

Approved 11/09/2010.

4.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010

**MINUTES**

**1.0 OPENING ITEMS.**

**1.1 Call to Order.** Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Thompson Middle School Beatrice Berman Bazarsky Performing Arts Center and Cafeteria.

**1.2 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 Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Caroline Frey, and School Committee Counsel Neil P. Galvin.

**1.3 Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**1.4 Moment of Silence.** There was no Moment of Silence.

**1.5 Public Comment.** Public Comment was received from Nutrition Workgroup Member Judith Webb. Mr. Kelley moved and Mr. DeAscentis seconded to receive the Nutrition Workgroup Report of Accomplishments to date. Sodexo Employee Paul Evans briefed the Committee on his position in supporting Sodexo Employees. Chairperson Mrs. Gaines publicly announced that the Committee this evening has gone to electronic version of the meeting agenda.

**2.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

**2.1 Student Council Update: Cassandra McCarthy. Taken out of Order after Item No. 5.1.**

**3.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.**

**3.1** There were no Resolutions presented.

**3.2** There were no Certificates of Achievement presented.

#### **4.0 CONSENT AGENDA.**

Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the exception of Item 4.2.3—Appointments (at the request of Mr. Leary), to be acted upon separately, for discussion. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

#### **4.1 Approval of Minutes.**

**4.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 14, 2010.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 14, 2010, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.1.2 Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, September 27, 2010.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, September 27, 2010, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

#### **4.2 Personnel Actions.**

**4.2.1 One-Year Appointments.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the One-Year Appointments, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.2.2 Three-Year Appointments.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Three-Year Appointments, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.2.3 Appointments.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio reviewed the Requests for Appointments with the Committee. Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointments, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.2.4 Transfers.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio reviewed the Requests for Transfers with the Committee. Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Transfers, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.2.5 Retirements.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of one Request for Retirement, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**4.2.6 Resignations.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of one Request for Resignation, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 4.2.7 Leave of Absence.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of one Request for Leave of Absence, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi distributed the approved Personnel Actions, as attached.

- 4.3 Requests for Home Instruction.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the three Requests for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 4.4 Request for Residency Exemption.** Dr. Flowers made a motion to approve the Request for Residency Exemption, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

## **5.0 DISCUSSION.**

- 5.1 NECAP Science Scores and Curriculum Planning.** At the request of Mr. Kelley, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Caroline Frey reviewed with the Committee the Science NECAP Results and Science Curriculum Activities. Discussion followed.

Taken out of Order.

## **2.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

- 2.1 Student Council Update: Cassandra McCarthy.** Student Council President and School Committee Representative Cassandra McCarthy provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council: Fundraiser; Advanced Placement Program Funding; and Spirit Week.

- 5.2 Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Policy Update.** At the request of Chairperson Mrs. Gaines, given the recent events of bullying and cyber-bullying, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that there had been no cyber-bullying incidents to date, and the district would continue to be vigilant regarding this important issue. He reminded the Committee that the district was on the cutting edge of the policies in the state and provided extensive in-service training regarding bullying and cyber-bullying. Discussion followed.

- 5.3 Race to the Top Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, last Tuesday, he attended a meeting with School Superintendents, Union Leaders, and School Committee Representatives and reviewed next steps in the Race to the Top Grant Application. He further stated that the district would be developing a local Grant Proposal within the next several weeks for submittal to the Rhode Island Department of Education. He briefed the Committee on the Rhode Island Department of Education's LEA Scope of Work/Partnership Agreement to be completed by the district's Leadership Team, which is

composed of: Dr. Ambrogi, Dr. Naspo, Dr. Frey, Ms. Donnelly Roche, and Ms. Rabbitt. He informed the Committee that there would be much work to be accomplished in order to implement the new Evaluation System by September, 2011. Discussion followed.

- 5.4 School Bond Referendum Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the Let's Build Committee has been actively marketing the information regarding the School Bond by holding open houses at each of the district's four existing elementary schools, public events, and ensuring that the website is user friendly and widely publicized. Mr. Kelley reminded the Committee of the upcoming "Green" Features of the Proposed Pell School to be held on Thursday evening at the Newport Yachting Center sponsored by Newport's Energy and Environment Commission.

## **6.0 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS.**

- 6.1 Facilities Subcommittee.** Chairperson Mr. DeAscentis updated the Committee on the progress made to date on the outdoor recess area at Thompson Middle School. He requested administration to extend the fence along the retaining wall to alleviate safety concerns.
- 6.2 Finance Advisory/Audit Committee—New Basic Education Program Implications for FY '12 Budget.** Chairperson Mr. Leary stated that he had no report but would be scheduling a November Subcommittee Meeting.
- 6.3 Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that she had no update but would be scheduling a Subcommittee Meeting after the November election.
- 6.4 Policy Subcommittee.** Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that three Policies under the Action portion of this evening's Agenda were before the Committee for First Reading, as approved by the majority of the Policy Subcommittee.
- 6.5 Public Relations/Community Outreach Subcommittee.** Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that she had no update.
- 6.6 Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC).** Representative Mrs. Gaines stated that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees would be announcing its upcoming professional development workshop scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2010, as a result of recent legislation requiring professional development for School Committee Members.
- 6.7 Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force.** Representative Mr. Leary stated that he had no update but was pleased to report that the new Director had recently met with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi to discuss goals and objectives of the Task Force.

**6.8 Wellness Subcommittee.** As Judith Webb provided the Committee, under Public Comment, accomplishments to date of the Nutrition Workgroup, Chairperson Ms. Bolan stated that she had no new business to report. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would meet with Ms. Webb to review the activities of the Nutrition Workgroup. Discussion followed. Committee Members requested monthly updates and perhaps the establishment of a Food Services' Program Subcommittee.

**6.9 District Strategic Planning Subcommittee.** Chairperson Mrs. Gaines stated that the Subcommittee reconvened the Members of the Community Strategic Plan on Monday, October 4, 2010, at Salve Regina University, and reviewed the final design of the District Strategic Plan. She further stated that the Plan would come before the Committee at its November 9, 2010, Meeting for adoption.

## **7.0 ACTION ITEMS.**

**7.1 Policy No. 4650: Human Resources—Appointments & Promotions, First Reading (Amendment).** The amended language was reviewed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adopt, for First Reading, Policy No. 4650: Human Resources—Appointments & Promotions (Amendment), as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Leary, School Committee Counsel Mr. Galvin spoke to the recommended amendment to recognize only prior teaching service in the public schools in Rhode Island and that the Superintendent have discretion to offer recognition for on-public school teaching service or teaching service in out-of-state public schools on a case by case basis. Mr. DeAscentis stated the School Committee should be the ultimate authority in hiring decisions. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, should discretion be utilized, the recommendation would be detailed within the Consent Agenda. Mr. Leary requested that he and Mr. DeAscentis meet with Counsel Galvin to further discuss the amended language, as they were not part of the review meeting of the proposed amended language. The motion carried (6-1). Mr. DeAscentis voted against the motion. Mr. DeAscentis stated that the Policy Subcommittee's vote should be amended to state that the Policy was approved by "majority" vote not by "unanimous" vote, as he was not in attendance at the Policy Subcommittee Meeting when the suggested Policy language was reviewed and approved.

**7.2 Policy No. 6421: Instructional Resources & Materials—Virtual High School Program, First Reading (New).** The amended language was reviewed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adopt, for First Reading, Policy No. 6421: Instructional Resources & Materials—Virtual High School Program (New), as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to include language in the Policy regarding the need for accreditation and retrospect of analysis as to the effectiveness of the Program. Dr. Shoemaker requested to hold voting on the First Reading until these two items were incorporated into the Policy. At the request of Mr. Kelley,

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated he would include his language, which had been an oversight, regarding that (1) Rogers High School staff shall be responsible to monitor on at least a weekly basis the progress of all students with respect to the Virtual High School curriculum and assignments; and that (2) School Department staff shall be responsible for ensuring the required Information Technology (IT) support is available daily for student use. Mr. DeAscentis stated that language regarding student acceptance criteria be incorporated into the Policy. The motion carried (6-1). Mr. DeAscentis voted against the motion. Mr. DeAscentis stated that the Policy Subcommittee's vote should be amended to state that the Policy was approved by "majority" vote not by "unanimous" vote, as he was not in attendance at the Policy Subcommittee Meeting when the suggested Policy language was reviewed and approved.

- 7.3 Policy No. 6432: Instruction—Academic Achievement—Homework, First Reading (Amendment).** The amended language was reviewed. Mr. Kelley made a motion to adopt, for First Reading, Policy No. 6432: Instruction—Academic Achievement—Homework (Amendment), as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Ms. Bolan requested that language be included regarding detailing the timeframe of consequences for homework. Dr. Shoemaker stated that language be included regarding the need to communicate with the parent before punitive student action is taken. The motion carried (6-1). Mr. DeAscentis voted against the motion. Mr. DeAscentis stated that the Policy Subcommittee's vote should be amended to state that the Policy was approved by "majority" vote not by "unanimous" vote, as he was not in attendance at the Policy Subcommittee Meeting when the suggested Policy language was reviewed and approved.
- 7.4 Investigations of Options for Extended School Day.** At the request of Mr. Kelley, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi supported providing the Committee with an analysis of different options to extend the school day. Discussion followed. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to request that the Superintendent provide an analysis of different options to extend the school day. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 7.5 Contracts on Newport Public Schools' Website.** Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to post on line for public access all current contracts and amendments of the Newport School Committee in their entirety to the extent allowed by law. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. School Committee Counsel Mr. Galvin provided his Legal Opinion to the Committee. He stated that Union Contracts are a matter of public record. He further stated that an individual administrative contract is not considered public record, as it is personally identifiable. Counsel Galvin did state, however, that specific information, such as salary and fringe benefits, of an individual administrative contract would be considered a matter of public record. The motion carried (6-1). Dr. Shoemaker voted against the motion.

- 7.6 District's Contribution to Volunteers in Newport for Education (VINE) Program.** Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to provide the equivalent level of funding for the Volunteers in Newport Education (VINE) for the current fiscal year, utilizing funds from the School Budget and other sources, as may be available. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Superintendent of Schools provided a history of the district's financial contributions to the VINE Program. VINE President Collette Bernard and Finance Director Roberta Emerson addressed the Committee in support of continued financial contribution from the Newport Public Schools, to restore level funding in the amount of \$7,000. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi requested that VINE submit their financials for review before the district considers providing additional funding, in excess of the \$6,000 allocated for this school year. Dr. Shoemaker stated that all unfunded entities should be reviewed before considering additional funding for VINE. Dr. Flowers advised the Committee that, as a member of the VINE Board, she would recuse from voting. Mr. DeAscentis withdrew his original motion, and Ms. Bolan withdrew her seconding the motion. Mr. DeAscentis made a motion to table this item, pending review, until the next School Committee Meeting. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

## **8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.**

- 8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as of September 30, 2010. Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with the Enrollment Reports, as of Friday, October 1, 2010. Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 8.3 Damage Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with one Damage Report regarding broken gates at Thompson Middle School. Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Damage Report, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**8.4 Superintendent's Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio listed for the Committee his activities to date:

1.	RI Public Expenditure Council Meeting (09-13-10)
2.	Let's Build Committee (09-15-10)
3.	SCORES Leadership Team Meeting (09-16-10)
4.	East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC) Board Meeting (09-17-10)
5.	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Funding Meeting (09-21-10)
6.	RI Action for Healthy Kids—Breakfast for School Leaders (09-22-10)
7.	Let's Build Committee (09-22-10)
8.	NSC BoardDocs Training (09-23-10)
9.	Benefactor Visit to Intensive Academic Support Classroom @ TMS (09-28-10)
10.	NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting (09-29-10)
11.	RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust—Telephone Conference (09-30-10)
12.	Let's Build Committee (09-30-10)
13.	Newport Now—New School (Tom Shevlin) Meeting (10-01-10)
14.	Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force— Meeting with New Director (10-01-10)
15.	Nutrition Committee Meeting (10-04-10)
16.	Strategic Planning Community Membership Meeting— @ Salve Regina University (10-04-10)
17.	RI Kids Count Factbook Meeting @ Newport Public Library (10-05-10)
18.	RIDE Race to the Top—Planning Meeting @ Crowne Plaza (10-05-10)
19.	New England Association of School Superintendents— Annual Fall Conference @ Newport Marriott Hotel (10-7 and 10-8-10)
20.	Let's Build Committee (10-07-10)

Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS.**

**9.1 Meeting and Agenda Requests.** Suggested meeting dates and agenda topics were reviewed. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogio reminded the Committee of the upcoming Meeting to be held in Executive Session on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, beginning at 4:30 p.m., at the Administration Center.

**10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**10.1** No Executive Session was held.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT.**

At 10:22 p.m., Ms. Bolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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**Jo Eva Gaines**  
Chairperson

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**John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.**  
Clerk

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Newport School Committee

FROM: John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools 

RE: **Personnel Actions – October 12, 2010**

DATE: October 13, 2010

The following personnel actions were taken at the October 12, 2010 Newport School Committee Meeting:

**APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS/RECALLS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b><i>One Year Appointment</i></b>		
Barbara Kane O’Neill	Head Teacher Cranston Calvert	10/13/10
Deborah Berdy	Head Teacher Underwood	10/13/10
Jan Campbell	Head Teacher Coggeshall	10/13/10
Nicole Silvia	Playground Duty Underwood	10/13/10
Jan Campbell	Playground Duty Coggeshall	10/13/10
Rebekah Rosen-Gomez/Sheila DeAscentis	Bus Duty Cranston-Calvert	10/13/10
Jan Campbell	Bus Duty Coggeshall	10/13/10
Keith Edwards	Bus Duty Sullivan	10/13/10
Laurie Sullivan/Barbara Walton Faria	TMS Junior Nat’l Honor Society Advisor (co-advisors)	10/13/10
Karen Gallagher/Sharon McDonnell	TMS Yearbook (co-advisors)	10/13/10
Elizabeth Gibbs/Erika Hansson	TMS Student Council Advisor (co-advisors)	10/13/10
Ian Gollub	TMS Sports Supervisor	10/13/10
Brian Sullivan/Frank Newsome	RHS Cafeteria Duty	10/13/10
Jamie Butterworth	RHS Freshman Class Advisor	10/13/10
William Kimes	RHS Sophomore Class Advisor	10/13/10
Stephen Ferris	RHS Junior Class Advisor	10/13/10
Amy Kalif	RHS Senior Class Advisor	10/13/10
Robin Chapman	RHS Dance Team Advisor	10/13/10
Peter Corr	RHS Drama/Theater Advisor	10/13/10
Stephen Ferris	RHS Mock Trial Coach	10/13/10
Linda Moitoza	RHS Nat’l Honor Society	10/13/10
Stephen Ferris	RHS Student Council Advisor	10/13/10
JoAnne Ritchie	RHS Transition Coordinator	10/13/10
David Connell	RHS Yearbook Advisor	10/13/10
Debra Grover	RHS Yearbook Editor	10/13/10
Gretchen Pantig	ALP Reading Specialist	10/13/10
William Kimes	ALP Special Educator	10/13/10
Colleen Murray	NACTC - USA Skills Advisor	10/13/10
<b><i>Three Year Appointment</i></b>		
Candance Lewia	TMS Curriculum Liaison Science	10/13/10
Stephanie Sullivan	TMS Curriculum Liaison Social St	10/13/10
<b><i>Appointment</i></b>		
Ashley Consider	Para Educator Sullivan	10/13/10
Marlena Williams	TMS Special Educator	10/13/10
Charlotte Conners	RHS Coach – Girls Volleyball	10/13/10
Kacie Gallo	RHS Assistant Coach – Girls Soccer	10/13/10
Courtney McGannon	NACTC – Cosmetology Technical Assistant	10/13/10
<b><i>Transfers</i></b>		
Flo Hazen	TMS Guidance to RHS Guidance	09/27/10
Megan Anderson	TMS Special Education to TMS Guidance	10/04/10

**RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b><i>Retirement</i></b>			
	Scott Krous	Guidance Counselor – RHS	09/24/10
<b><i>Resignation</i></b>			
	Chris Gleason	Swimming Coach – RHS	10/13/10

**LEAVE REQUEST**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
	John Dusel	Paternity Leave – English, RHS	11/30/10 – 12/23/10