhode Island Teaching Fellows Program Meeting (01-21-10); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Meeting (01-22-10); NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting (01-22-10); Learner's Journey Community Garden Meeting w/Community College of Rhode Island (01-22-10); Virtual High School (VHS, Inc.)—Program Meeting (01-25-10); NPFF (Newport Partnership for Families)—Newport Public Schools' Community Resource Book Meeting (01-25-10); NSC Public Presentation—Claiborne Pell Elementary School Proposed Plan (01-25-10); NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting—Audio Conference: Legal Issues Surrounding Student Misuse of Technology (02-03-10); and Rogers High School Student Advisory Meeting (02-04-10). 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.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:57 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. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 9:29 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 9:30 p.m., Dr. Flowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk