

Approve 12/14/2010

4.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

Monday, November 29, 2010

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

1.1 **Call to Order.** Chairperson Mrs. Jo Eva Gaines called the Special Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 5:07 p.m. at the Frank E. 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. (arrived at 5:11 p.m.), 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.

2.0 ACTION ITEMS.

2.1 **Heating Fuel Oil Bid 2010-2011:** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion *to award the Bid for the Heating Fuel Oil 2010-2011 to Santa Buckley Energy, Inc. of Bridgeport, Connecticut, for a variable amount of heating fuel priced at \$0.0271 over the daily Journal of Commerce Index Price.* Discussion was held concerning the differences between a variable rate and a fixed rate. Dr. Ambrogio explained to the committee that Rogers High School is the districts largest user of heating fuel oil, and with the current conversion of the Rogers High School boilers from oil heating fuel to natural gas, the district is unable to accurately predict its heating fuel oil requirements. Progress on the boiler conversion is progressing ahead of schedule, but it is too early to predict an actual cut-over date, thus requiring the district to opt for the variable amount of heating fuel oil required. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which **carried (5-2)** with members DeAscentis, Jr. and Leary opposing.

2.2 **Exit Interviews: Parents, Students, Staff, Volunteers, and Those Performing Contracted Work Leaving Newport Public Schools.** Mrs. Bolan made a motion to offer exit surveys to all leaving or departing Newport Public Schools and shall include but not be limited to, parents, students, staff, volunteers, and those performing

contracted work; surveys shall be with the Newport School Committee and shall be made available to responders online. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAscentis, Jr., and discussion was held concerning the survey and the logistics of conducting the survey; and the desire to bypass the school administration. Dr. Shoemaker discussed the SCORES data that is currently being collected and analyzed and requested that it be shared with the school committee. Dr. Ambrogi believes that an annual parent survey, executed with an online survey tool, collated electronically and then presented to the School Committee, could give the school department valuable information about our parents perceptions, not just the folks that are leaving. There are individuals who leave the district for a number of different reasons; moving out of the area; employees not performing a probationary period satisfactory.

Mrs. Bolan amended the motion ***to offer exit surveys to all leaving Newport Public Schools. Surveys shall be optional, on the part of those leaving Newport Public Schools, and shall include, but not be limited to, parents, students, staff, volunteers, and those performing contracted work; these surveys shall be with the Newport School Committee and will be conducted on-line.*** Dr. Shoemaker moved to table to the December 14, 2010 Newport School Committee meeting. The **motion to table was seconded and carried (6:1)** with Mr. DeAscentis, Jr. opposing.

2.3 School Committee Agenda Items: On-line Public Access:

Mrs. Bolan moved for action, to simultaneously post on-line for public access, all agenda items and all support materials made available to the Newport School Committee. Draft documents, personnel issues, and executive session items shall be posted for public access on the next business day after finalization to the extent provided by law. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeAscentis, Jr. and discussion was held. Since the committee has recently moved to electronic governance with BoardDocs, it appears relatively simple to provide public documents online to the public prior to the meeting. Transparency and an enlightened public may lead to greater community involvement with the school department with all committee members speaking in support of the motion. Discussion was held about the timeliness of the posting. Mrs. Bolan moved to amend the motion to post one working day prior to the meeting. The amendment was seconded and carried.

The revised motion reads ***to post online for public access one working day prior to a school committee meeting, all agenda items and all support materials made available to the school***

committee. Draft documents, personnel issues, and executive session items shall be posted for public access on the next business day after approval and to the extent allowed by law.
The revised motion was **carried unanimously (7:0)**.

3.0 Executive Session:

There was no motion to go into Executive Session.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

At 6:05 p.m., Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Jo Eva Gaines
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk