

Approve 05/11/2010.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

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., Business Manager Michael Saunders, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, and Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso. Also present was: School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin (arrived at approximately 8:16 p.m.).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Patricia Beede:** who passed away on Thursday, March 11, 2010. Newport Resident Pat Beede, who began her career as a family law attorney at the Newport Office of the Rhode Island Legal Services, specialized in special education cases on behalf of parents and their children. Throughout her career, she soon became known as a leading expert on special education law in the state. Later in her career, she was the force behind the establishment of the Educational Advocate Program, now located at the Sherlock Center at Rhode Island College. Once established, she was named the Program Coordinator. Ms. Beede was also a former Board Member and Past President of the Dr. Martin Luther King., Jr., Community Center in Newport. Ms. Beede is survived by her daughter, Nicole, who is a student at Portsmouth Abbey.
- **Mary Louise (Altemose) Kane:** who passed away peacefully at home in Newport on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Mrs. Kane was the mother of Cranston-Calvert School's Special Education Teacher Barbara Kane O'Neill and mother-in-law of City of Newport's Canvassing Authority Clerk Richard E. O'Neill. Born in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Kane graduated from East Stroudsburg State Teachers College with a Degree in Elementary Education and taught First Grade. Mrs. Kane, a daily communicant at St. Mary's Church in Newport, was a Member of the Parish Guild, served as its Program Chairperson, and was also

Secretary of the Mothers Club. She also was dedicated to community service in many capacities. Mrs. Kane was the wife of the late Captain John P. Kane and the daughter of the late William and Hazel Altemose. She is survived by four children, six grandchildren, one great granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews.

- **Mary Doris Rabbitt (nee Kilkenny):** who passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2010. Mrs. Rabbitt was the mother-in-law of Technology Director Lee Rabbitt. Formerly of Livingston, New Jersey, Mrs. Rabbitt resided in Toms River, New Jersey. Before her retirement, Mrs. Rabbitt was a clerical worker with the Prudential Insurance Company in Florham Park, New Jersey. She was the wife of the late Edward J. Rabbitt and the sister of the late Thomas Kilkenny, James Kilkenny, and Joan McFarland. Mrs. Rabbit is survived by four children, six grandchildren, and one sister-in-law.

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: Commissioner Gist's Visitation to Rogers High School; Rhode Island High School Principal of the Year—Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso; and Fundraising Efforts. The Committee commended Bethany Richards for her acceptance to the College of Pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island.

4.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

4.1 Resolution: Rhode Island High School Principal of the Year—Patricia DiCenso. Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso was present to accept the Resolution read aloud by Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines and was commended by the Newport School Committee as being named the "2010" Rhode Island High School Principal of the Year by the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Association of School Principals. Ms. DiCenso thanked the Committee. Committee Members applauded Ms. DiCenso. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to pass the Resolution, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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, March 9, 2010, and the Special Meeting Minutes of: Monday, March 15, 2010, Thursday, March 18, 2010, and Monday, March 22, 2010, as follows. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 9, 2010.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, March 15, 2010.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 18, 2010.** No amendments were made.
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Monday, March 22, 2010.** No amendments were made.

5.2- Personnel Actions. 5.5

5.2 Resignations.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Resignation of Steven Schreiner, Boys' Soccer Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to accept the Resignation of Brian Sullivan, Boys' Freshman Basketball Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.3 Appointments.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Appointment of: Nicholas Zambrotta, Boys' Freshman Baseball Coach, Rogers High School, effective immediately. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (97-0).

5.6 **Requests for Home Instruction.** There were no requests for Home Instruction.

5.7 Bid:

5.7.1: **One (1) 2011 Four Wheel Drive Pickup Chassis without Bed.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to award the Bid for one (1) 2011 Four Wheel

Drive Pickup Chassis without Bed to Colony Ford Truck Center, of Warwick, Rhode Island, in the amount of \$21,881. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 5.8 Fiscal Impact Analysis.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the Budget Transfer Requests: to transfer \$150,000 from 51500 Salaries Expenses (Non-Pensionable) to 51322 Severances; and to transfer \$160,000 from 52201 Health and Medical Premiums to 52109 Medical Buyback Payments. 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 April 13, 2010, as presented.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that Celtic Energy and ConEdison Solutions were in the process of drafting contracts for review and finalization in preparation for approval at the School Committee's May Meeting. Upon approval of the contracts at that Meeting, Dr. Ambrogi indicated that the energy upgrades for Rogers High School would be completed prior to the next heating season.
- 6.2 Birth to Age 3 Initiative—Update.** In the absence of School Committee Members Dr. Shoemaker and Dr. Flowers, who had been away attending the National School Boards' Association Convention, Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the Birth to Age 3 Initiative's fourth meeting held this past Saturday, April 10, 2010. Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on partnering with the Rhode Island Department of Health and continued efforts in securing funding for the Initiative.
- 6.3 Regionalization Activities—Update.** Dr. Shoemaker stated that the Regionalization Committee listened to a recent presentation from the Chariho Regional School District and that the Bristol-Warren and Exeter/West Greenwich Regional School Districts would be presenting to the Committee next month. He updated the Committee that one response was received for conducting the Educational Benefits Study—Prismatic Services from Huntersville, North Carolina and that further outreach was needed to secure a firm/organization with background or experience credible in New England, such as the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), while discussing other options with the Superintendents from Middletown and Portsmouth.

- 6.4 National School Boards' Association Convention—Update.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines, Dr. Shoemaker, Dr. Flowers, and Ms. Bolan each provided the Committee with an update on their activities as a result of their attendance at the recently held National School Boards' Association Convention held this past weekend in Chicago. The update on their activities included the following Presentations: Charter Schools; Health and Safety Policies; Arts; Academic Success; Construction Bond Referendum; Strategic Planning; School-Family-Community Networking; and Dropout Prevention.
- 6.5 Thompson Middle School—Initiative.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the activities regarding the Thompson Middle School—Curriculum and Instructional Advisory Committee. He indicated the Committee was working on the development of an Action Plan to improve structures at Thompson Middle School to include: advancing the proficiency rate, developing a more orderly environment, and challenging the most capable students. Dr. Ambrogi stated, though, that, to date, it has been difficult to locate any such state models for this purpose, as it appears many middle schools operate similar to Thompson Middle School. Discussion followed. Dr. Ambrogi also indicated that someone expressed interest in the possibility of offering financial backing to bring the Credit Recovery Model into the middle school.
- 6.6 Subcommittee Reports:**
- 6.6.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis reiterated the specifics of the discussion held under Item No. 6.1: Rogers High School Energy Program Update.
- 6.6.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that he would be requesting a Finance/Advisory/Audit Committee for the purpose of reviewing the Athletics Budget and for scheduling an internal financial audit of the school budget.
- 6.6.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that a Liaison Subcommittee might be scheduled for the purpose of discussing up-state activities.
- 6.6.4 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that the Policy Subcommittee would be presenting its newly developed Adult Education Policy this evening under Action for Third Reading.
- 6.6.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that the Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee was continuing its efforts in the development of the District's Public Relations Newsletter.

- 6.6.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees had drafted two Resolutions for adoption this evening under Action Items: 7.3 and 7.4: Opposing Mandatory Binding Arbitration for Teachers and School Employees and Opposing Mandatory Continuation of Existing Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreements. She also stated that RIASC's Annual Meeting would be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, at Save the Bay.
- 6.6.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary updated the Committee on the efforts to date of the Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, in particular, the need to further address substance abuse prevention, as a result of the recent St. Patrick's Day Parade. He stated that students should be held accountable in school, as a result of out-of-school substance abuse charges. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary also informed the Committee that Newport's Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) Grant would expire this year and that there might be a possibility to have a combined Newport/Middletown Program.
- 6.6.8 Wellness.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that Wellness Subcommittee Member and Parent Jennifer Quigley-Harris was selected by Parenting Magazine to represent Rhode Island at the inaugural Mom Congress on Education and Learning Conference at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., on May 2, 2010. She also stated that the next Bimonthly Meeting of the Wellness Subcommittee will be held in May at Rogers High School.

7.0 ACTION

- 7.1 Policy No. 4.2.3.3: Adult Education Policy—Amendment—Third Reading.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve, for Third Reading, Policy No. 4.2.3.3: Adult Education Policy, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.2 Authorize—Additional Work/HMFH Architects—Stage II Application for Claiborne Pell Elementary School.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as a result of the Rhode Island Department of Education's initial review of the Stage II Application for the Claiborne Pell Elementary School, RIDE Official Mr. DaSilva strongly recommended that the T-Shape Plan be submitted as a better and viable alternative to the initially submitted airplane design. Dr. Ambrogi stated that Mr. DaSilva indicated concern regarding the need to move Dexter Street, as a result of the first schematic design and, additionally, liked the fact that the T-Shape Plan was less costly than the one initially submitted. Dr. Ambrogi then reviewed HMFH Architects' proposed additional fee to provide a more detailed cost estimate for the T-Shape Plan and recommended that it be supported. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis stated his support for the

motion but was concerned that the Rhode Island Department of Education appeared to be choosing the Plan for the proposed school. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to authorize an additional expenditure not to exceed \$8,056 to HMFH Architects, so that they may provide a detailed cost estimate for the T-Shape Plan. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Vice Chairperson Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Patrick K. Kelley, and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. Those Members voting against the motion were: Rebecca Bolan and Robert J. Leary, stating that HMFH Architects should have developed the alternative T-Shape Plan under the original contract without an additional charge. Dr. Ambrogi then indicated that Mr. DaSilva was continuing his review of the other aspects of the Stage II Application, inclusive of the issue of the use of available space and would keep the Committee updated as the process moves ahead.

7.3 Resolution—Opposing Mandatory Binding Arbitration for Teachers and School Employees. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to pass a Resolution Opposing Mandatory Binding Arbitration for Teachers and School Employees. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion continued. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.4 Resolution—Opposing Mandatory Continuation of Existing Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreements. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to pass a Resolution Opposing Mandatory Continuation of Existing Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreements. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). The Member who voted against the motion was: Hugo J. DeAscentis, Jr., stating concern that the Resolution did not include Council 94.

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 March 31, 2010, provided by Business Manager Michael Saunders, stating that the District continues to be in fine financial shape going into the last three months of the Fiscal Year. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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 March 31, 2010, noting an increase of thirty more students this year than last year, at the same time period. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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 listed for the Committee his activities to date: Early Intervention (Baby Steps) Program Meeting @ Oliphant School (03-08-10); NSC Facilities Subcommittee Meeting (03-09-10); Breakfast Excellence Award @ Sullivan School (03-11-10); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust—Loss Prevention Awards Luncheon (03-11-10); NSC Wellness Subcommittee Meeting @ Cranston-Calvert School (03-11-10); Newport Art Museum—Visitation of Elementary Student Work (03-11-10); Irish Delegation Meeting @ Newport Public Schools (03-12-10); St. Patrick's Day Parade Activities (03-13-10); Even Start Meeting (03-15-10); Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Meeting (03-15-10); Rhode Island School Superintendents Association Meeting (03-18-10); SCORES Leadership Committee Meeting (03-18-10); East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (03-19-10); JROTC Military Ball @ Naval Station Newport—Officers Club (03-19-10); Thompson Middle School Faculty Meeting (03-23-10); Trinity Church Meeting with Reverend David Dobbins (03-23-10); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust Meeting (03-24-10); Newport Partnership for Families Annual Breakfast Meeting @ Brick Alley Pub (03-26-10); United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse Visit to TMS—Grade 8 (03-29-10); Rogers High School Energy Project Meeting with ConEdison Solutions (03-30-10); Rogers High School Advisory Meeting and Assembly—Announcement of Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso---Named: Rhode Island High School Principal of the Year (03-31-10); Thompson Middle School—Curriculum/Instructional Advisory Committee Meeting (04-01-10); Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council Meeting @ Oliphant School (04-05-10); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust Meeting (04-05-10); Summer Learning Academy Meeting (04-05-10); Special Education—IDEA Title 3—Orientation Visit to Newport Public Schools (04-06-10); Rogers High School Energy Project Meeting with Celtic Energy (04-06-10); Financial Literacy Campaign Meeting (04-06-10); East Bay Educational Collaborative Special Meeting (04-07-10); Early Intervention (Baby Steps) Program Meeting at Administration Center (04-07-10); Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust Meeting—Board of Trustees (04-08-10); Island Moving Company Meeting (04-08-10); NAACP Meeting (04-09-10); and Early Intervention (Baby Steps) Program—Fourth Meeting @ Florence M. Gray Center (04-10-10). Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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.

Ms. Bolan requested the Superintendent provide an update at the May School Committee Meeting on the possibility of relocating this year's third first grade classroom at Underwood School for reassignment next year as a second grade classroom to another elementary school. Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would review the request but probably would not encourage it. He reminded the Committee of his belief

that, once students are assigned to an elementary school, to reassign them to another school would be disruptive. Mr. DeAscentis and Mr. Leary echoed Ms. Bolan's request. On a point of order, Dr. Shoemaker stated that, given this item was not placed on the Agenda this evening, the discussion should not continue.

10.0 Executive Session.

At 8:33 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. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 9:48 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 9:49 p.m., Mr. Kelley 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