

Approve 08/10/2010.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 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 (absent—attending daughter's high school graduation), 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., Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D., Coordinator of Literacy and Mathematics Caroline Frey, Ed.D., Technology Director Lee Rabbitt, and Business Manager Michael Saunders.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

1.0 MOMENT OF SILENCE.

- **Steven Lawrence, Jr.:** who passed away on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, at Forest Farm Health Care Center, in Middletown. Mr. Lawrence was the husband of Barbara F. (Hicks) Lawrence, father of Thompson Middle School Special Education Para Educator Stephanie Biello, and father-in-law of Thompson Middle School Plant Engineer David Biello. Born in Barberton, Ohio, he was the son of Anna Dennis of Stow, Ohio, and the late Steven Lawrence, Sr., and James Dennis. Mr. Lawrence was a United States Navy Veteran of the Korean War and member of the VFW. Retiring after 30 years of combined service from Short Line Bus Company and Bonanza Bus Lines, he worked at St. George's School with the grounds crew. Mr. Lawrence is also survived by five children, a sister, Angie Hoover, of Talmadge, Ohio, 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.
- **Helen (Danakas) Hagopian:** who passed away on Friday, May 21, 2010, at Grand Islander Health Care Center, in Middletown. Mrs. Hagopian was the mother of retired Newport Public Schools' Elementary School Teacher Elaine Brown and mother-in-law of Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Director Stanley Brown. Born in Providence, and formerly of Newport, Mrs. Hagopian was employed by the Newport Public Schools as a Special Education Teacher's Aide, as well as a Member of St. Spyridon Church and the Philoptochos Society.

Mrs. Hagopian was the wife of the late Leon Hagopian, daughter of the late Anthony and Panagiota (Stappas) Danakas, and sister of the late Charles Danakas and George Danakas. She is survived by one daughter, two grandsons, four great grandchildren, along with three nieces and a nephew.

- **Barbara Ann (Herrick) Donnelly:** who passed away on Sunday, May 30, 2010, at Newport Hospital, after a long illness. Mrs. Donnelly was the mother of Coggeshall School Elementary Grade 2 Teacher Marilyn Donnelly and widow of former Newport Mayor Humphrey Donnelly, III. Born in Newport, Mrs. Donnelly, whose father was a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy, attended schools in several cities, returning to Newport to graduate from Rogers High School and marrying her late husband in 1952. In addition to raising a large family, she was an accomplished political wife, seamstress, cook, and baker. After her husband's death, Mrs. Donnelly became a dedicated volunteer at her parish, St. Augustin's Church, and served as secretary for the Museum of Newport Irish History. Mrs. Donnelly was the only child of Harold and Margaret (Haggerty) Herrick and is survived by her six children, seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and her cousin, Dr. William Haggerty of Pennsylvania.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Public Comment was received from Parent, Resident, and Wellness Subcommittee Member Kerry Clougher regarding Grade 5 Recess at Thompson Middle School; and, Resident, Attorney, and Alliance For A Livable Newport President Bonnie Watson regarding Universal Free School Breakfast Program and this evening's Agenda Item No. 5.6.2—School Food Service Management Contract Renewal—Sodexo Management, Inc. (Refer to Item No. 5.6.2).

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 a Year-End Report. On behalf of the Committee, Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines presented a farewell gift to Ms. Richards for serving as the Committee's Student Representative during the 2009-2010 School Year.

3.1.2: Introduction of 2010-2011 Officers. Rogers High School Student Council Advisor Stephen Ferris and Outgoing President Bethany Richards introduced the incoming Officers for the upcoming 2010-2011 Academic Year, as follows: President Cassandra McCarthy, Vice President Devin Woolhouse, Secretary Fiona Heaney (absent), and Treasurer Michael O'Connell (absent).

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

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

- **Regular Meeting Executive Session Minutes of Tuesday, April 13, 2010.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Executive Session Minutes of Tuesday, April 13, 2010, as presented. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 11, 2010.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 11, 2010, as presented. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- **Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 20, 2010.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to approval of the Special Joint Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 20, 2010, as presented. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Consent Items to Follow.

At the request of Mr. DeAscentis (Item 5.2) and Mr. Leary (Items 5.2-5.5 and Items 5.6.1, 5.6.2, and 5.6.3), the following Consent Items will be acted upon separately, for discussion.

5.2- Personnel Actions.

5.5

- 5.2 **Retirement.** At the request of Mr. DeAscentis, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio explained the process for early retirement provisions of the Contract. Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Retirement of Jean E. Marvelle, Computer Aide, Administration, effective June 30, 2010. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried (5-1). The Member who voted against the motion was: Mr. DeAscentis, stating his opposition to the process.
- 5.3 **Resignation.** Mr. Kelley made a motion to approve the Resignation of George Maris, Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, Rogers High School, effective June 2, 2010. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- 5.4 **Leaves of Absence.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the Leave of Absence for Maternity of Julie Downey, Physical Education Teacher, Rogers High School, effective September 1, 2010 to January 3, 2011. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

5.5 Appointments.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the Appointments of: Cynthia Cykert, Girls' Assistant Outdoor Trace Coach, Rogers High School, effective March 22, 2010; and George Maris, Head Boys' Soccer Coach, Rogers High School, effective August 23, 2010. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the Appointments of the Extended School Year Teachers and Para Educators (as attached), effective July 6, 2010 to August 6, 2010. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried (5-1-0). Mr. Leary recused himself from voting, given his wife was an Appointee.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi distributed the approved Personnel Actions (attached) dated June 8, 2010, as presented.

5.6 **Bids.**

5.6.1 Heating Fuel Oil—2010-2011. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to reject all Heating Fuel Oil Bids for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Mr. Leary seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

5.6.2 School Food Service Management Contract Renewal—Sodexo Management, Inc. Public Input was received from Resident, Attorney, and President of the Alliance for a Livable Newport Bonnie Watson requesting further review of the contract award process to ensure the district's legal right to enhance the quality of the school food service program. Discussion followed. Business Manager Michael Saunders reviewed the contract renewal award process designed by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Dr. Shoemaker requested that the contract renewal recommendation be tabled to clarify the process. Some School Committee Members echoed Dr. Shoemaker's position. From a legal perspective, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the district does have the legal ability to enhance the quality of the school food service program and that School Committee Counsel Galvin had provided a thorough review of the original Contract, awarded last June of 2009. Mr. Saunders emphasized the need to expedite approval of the Contract Renewal, which is to become effective July 1, 2010, in order for the district to operate its Summer Food Service Program and to receive payments through the USDA Reimbursement Program. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to table the award of the School Food Service Management Contract Renewal to Sodexo Management, Inc., for the Fiscal Year 2010-2011, pending clarification of the contract renewal process. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which carried (6-0).

5.6.3 East Bay School Transportation Contract. For purposes of discussion, Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to award the East Bay School Transportation Contract to First Student for five years commencing on July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2015. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and Business Manager Michael Saunders reviewed the proposed Contract, indicating that the Process was a State Initiative implemented by the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation. Discussion followed. As Dr. Shoemaker withdrew his original motion, Mr. Leary made a motion to table the award of the East Bay School Transportation Contract, pending review of said contractual terms by School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Curriculum and Instruction—Update:

6.1.1: Analysis of Student Progress—According to NWEA. Drs. Naspo and Frey provided a PowerPoint Presentation to the Committee regarding the use of the NWEA and NECAP Scores in analyzing student performance and curriculum development. Discussion followed. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the District continues to refine its skills to utilize data efficiently to enhance student performance by giving teachers information to better target instructional programming for our students.

6.2 Rogers High School Energy Program—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the ConEdison Solutions and Celtic Energy Contracts should be finalized for the Committee's approval at an upcoming Special Meeting later this month.

6.3 Thompson Middle School—Initiative. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the progress made to date with the Thompson Middle School—Curriculum and Instructional Advisory Committee's development of an Action Plan to improve the structures at Thompson Middle School. He stated that the Action Plan should be finalized for the Committee's approval at an upcoming Special Meeting later this month. Discussion followed.

6.4 New Elementary School Construction—Update. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines and Superintendent of School Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as a result of the Board of Regents approving the School Construction Plan for the new Claiborne Pell Elementary School, the Mayor and Council voting to support placing the \$30M Bond Referendum on the ballot for November, and hopeful approval from the General Assembly for public financing of the Project this evening, next steps would follow regarding the Public Campaign.

6.5 Subcommittee Reports:

- 6.5.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis stated that he had no update.
- 6.5.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that the Finance/Advisory/Audit Committee Meeting was held on May 21, 2010, to review specifics of the Cooperative Hockey Program and the Budget.
- 6.5.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that she had no update but that a Meeting would be scheduled for July.
- 6.5.4 Policy.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that she had no update but that a Meeting would be scheduled for July.
- 6.5.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** In the absence of Chairperson Ms. Bolan, no update was provided, and there was no new business to report.
- 6.5.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines reviewed the Association's lobbying efforts against the pending Arbitration Bill.
- 6.5.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary reviewed the outcomes of the Task Force as a result of their Meeting held on May 17, 2010. He stated that the next Meeting of the Task Force would be held on June 21, 2010.
- 6.5.8 Wellness/Food Service Program.** In the absence of Chairperson Ms. Bolan, Mr. Leary stated that the Nutrition Work Group's first meeting on commodities would be held tomorrow, June 9, 2010. Discussion followed.
- 6.5.9 District Strategic Planning.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the District Strategic Planning Session held on Monday, May 24, 2010, at Ochre Court, at Salve Regina University, was successful, and that the final Plan should be ready for approval in September. Discussion followed.

7.0 ACTION—No Items.

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 provided the Committee with the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as of May 31, 2010. 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 provided the Committee with the Enrollment Reports, as of May 28, 2010. 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 listed for the Committee his activities to date: World-of-Work Meeting @ Superintendent's Office (05-10-10); Race-to-Top Community Forum (Round 2) @ CCRI Newport (05-10-10); Nutrition Committee Meeting—RHS Lunch Tour (05-11-2010); Thompson Middle School—Curriculum/Instructional Advisory Committee Meeting (05-11-10); RIDE Title II Evaluation @ Newport Public Schools (05-12-10); Early Intervention (Baby Steps) Meeting (05-12-10); East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC) Board Meeting (05-13-10); NSC Wellness Subcommittee Meeting @ Rogers High School Cafeteria (05-13-10); MUSE (Museum Studies) Opening Reception @ Newport Art Museum (05-13-10); RIDE Title I, Title III, and School Support Evaluation @ Newport Public Schools (05-17-10); Athletic Budget Meeting (05-18-10); Newport Rotary Club Meeting (05-18-10); Thompson Middle School—Curriculum/Instructional Advisory Committee Meeting (05-18-10); Co-Op/Mentor Program Meeting @ Newport County Chamber of Commerce (05-19-10); Urban Education Policy Annual Conference @ Brown University (05-20-10); Board of Regents Work Session—Stage II New School Construction Review @ RIDE (05-20-10); Second Annual Kindergarten Orientation (05-20-10); NSC FY 2011 Budget Presentation with Newport City Council (05-20-10); Sodexo School Food Services Meeting (05-21-10); NSC Finance Advisory/Audit Committee Meeting (05-21-10); Newport Public Schools' Strategic Plan Community Work Session @ Ochre Court (05-24-10); JROTC Student Awards Night @ RHS Auditorium (05-24-10); 2010-2011 RHS Teacher Schedules/Assignments Meeting (05-25-10); Thompson Middle School—Curriculum/Instructional Advisory Committee Meeting (05-25-10); Consolidated Resource Plan (CRP) Budget Meeting (05-26-10); RHS Student Honors Night @ RHS Auditorium (05-26-10); RHS Student Golden Bakers Dozen Breakfast Meeting (06-01-10); TMS Summer Program (Newport Community School) Budget Meeting (06-01-10); Thompson Middle School—Curriculum/Instructional Advisory Committee—Professional Development Workshop (06-02-10); NACTC

Student Awards Ceremony @ NACTC Colonial Dining Room (06-02-10); Nutrition Committee—Work Group Meeting (06-03-10); and Board of Regents Meeting—Stage II New School Construction Approval @ RIDE (06-03-10). 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.

Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that Special Meetings for June would be scheduled for the purpose of requested agenda items. Mr. DeAscentis requested Thompson Middle School Recess be an agenda item.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 9:54 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).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 10:43 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

Adjournment. At 10:45 p.m., Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk