

Approve 05/10/2011.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

1.1 Call to Order. Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center, in Room 924.

1.2 Roll Call. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley, Vice Chairperson Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Jo Eva Gaines, Robert J. Leary, Thomas S. Phelan, and Dr. Charles P. Shoemaker. School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Caroline Frey, Ed.D., Director of Grants, Professional Development, and Community Involvement Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D., Director of Technology Lee Rabbitt, and Building Principals: Kimberly Behan Townsend, Ed.D, Underwood School; Jennifer Booth, Ed.D., Cranston-Calvert School; Michael Franco, Coggeshall School; Maria Mare Shulz, Sullivan School; Eric Thomas, Thompson Middle School (absent); and Patricia DiCenso, Rogers High School.

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

1.4 Moment of Silence. No Moment of Silence was presented.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.

2.1 Public Comment was received from: Rosemary Slocum, Chairperson, Educational Forum, of the American Association of University Women. She applauded the outcomes of the recently held Thompson Middle School Seventh Grade Girls' Math/Science Workshop.

3.0 Resolutions and Certificates of Achievement. No Resolutions and/or Certificates of Achievement were presented.

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

- 4.1 **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.

Taken Out of Order—

Discussion Item No. 7.1—NECAP/Student Achievement Goals for 2011.

Mr. Leary made a motion to amend the agenda and take out of order Discussion Item No. 7.1. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 7.1 **NECAP/Student Achievement Goals for 2011.** Curriculum and Instruction Director Dr. Caroline Frey and Central Office and School Building Principals provided information on the district's overview of the NECAP Fall, 2010, Results [Reading, Writing, and Mathematics—Grades 3 through 8 and Grade 11] and how the district could make greater progress towards district goals. Discussion and Public Input followed. Mr. Kelley suggested implementing a task force to address truancy at an upcoming Committee Meeting, inviting key community and school personnel. Mrs. Gaines suggested that a targeted meeting might be more appropriate to address truancy, with emphasis on truancy in relation to parental attitudes. Mr. Kelly requested that perhaps an additional one-half time math intervention specialist might be needed and recommended reviewing this request with the Vertical Team.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 **Approval of Minutes.**

- 5.1.1 **Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 3, 2011.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 3, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 5.1.2 **Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 8, 2011.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 8, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 5.1.3 **Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 22, 2011.** Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, March 22, 2011, as

presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.4 Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, March 24, 2011. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 15, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

5.2.1 Appointments.

- Discussion followed. Mr. Leary applauded our past local students who have graduated and come back into the district in positions such as coaching sports. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of: Erin Clark, Girls' Softball Head Coach, Thompson Middle School, effective April 13, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Discussion followed. Mr. Leary stressed the need to strengthen our dwindling intramural sports program for our students through the use of feeder programs. He reminded the Committee that the following programs had been discontinued over time: cross country, wrestling, and tennis.

- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of: John Horsman, Boys' Golf Head Coach, Rogers High School, effective April 13, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- Discussion followed. Mr. Leary commended the efforts and talents of the recommended candidate (below). Chairperson Mr. Kelley echoed Mr. Leary's comments. Mr. Leary requested that, when the Committee negotiates, Department Head Appointments should not be life-time positions. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of: Caroline Pembroke, Mathematics Department Head, Rogers High School, effective September 1, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2.2 One-Year Appointment.

- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the one-year Appointment of: Megan Anderson, Intensive Academic Support Classroom, Thompson Middle School, effective March 28, 2011, to June 23, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2.3 Transfers.

- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the transfer of: Andrew McCarthy, Second Shift Custodian, Underwood School, to First Shift Custodian, Underwood School, effective April 25, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2.4 Resignations.

- Discussion followed. Mr. Leary publicly thanked outgoing Thompson Middle School Principal Eric Thomas for his time in that position and supported his desire to transfer back into the classroom as a mathematics teacher. Mrs. Gaines echoed Mr. Leary's comments. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Resignation of: Eric Thomas, Principal, Thompson Middle School, effective July 1, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2.5 Leaves of Absence.

- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Paternity Leave of Absence of: David Goodburn, Science Department Head, Rogers High School, from June 1, 2011, to June 23, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Request for Maternity Leave of Absence of: Gretchen Pantig, Reading Specialist, Rogers High School, from May 22, 2011, to June 23, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 5.3 Moving/Relocation Services 2011.** Director of Property Services Paul Fagan reviewed the Moving/Relocation Services 2011 Bidding Process. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Leary, Mr. Fagan briefed the Committee on the proposed timeline/action plan for the moving and relocation services. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the Bid for Moving/Relocation Services 2011 to: Astro of Newport England, from Exeter, Rhode Island, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION.

- 6.1 Policy No. 1585: Newport Public Schools—Article VII—Formulation of Policies—Maintenance of Policy Manual—THIRD READING (Amendment).** This Policy amendment requires that there be a change to the number of readings that a School Committee Policy must have prior to its adoption from three to two Readings. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that this amendment does not *require* that a Policy be enacted in two consecutive readings but does *allow* that a Policy be enacted in two consecutive readings, with the understanding that it may take more time for discussion. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt Policy No. 1585: Newport Public Schools—Article VII—Formulation of Policies—Maintenance of Policy Manual. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary, stating that three meetings are important.
- 6.2 Policy No. 1540: Newport Public Schools—Article II—Regular Meetings—THIRD READING (Amendment).** This Policy amendment reflects a time limit of 10 p.m., rather than 11 p.m., as is currently stated, to end Open Session of a School Committee Meeting. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adopt Policy No. 1540: Newport Public Schools—Article II—Regular Meeting. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary, stating the importance to complete the open session regardless of time.
- 6.3 Policy No. 5440: Newport Public Schools—Students—Disciplinary Policies—Dress Code—FIRST READING (Amendment).** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt Policy No. 5440: Newport Public Schools—Students—Disciplinary Policies—Uniform Dress Code—FIRST READING, as amended. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The Committee requested a Community Forum be held prior to the second reading of the proposed Policy and appropriate notification be provided to the staff and community. Mr. Leary stated his following concerns: proposed colors of uniforms suggested in the Policy, that high school students and staff should be included in the proposed Policy, and the need to better enforce the district's Dress Code Policy currently in

effect; thus, he stated that it was too early to vote on the proposed Policy and, therefore, indicated he would not be voting in support of its First Reading this evening. Public input was received. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary, for the concerns he stated above.

- 6.4 Authorize Request for Proposals—Food Services.** Ms. Bolan made a motion to forward the attached Request for Proposal for Food Services to the Rhode Island Department of Education for their review. Mr. Leary seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding that the RFP was not yet finalized for the Committee to take action this evening. Mr. Leary made a motion to table action on this item this evening and requested it be moved for action at a Special Meeting to be scheduled on Monday, April 18, 2011, beginning at 4:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.5 Food Services Program—Request for External Audit.** Ms. Bolan made a motion to authorize the development of a Request for Proposal for an External Audit of the Food Services Program. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.6. Resolution—In Support of Judicial Fairness Legislation.** Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the “Newport School Committee Resolution Supporting Legislative Amendments To Protect Rhode Island’s Cities and Towns and Their Public Officials/Employees”, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.7 Resolution—Contract Continuation—In Opposition to 2011 S 413 and H 5943.** Discussion followed regarding opposition to Bills S 413 and H 5943, which maintain that expired teacher contracts must continue at the existing terms and conditions. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to pass “Newport School Committee Contract Continuation Resolution in Opposition to 2011 S 413 and H 5943”, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.8 Resolution—Binding Arbitration—In Opposition to 2011 H 5961.** Discussion followed regarding opposing binding arbitration for teachers and other school employees. Dr. Flowers made a motion to pass “Newport School Committee Binding Arbitration Resolution in Opposition to 2011 H 5961”, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.9 Continuation of Business Operation Systems under the Control of the Newport School Committee. Discussion followed. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to approve the continuation of a separate and distinct business office operation under the direct authority of the Newport School Committee and Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.

6.10 22nd Annual Post Graduation Activity—Request for Contribution. Mr. Kelley made a motion to contribute \$1,000 to the Rogers High School Post Graduation Party Committee for their 22nd Annual Post Graduation Party. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed by Committee Members in support of this worthwhile activity. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Taken Out of Order—

Discussion Item No. 7.1—NECAP/Student Achievement Goals for 2011.

7.1 NECAP/Student Achievement Goals for 2011. This Agenda Item was taken out of order and presented before the Consent Agenda—Item 5.0.

7.2 Sullivan School Students to Triplett School—Transition Plan—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the progress made to date regarding the move from Sullivan on Dexter to Sullivan at Triplett—the bid award to move furniture and supplies from Dexter Street to Triplett; examination of the food service area at Triplett; and upcoming meeting on May 3, 2011, with the State Fire Marshall to seek a Waiver for the Sprinkler System in the basement of Triplett School. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary requested that, at the Committee May 10th Meeting, administration provide a plan as to where all classrooms will be housed at Triplett, as well as other locations and identification of the specifics of the play area at Triplett School.

7.3 Newport Area Career and Technical Center Building Acquisition—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the prepared revised Agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Education that the district would be recommending when going forward with taking control of the Newport Area Career and Technical Center Building. He stated that these revisions to the Rhode Island Department of Education Contract that was presented to the district were developed by Neil Galvin and protect the district regarding possible difficulties with continuing any specific career and technical center programs, with the understanding that the district has every intention of keeping the current programs and hopefully building new programs; but, he did indicate that the district does not want to agree to something that may be beyond its control to deliver

from a financial or programmatic standpoint. Dr. Ambrogi stated that the district would continue to provide updated information to the Mayor and Council and hopefully reach an agreement with the Newport City Council and the Rhode Island Department of Education so that construction work may begin this summer on a desperately needed new roof. The City Council will receive the district's request at their Meeting tomorrow evening for administration and counsel review. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary requested a list of other Rhode Island communities who had accepted local ownership of their respective Career and Technical Centers.

7.4 National School Boards' Association Convention—Update. School Committee Members' Ms. Bolan, Dr. Flowers, Mrs. Gaines, and Dr. Shoemaker each provided the Committee with an update on their activities as a result of attending the National School Boards' Association Convention held this past weekend in San Francisco. Mrs. Gaines requested that, as a result of an attended Presentation, to include as a discussion item on the next Committee's Meeting Agenda—BuyBoard, a cooperative purchasing/shared services initiative entitled "A National Purchasing Cooperative", of which the National School Boards Association in collaboration with the Rhode Island Association of School Committees.

7.5 Subcommittee Reports. No Subcommittee Reports were presented.

7.6 Pell School Building Committee—Update. Review and discussion followed regarding the progress made to date on the Pell School Construction Process—

- At the Pell Building Committee Meeting held on March 30th, discussion was held on the add alternate for a partial geothermal system for the bid process, and the Committee voted to approve, as an add alternate, a partial rather than a full geothermal system.
- Additionally, the exterior design was discussed, and the Committee voted unanimously to go with a more traditional exterior front.
- HMFH Architects and the Pell Building Committee met prior to this evening's meeting and provided the Committee with some additional drawings for the front entrance of the new Pell School, so that the exterior design may be finally voted on by the Pell Building Committee.
- Discussion and Public input was received.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as of February 28, 2011. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Enrollment Reports, as of March 31, 2011. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.3 Damage Reports. There were no Damage Reports presented.

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

1.	Thompson Middle School Intensive Academic Support Classroom—Visit (03-08-11)
2.	RIDE Meeting—Pell School (03-09-11)
3.	Rhode Island School Superintendents Association (RISSA) Meeting—UCOA (03-10-11)
4.	East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC) Board Meeting (03-11-11)
5.	Nutrition Advisory Committee Meeting (03-11-11)
6.	St. Patrick's Day Parade—Activities (03-12-11)
7.	Oliver Perry Hazard Program—Meeting with New Education Coordinator (03-14-11)
8.	Thompson Middle School Faculty Meeting—Redesign Program (03-13-11)
9.	NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (03-15-11)
10.	Pell Building Committee Meeting (03-16-11)
11.	NPS' Bicycle Education Program Meeting (03-17-11)
12.	NPS' New Website Design Meeting (03-17-11)
13.	Triplett School Meeting—with Newport Fire Department Officials (03-17-11)
14.	SCORES Leadership Planning Team Meeting (03-17-11)
15.	Nutrition Advisory Committee Meeting (03-21-11)
16.	White House—Logistics Space [New School] (03-22-11)
17.	NSC/TMS Faculty—Workshop on Redesign Program (03-22-11)
18.	Senior Project Day—Kickoff Meeting (03-23-11)
19.	RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust—Underwriting Committee Meeting (03-24-11)
20.	East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC) Board Meeting with Governor (03-25-11)
21.	Truancy Meeting with Attendance Facilitator (03-28-11)
22.	Summer Learning Academy Meeting (03-28-11)
23.	Pell Meeting with Municipal Government Officials (03-29-11)
24.	Naval Undersea Warfare Center—Outreach Program Meeting (03-30-11)
25.	Curriculum Steering Committee—Math Series Selection—Meeting (03-30-11)
26.	Pell Building Committee Meeting (03-30-11)
27.	Nutrition Advisory Group Meeting—Site Visit to Sullivan and Triplett Schools—Cafeteria [Pell] (03-31-11)
28.	Thompson Middle School Faculty Meeting—Redesign Program (03-31-11)
29.	Meeting with Sodexo Representatives (04-01-11)

30.	RI Kids Count Factbook Meeting (04-04-11)
31.	NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting (04-04-11)
32.	Registration Process Meeting (04-04-11)
33.	NECAP Data Review—Meeting with Principals (04-04-11)
34.	Reading Week @ Coggeshall School—Kindergarten (04-05-11)
35.	Bicycle Program Meeting @ RIDE (04-05-11)
36.	RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust—Board of Trustees Meeting (04-06-11)
37.	East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (04-08-11)

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

9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS.

9.1 Meeting and Agenda Requests. The Committee reviewed Meeting and Agenda Requests—(1) Newport School Committee Special Meetings, to be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011; and Mondays, May 2 and May 9, 2011, for Fiscal Year 2012 School Budget Workshops; (2) Newport School Committee Special Meeting, to be held on Monday, April 18, 2011, at 4:45 p.m., to act on the RFP for Food Service Program; (3) Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Joint Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at the Newport City Hall, in the Council Chambers, at 6:30 p.m., for the district's presentation of the Fiscal Year 2012 School Budget; (4) Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at the Administration Center, at 11:30 a.m.; and (5) Pell Building Committee Meetings, to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at the Sullivan School Gymnasium—3 p.m.: Meeting with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management regarding SubSurface Investigation to Assess Soil Conditions; and 4 p.m.: Building Construction Update—Playscapes and Playground Areas and Site Landscaping. Mrs. Gaines requested that BuyBoard—A National Purchasing Cooperative be placed as a discussion item on the Committee's next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Ms. Bolan requested that, once again, that island districts revisit coordinating annual high school graduation dates.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 10.1** At 10:05 p.m., Ms. Bolan 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. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 10:20 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

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

Patrick K. Kelley
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk