

Approve 08/09/2011.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Special Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2011, 6:15 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

1.1 Call to Order. Chairperson Mr. Kelley called the Special Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 6:15 p.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center, 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.

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

2.0 ACTION ITEMS.

2.1 School Budget—Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 School Budget in the amount of \$36,484,760. (Documentation Attached). Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary and Mr. Phelan stated that they would not be supporting the motion, citing the middle school cluster model had not been eliminated in the recommended Budget. Mr. Phelan distributed and spoke to the Berkshire Report of 2005, referencing the middle school cluster model. Realizing the middle school cluster model remains a contractual issue within the Teachers' Association of Newport (TAN), Committee Members indicated that a positive vote for the Budget does not indicate support for the cluster model. The motion carried (5-2). Voting against the motion were: Robert J. Leary and Thomas S. Phelan, citing that they could not support the continuation of the middle school cluster model.

2.2 Personnel Actions.

At the request of Mr. Kelley, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Appointments/Non-Tenured and Tenured Recalls, as presented, with the exception of the Recall/Non-Tenured Teaching Position, noted third from the bottom, on the list, to be taken as a separate vote. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried (5-2). Voting against the motion were: Robert J. Leary

and Thomas S. Phelan, both citing that they could not support the continuation of the middle school cluster model.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Non-Tenured Recall of the individual noted third from the bottom on the list. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried (4-1-2). Recused was: Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley, citing that he was related to the Recall/Non-Tenured Teacher indicated third from the bottom on the list. Voting against the motion were: Robert J. Leary and Thomas S. Phelan, both citing that they could not support the continuation of the middle school cluster model.

APPOINTMENTS—

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Megan Anderson	Academic Recovery Program - TMS	July 1, 2011
Elizabeth Raffa	Academic Recovery Program - TMS	July 1, 2011

Recalls (Non-tenured – rescission of non-renewal of contract)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Alaina Behbehani	Immediately
Donna Bezila	Immediately
Hope Chella	Immediately
Britany Coleman	Immediately
Elizabeth Copeley	Immediately
Kacie Gallo	Immediately
Ian Gollub	Immediately
Allison Gontero	Immediately
Jennifer Green	Immediately
Katharine Hirst	Immediately
Christine Korney	Immediately
Andrew Martucci	Immediately
Megan McCauley	Immediately
Amanda Paloian	Immediately
Jessica Rosa	Immediately
Maria Sabetta	(recall from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE) Immediately
Amie Shinego	Immediately
Lisa Sullivan	Immediately
Marlena Williams	Immediately
Kaitlin Wilson	Immediately

Recalls (Tenured – rescission of suspension/layoff)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rachel Andrews	Immediately
Stephanie DeAscentis	Immediately
Scott Dickison	Immediately
John Dusel	Immediately
John Heino	Immediately

Michal Kuriscak
Stacey Lyon
Lee Russell
James Silva

Immediately
Immediately
Immediately
Immediately

3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 3.1 At 6:28 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; (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation; and (a)(8)(b) review of student matter, and the person or persons affected have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may request that the discussion be held in an open session. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 7:14 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 7:15 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Patrick K. Kelley
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

NEWPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS					
REVENUE BUDGET					
FY2012					
					Budget
Description					2011-2012
FEDERAL REVENUES:					
PL-847				\$	400,000
E-RATE REFUND				\$	45,000
JROTC REIMBURSEMENT				\$	56,000
STIMULUS				\$	-
MEDICAID				\$	450,000
TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUES				\$	951,000
STATE REVENUES					
Unrestricted					
GROUP HOME TUITIONS				\$	480,000
OPERATIONS AID				\$	7,389,578
VOCATIONAL EQUITY FUND				\$	98,000
LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE				\$	82,069
LITERACY AID				\$	187,017
FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN				\$	77,500
CHARTER AID				\$	746
Restricted					
EARLY CHILDHOOD				\$	142,226
STUDENT EQUITY				\$	1,764,862
FEDERAL JOBS BILL ALLOCATION				\$	495,393
TOTAL STATE AID				\$	10,717,391
LOCAL REVENUES					
TUITIONS				\$	820,800
RENTAL INCOME				\$	36,200
INDIRECT COSTS				\$	25,000
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUES				\$	882,000
REAPPROPRIATION OF FUND BALANCE				\$	1,370,211
CITY TAXES APPROPRIATION					\$22,564,158
TOTAL REVENUES				\$	36,484,760

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY10 ACTUAL EXPENDED	FY11 ACTUAL BUDGET	FY12 BUDGET REQUEST	FY12 BUDGET APPROVED BY SC
51110	Regular Salaries	18,823,109	19,117,882	18,408,413	
51112	Vacation - support staff	0	35,000	23,000	
51131	Differential Pay	99,462	118,267	119,450	
51113	Professional Days			219,037	
51200	Regular Overtime - support staff	86,340	93,000	96,928	
51322	Severance	128,593	60,000	120,000	
51500	Salaries Expense (Non-Pensionable) 4000	92,569	95,346	98,206	
	TOTAL SALARIES	19,230,073	19,519,495	19,085,034	
52101	Health and Medical Premiums	3,017,977	3,416,974	3,354,610	
52102	Life	76,473	74,364	79,587	
52103	Dental	234,876	253,012	242,892	
52109	Medical Buyback Payments	355,749	361,860	383,707	
52201	Retiree Benefits	3,623,416	4,247,569	4,185,747	
52203	Teacher&Administrative Pension/Survivor Ben. - ERSRI	2,476,297	2,179,344	2,263,423	
52302	FICA/Medicare	270,777	574,998	537,839	
52501	Unemployment Insurance	80,168	90,000	83,002	
52710	Worker's Compensation Premium	127,449	140,034	127,655	
52910	Auto Allowance	17,323	19,812	19,800	
	TOTAL BENEFITS	10,280,505	11,357,967	11,278,262	

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY10 ACTUAL EXPENDED	FY11 ACTUAL BUDGET	FY12 BUDGET REQUEST	FY12 BUDGET APPROVED BY SC
53200	Professional Educational Services	264,056	254,328	0	
53204	Therapists	53,198	60,487	36,906	
53205	Psychologists - Contracted	2,815	12,500	6,500	
53207	Interpreters	6,630	3,000	5,813	
53209	Bus Assistants/Monitors	16,155	17,416	166,764	
53213	Evaluation Services	19,842	20,106	20,741	
53216	Tutoring Services	0	11,528	11,690	
53220	Professional Educational Services	0	0	179,736	
53301	Professional Development and Training	-1,684	5,750	24,028	
53303	Conference / Workshop	24,680	17,960	12,300	
53400	Other Professional Services	350,960	301,448	0	
53402	Legal	19,626	20,000	45,000	
53406	Other Services	25,190	12,600	0	
53413	Crossing Guards	42,912	65,000	41,982	
53414	Medicaid Claims Provider	26,564	25,000	25,000	
53416	Officials/Referees	30,368	38,252	35,566	
53501	Data Processing and Coding Services	15,000	17,340	17,340	
53502	Other Technical Services	5,472	36,246	1,800	
53503	Testing	14,300	21,500	53,762	
53701	Other Charges	0	400	0	
53705	Postage	19,632	30,095	32,577	
	TOTAL PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES	935,716	970,956	717,505	

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY10 ACTUAL EXPENDED	FY11 ACTUAL BUDGET	FY12 BUDGET REQUEST	FY12 BUDGET APPROVED BY SC
54201	Rubbish Disposal Services	28,917	41,943	35,902	
54203	Custodial Services	0	600	0	
54204	Groundskeeping Services	24,509	24,419	21,559	
54310	Non-Tech Repairs and Maintenance	36,646	39,925	42,723	
54311	Maint & Repair, Furniture/Fixtures & Equipment	47,881	40,880	38,560	
54312	Maintenance & Repair - Buildings And Grounds	134,795	97,109	95,622	
54320	Technology-Related Repairs and Maintenance	16,973	19,026	17,900	
54402	Water/Sewage	70,152	68,204	77,545	
54403	Communications to Telephone	56,424	50,419	62,340	
54404	Energy Management Services	0	0	146,887	
54603	Rentals of Computers and Related Equipment	5,295	27,470	21,128	
54902	Alarm & Fire Safety Services	16,782	26,885	20,245	
	TOTAL PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES	438,374	436,880	580,411	
55111	Transportation Contractors	453,490	1,018,764	966,433	
55201	Property/Liability Insurance	119,093	130,373	108,695	
55401	Advertising Costs	19,093	37,900	29,132	
55501	Printing	13,713	24,526	14,906	
55640	Tuition to Educational Service Agencies	1,906,422	1,831,317	2,034,294	
55803	Employee Travel - Non-Teachers	485	3,800	4,800	
55809	Employee Travel - Teachers	1,600	2,360	6,200	
	TOTAL OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES	2,513,896	3,049,040	3,164,460	

OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY10 ACTUAL EXPENDED	FY11 ACTUAL BUDGET	FY12 BUDGET REQUEST	FY12 BUDGET APPROVED BY SC
56101	General Supplies and Materials	182,295	203,077	230,148	
56103	Software	59,899	98,650	0	
56104	Library And Audio-Visual	150	150	150	
56113	Graduation Supplies	0	2,430	5,088	
56115	Medical Supplies	11,252	11,182	10,482	
56116	Athletic Supplies	24,222	17,988	19,311	
56201	Natural Gas	78,812	98,328	264,470	
56202	Gasoline	7,560	14,000	14,000	
56203	Diesel Fuel	82,748	108,088	118,897	
56209	Fuel Oil	273,078	292,918	102,248	
56215	Electricity	345,305	413,735	342,814	
56219	Custodial Supplies	176,589	178,336	162,033	
56401	Textbooks	109,347	91,070	148,674	
56402	Library Books	9,441	7,338	4,010	
56403	Reference Books	1,655	1,157	1,644	
56404	Subscriptions and Periodicals	4,705	5,462	4,204	
56501	Technology-Related Supplies	10,452	13,965	31,725	
	TOTAL SUPPLIES	1,377,510	1,557,875	1,459,898	
57102	Land Improvements - Repair TMS ext. concrete stairs	0	0	0	
57202	Building Improvements - Rogers and Triplett	0	10,948	0	
57309	Technology-Related Hardware	29,901	25,081	61,647	
57311	Technology Software	49,539	47,894	111,532	
57312	Other Equipment	23,816	15,615	0	
	TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS/IMPROVEMENTS	103,256	99,538	173,179	0
58101	Professional Organization Fees	82,752	69,389	26,011	
	TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS	82,752	69,389	26,011	0
	TOTAL SALARIES AND BENEFITS	29,510,578	30,877,463	30,363,296	0
	TOTAL ALL EXPENSE ACCOUNTS	5,451,504	6,183,678	6,121,464	0
	GRAND TOTAL BUDGET/EXPENDITURES	34,962,082	37,061,140	36,484,760	0
			\$ INCREASE	(576,380)	
			% INCREASE	-1.56%	

- Implementing a consistent curriculum across all elementary schools
- Providing intensive job embedded professional development to improve instruction with consistent follow-up at the school level

CLASS SIZE

While research shows a strong correlation between class size and student achievement in grades K through 3, research provides little validation about the relationship between class size and student achievement in grades 4 through 12. Nonetheless, Newport class sizes are extremely low not only in grades K through 3 but in the upper elementary, middle school and high school grades as well. Indeed, Newport class sizes are significantly lower than those in other Rhode Island school districts and far lower than those seen nationally. Moreover, because class sizes provided for in the Teachers Association of Newport (TAN) contract are treated as absolute maximums rather than class size averages, as is common in most other districts, class sizes have historically been even lower than those provided for in the contract.

Not only are the maximum class sizes in Newport lower than in other area school districts but actual class sizes are lower than the contract maximums. Indeed, over 70 percent of Newport classes operate below the maximum capacity prescribed by contract. A number of factors contribute to this situation.

Elementary school configuration. Operating six elementary schools when only five are needed to house the district's elementary population makes it extremely difficult to maximize class size. Not surprisingly, given that a student population needed to populate five schools is divided among six schools the class sizes at each elementary grade level are approximately five-sixth or 83.3 percent of the contract maximum.

Elementary class configurations. The school department does not use alternative approaches to class configurations that many other school departments have employed to maximize class size and manage teacher service in the face of declining enrollment and changing demographics. For example, while many school departments configure classes based on desired average class sizes the TAN contract requires that the department consider only maximum class sizes. In addition, many school districts have created elementary multi-grade classrooms but no multi-grade classrooms have been established in Newport.

Middle school cluster model. The TAN contract specifies that class sizes at the middle school cannot exceed 23 students. In addition, however, the contract also specifies that a cluster of students (i.e., a group of students that will be served by the same four teachers) cannot exceed 90 students in grades 6 and 7 and 92 students in grade 8. This additional constraint makes it extremely difficult to configure individual classes that approach the maximum of 23 specified by the contract. Indeed, based on the current contract language, a new cluster must be added if the number of students exceeds the cluster maximum. Therefore the school department must bear the cost of four additional teachers to accommodate just a handful of students.