

Approve 08/09/2011.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

1.1 Call to Order. Vice Chairperson Rebecca Bolan called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 7:00 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 (arrived at approximately 7:28 p.m.), 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, and Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso.

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

1.4 Moment of Silence. Moment of Silence was presented, as follows:

- **Anthony (Tony) Merrill:** who passed away on Saturday, May 28, 2011. He was the wife of Lilia Svizzerio of Newport and brother of Philip Welch and his wife, Jane, of Cocoa Beach, Florida. After graduating from Newton High School, in Massachusetts, Mr. Merrill served for many years with the United States Marine Corps and later joined the First Presbyterian Church in Newport, where he served as a deacon and was employed by the Newport Police Department for several years as both a Traffic Aide and School Crossing Guard. Mr. Merrill leaves three daughters, two stepchildren, 11 grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.
- **Anne B. Corcoran-Galvin:** who passed away on Sunday, June 12, 2011, at Newport Hospital. She was the wife of David A. Galvin. As a life-long resident of Newport, Mrs. Galvin was a graduate of Rogers High School in 1975 and Boston College in 1979. As an avid runner, she led Rogers High School Cross-Country Team to the State Championship Title and was Captain of the Boston College Women's Ice Hockey Team and named to the

All-Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Team. After graduating college, Mrs. Galvin competed in three Ocean State Marathons. After a brief teaching career, Mrs. Galvin was a Paralegal at Corcoran, Peckham, Hayes, and Galvin and then became a freelance title searcher and, most recently, was a Realtor for Gustave White Sotheby's International Realty. Within the community, Mrs. Galvin served as Volleyball and Tennis Coach for Rogers High School, Assistant Hockey Coach at St. George's School, President of the Fifth Ward Little League, and a volunteer for the Rogers Athletic Booster's Club. In addition to her husband, David A. Galvin, Mrs. Galvin leaves behind three children, Michael, Jack, and Annie, two parents, William and Mary Corcoran, three sisters, Ellie, Mardie, and Jane, three brothers, Bill, Andy, and Frank, and numerous cousins.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Taken out of Order—Placed after Agenda Item 4.0.—Student Activities.

2.1 Mr. Leary made a motion to amend the Agenda to move Item No. 2.0—Public Comment to take place after Item No. 4.0—Student Activities. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

3.0 Certificates of Achievement. On behalf of the Committee, Members presented Certificates of Achievement to students and staff who participated and received recognition in this year's following Competitions:

3.1 Newport Area Career and Technical Center:

Rhode Island Skills USA:

Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso and Skills USA Advisor Colleen Murray were present.

Gold Medal Winner:

Academy of Information Technology

Fiona Heaney*

*To move forward to the National Competition in Kansas City, Missouri

Silver Medal Winner:

Academy of Information Technology

Customer Service

Cassandra McCarthy

Other

Advertising Design & New Media

Competitor Pin Design

Alexander Fitzpatrick

Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills:

Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso and Automotive Teacher Daniel Pontes were present.

Third Place Winners

David Shaw
Joseph Pacheco

3.2 Music Program—All State Ensembles and Festivals:

Supervisor of the Arts Alan Bernstein and Music Teacher Ian Gollub were present. Music Teacher Vikki LePree was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

All-State

Rogers High School

Students:

- Chase Ceglie, Grade 10, Alto Sax, Sr. All-State Band
- Lukas Chaves, Grade 12, Flute, Senior All-State Band
- Morgan Eschenheimer, Grade 12, Clarinet, Senior All-State Band
- Michael Finn, Grade 11, Double Bass, Senior All-State Orchestra

Staff:

- Supervisor of the Arts Alan Bernstein, Jr. All-State Orchestra Conductor

Thompson Middle School at the Great East Music Festival

The Thompson Middle School Ensembles participated in the Great East Festival at Six Flags, in Agawam, MA, on May 21, 2011, earning the following awards:

Band, directed by Ian Gollub: Silver
Orchestra, directed by Alan Bernstein: Silver
Chorus, directed by Vikki LePree: Gold

Rogers High School at the Heritage Music Festival

The Rogers High School Ensembles participated in the Heritage Music Festival in New York City, from April 29th to May 1, 2011, earning the following awards:

Jazz Ensemble, directed by Alan Bernstein: Gold
Orchestra, directed by Alan Bernstein: Gold

Maestro Awards—Students:

Chase Ceglie and Jacob Kai Zamora each earned a “Maestro Award” for their performances at the festival.

[Only eight performers from all the participating groups earned these awards during the festival.]

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

4.1 Student Council Update: Cassandra McCarthy.

On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Gaines presented a farewell gift to both Outgoing Student Council President Cassandra McCarthy and Vice President Devin Woolhouse.

4.2: Introduction of 2011-2012 Student Council Officers.

On behalf of Rogers High School Principal Patricia DiCenso and Student Council Advisor Stephen Ferris, Outgoing President Cassandra McCarthy introduced the incoming Officers for the upcoming 2011-2012 Academic Year, as follows:

President:	Amy Richards
Vice President:	Gabi Hermes
Secretary:	Haley Murphy
Treasurer:	Kate Mitchell

RECESS. At approximately 7:21 p.m., the Committee took a brief recess. The Committee resumed its Meeting at approximately 7:28 p.m.

At approximately 7:28 p.m., Mr. Kelley arrived at the Meeting.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Taken out of Order—
[Placed after Agenda Item 4.0.—Student Activities.]

2.1 Public Comment was received from Newport Resident and Parent Azade Perin regarding concerns that the district does not provide a safe and appropriate academic environment for her children at Thompson Middle School. Ms. Perin provided documentation to the Committee to support her concerns. Chairperson Mr. Kelley stated that it might be appropriate for the Committee and Mrs. Perin to meet in an Executive Session, on a date and time to be determined, to discuss, in detail, her concerns.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the exception of Agenda Item No. 5.5, to be held for discussion and voted on as a separate item, at the request of Mr. Leary. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

5.1.1 Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 2, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 2, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.2 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 10, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 10, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.3 Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, May 4, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, May 4, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.4 Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 9, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 9, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.5 Special Joint Meeting Minutes with the Newport City Council of Wednesday, May 18, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Joint Meeting Minutes with the Newport City Council of Wednesday, May 18, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.6 Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 26, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, May 26, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions. No Personnel Actions were presented.

5.3 Requests for Home Instruction. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Request for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.4 Bid: Design-Build CPVC Fire Sprinkler System—Sullivan School at Triplett School (Lower Level). Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the Bid for “Design-Build CPVC Fire Sprinkler System—Sullivan School at Triplett School (Lower Level)” to Tri-State Fire Protection Co., Inc., of Smithfield, Rhode Island, in the total amount of \$24,400, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.5 Bid: Thompson Middle School—Concrete Stair Rehabilitation (Front – Exterior). At the request of Mr. Leary, discussion followed regarding the consideration of granite for the front exterior steps of Thompson Middle School. Dr. Flowers made a motion to pull the bid award recommendation off the Consent Agenda and rebid. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION.

6.1 Policy No. 5540: Newport Public Schools – Students – Disciplinary Policies – Dress and Grooming Code – FIRST READING (Amendment). Discussion followed. Dr. Flowers reviewed the proposed amendments to the existing Policy. Dr. Shoemaker suggested that, on Page 3 of the Proposed Policy Amendment, Incidents—Nos. 1 through 4 be defined separately to include the specific consequence. He further suggested that, on Page 3 of the Proposed Policy Amendment, to define the two words—“long shirt”. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt Policy No. 5540: Newport Public Schools – Students – Disciplinary Policies – Dress and Grooming Code, for FIRST READING, as amended, with suggested changes. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Pell School Building Committee—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, since the School Committee’s Meeting of Tuesday, May 10, 2011, the Building Committee met on Tuesday, May 24 and Tuesday, June 7, 2011, to review and finalize recommendations so that the district could move forward with the Project’s Bid Package. He reminded the Committee of its Special School Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 23, 2011, beginning at 5 p.m., at Thompson Middle School, in the Cafeteria, for HMFH Architects, SBS (Strategic Building Solutions), the Owner’s Representative, and the Pell Building Committee to provide its recommendations to the Committee for action. Discussion followed. Dr. Ambrogi stated that Invitations to state and local officials, Building Committee Members, community, and staff would be forwarded to encourage their attendance and input.

- 7.2 Sullivan School Students to Triplett School—Transition Plan—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi outlined the progress made to date regarding the move of Sullivan School to Triplett School for next year—awarding the Bid for the Sprinkler System at Triplett School earlier in the evening; working with the moving company to supply boxes to the professional staff; moving the appropriate materials from Sullivan School to the Triplett site; and then, according to School Committee Policy, the City would be informed, so that they may see if they wish to gain custody of any of the supplies and materials remaining; and then district would advertise and try to sell the remaining goods, as was done when both Sheffield and Carey Schools were closed. Discussion followed.
- 7.3 Newport Area Career and Technical Center Building Acquisition—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the Agreement, between the City, School Committee, and the State of Rhode Island, to transfer the Newport Area Career and Technical Center Building to the City of Newport and the Newport School Committee had been forwarded to the City for Mayor Waluk's signature; and, that as soon as he has signed it, School Committee Chairperson Mr. Kelley would sign it, and the district would deliver it to the Rhode Island Department of Education for the appropriate signatures. Dr. Ambrogi further stated that the Board of Regents, at their upcoming meeting this Thursday, is scheduled to approve the Agreement, as the City had approved it at their Council Meeting held last Wednesday evening, June 8, 2011. He indicated that he was hopeful to soon have confirmation on the actual payment dates to the school district; and, once that happens, the district would then go out to bid for the work that needed to be done in the Technical Center Building. Discussion followed.
- 7.4 Fiscal Year 2012 School Budget—Next Steps.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget currently exists, there is a shortfall of approximately \$456,622, and he was currently working with the Interim Business Managers to ascertain whether or not there would be any changes in the district's Available Balance calculations for this year and whether or not there would be any changes in next year's Budget, as a result of recent retirees and other updated information. As the City Council passed its Fiscal Year 2012 Budget on June 8, 2011, with no additional allocations to the School Department, additional budget meetings would be scheduled with the Committee in order to ascertain next steps needed to address the \$456,622 budget shortfall and to approve next year's School Budget before the end of the current Fiscal Year.

7.5 Newport School Committee Wellness Subcommittee—Establish Group to Address Issues of Child Abuse Prevention. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that Dr. Flowers had requested that this Item be placed on the Agenda for discussion. He stated that they both had recently attended the “Child Abuse Prevention and Children’s Mental Health Summit”, sponsored by the Rhode Island East Bay Family Care Community Partnership, which is comprised of four key Rhode Island Social Service Agencies: Child and Family Services, East Bay Community Action Program, Newport County Community Mental Health Center, and East Bay Center. As a result, Dr. Flowers requested that a Child Abuse Prevention Group be developed, as a separate focus, under the umbrella of the School Committee’s Wellness Subcommittee. Discussion followed. The Committee supported Dr. Flowers request and asked that she develop an action plan for the establishment of the Child Abuse Prevention Group and report back to the Committee during the summer outlining next steps.

7.6 Subcommittee Reports. Mr. Leary updated the Committee on the ongoing efforts of the Newport Substance Abuse Task Force, and Dr. Shoemaker updated the Committee on the progress to date of the Early Intervention Program (Baby Steps).

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. No Expenditure and Revenue Reports were presented.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Enrollment Reports, as of May 31, 2011. 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. No Damage Reports were presented.

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

1.	Pell Meeting—Play Structures (05-10-11)
2.	TMS Credit Recovery Program Meeting (05-11-11)
3.	JROTC Annual Awards Ceremony (05-11-11)
4.	East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (05-12-11)
5.	First Student Transportation Meeting (05-12-11)
6.	RI School Superintendents Association & RI Association of Business Officials Annual Meeting (05-13-11)
7.	Early Intervention Program Meeting (05-16-11)
8.	NSC & NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (05-17-11)
9.	Thompson Middle School Scheduling Meeting (05-17-11)

10.	An Even Start in Newport Awards Celebration @ CCRI (05-18-11)
11.	Strategic Building Solutions/HMFH Architects Teleconference Meeting (05-19-11)
12.	NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting (05-19-11)
13.	Newport Bike to Work Day & Community Bike Fair – Press Conference (05-20-11)
14.	RHS Students—Golden Dozen Student Breakfast Ceremony (05-23-11)
15.	Pell Building Committee Meeting—Cost Estimates (05-24-11)
16.	RI School Superintendents Association Meeting—BEP Program—Legal (05-25-11)
17.	RHS Annual Honors Night (05-25-11)
18.	SCORES Leadership Meeting (05-26-11)
19.	NACTC Building Transfer On-Site Meeting with RIDE & Governor’s Commission on Disabilities (05-27-11)
20.	RI Public Expenditure Council Regionalization Meeting (06-01-11)
21.	Pell Planning Meeting with Newport Fire Department Officials (06-01-11)
22.	NSC & NCC Joint Meeting—School Budget Presentation (06-01-11)
23.	Summer Programming Meeting—Newport Community School (TMS & RHS) (06-02-11)
24.	Child Abuse Mental Health Summit—Sponsored by Child & Family Services (06-06-11)
25.	Commissioner Gist—Visit to Newport—Educators’ Meeting (06-06-11)
26.	Commissioner Gist—Visit to Newport—Community Forum (06-06-11)
27.	Underwood School—Reading to Kindergarten Class (06-07-11)
28.	Pell Building Committee Meeting (06-07-11)
29.	National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (06-07-11)
30.	Aquidneck Island Adult Learning Center Graduation Ceremony (06-07-11)
31.	MET School Meeting (06-08-11)
32.	RHS Social Studies Award Presentation (06-10-11)
33.	RHS Graduation Ceremony (06-10-11)
34.	Family Service Coordinators’ Budget Meeting (06-13-11)
35.	TMS National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony (06-13-11)
36.	Newport Community School Annual Meeting @ Ochre Court (06-14-11)

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 Meeting of Thursday, June 23, 2011, for next Steps in the Pell School Construction Process; and for awarding the Provider for next year’s Food Service Program; (2) Additional Budget Meetings to ascertain and approve the funding allocation for next year’s Budget; and (3) to hold a Truancy Community Summit during the summer to develop a plan of action to address truancy in the district.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 10.1** At 8:20 p.m., Mrs. 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 8:56 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:57 p.m., Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Patrick K. Kelley
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk