

Approve 11/08/2011.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 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 7:00 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, 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 Grants, Professional Development, and Community Involvement Jacqueline Naspo, Ed.D.

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

1.4 Moment of Silence.

- Myra Horgan Duvally: who passed away on Tuesday, September 27, 2011. Born in Newport, she was the daughter of the late Dr. Frank Anthony Duvally and Elizabeth Horgan Duvally. Graduating from the Wheeler School in Providence and Finch College in New York City, Ms. Duvally lived a life of philanthropy and charitable works, helping to create the Newport Music Festival, founding the Benefactors of the Arts, and the Parent Organization of the Secret Garden Tour, which over its 27 years of existence, raised over \$1M for arts education funding for Aquidneck Island's three public school systems; and, most recently, she received the 2008 Laurel Award from the Preservation Society of Newport County in recognition of her crucial role in fostering a national recognition of Newport's horticultural treasures and in the creation of the Hunter House Garden, given in memory of her mother. Ms. Duvally's brother, Frank Anthony Duvally, preceded her in death; and, she leaves

behind her sister, Elizabeth Horgan Duvally Bessinger, of Tiverton, and two nephews and their families.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 Resolutions.

3.1 Resolution—2012 Newport Teacher of the Year. On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, Vice Chairperson Rebecca Bolan presented Laura Caster with a Resolution (attached) for being named the 2012 Newport Teacher of the Year. Ms. Caster gave special thanks to the school community for receiving this honor. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to pass the Resolution, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

4.1 Student Council Update: Amy Richards. Presenting for Student Council President and School Committee Representative Amy Richards was Vice President Gabriel Hermes, who provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council planned for this fall—Spirit Week; Athletics; Senior Projects; and NWEA Testing.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

5.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 13, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 13, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

APPOINTMENTS.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of: Nichole Cardoza, ESL Teacher (.5 FTE), Underwood School, effective October 17, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of: Maura Cousins Daley, Spanish Teacher (.6 FTE),

Rogers High School, effective October 17, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

APPOINTMENT—Stipend One-Year Only Position.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment for a Stipend One-Year Only Position of: Jan Campbell, Bus/Playground Duty—Coggeshall School, effective September 1, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

RECALL.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Recall of: Margaret Leary, Special Education—Para Educator, Cranston-Calvert School, effective October 11, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

RETIREMENT.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Retirement of: William Kluth, Maintenance—Rogers High School, effective September 29, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

RESIGNATION.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Justin Buffman, Boys Basketball Coach, Thompson Middle School, effective September 23, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

RENEWALS—2011 – 2012 CONTRACTS FOR ADMINISTRATORS.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Renewals—2011-2012 Contracts for Administrators, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Mr. Kelley and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the following changes to the Administrators' Contract were made: (a) elimination of life-time health benefits—there will no longer be the ability to have health care paid for by the Newport Public Schools once an administrator reaches Medicare age (65); (b) the buyback provisions are eliminated; and (c) administrators may receive up to a two percent (2%) merit pay increase. Discussion followed.

Mr. Leary commended the Committee's efforts regarding the 2011-2012 Contracts for Administrators. He did indicate, however, that he wanted the elimination of the 25 days offered as pay for unused vacation days upon an administrator exiting the district and, therefore, would not be supporting the motion. He also stated to the other School Committee Members that he hoped that they would do the same to the Teachers' Association of Newport and Council 94—Local 841, eliminating life-time health benefits, as they did to the administrators, and not fold their tent. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.

Kimerbly Behan	Principal, Underwood School
Jennifer Booth	Principal, Cranston-Calvert School
Robert Campion	Assistant Principal, Thompson Middle School
Jaime Crowley	Principal, Thompson Middle School
Patricia DiCenso	Principal, Rogers High School
Amy Donnelly Roche	Director of Student Services
Frances Eames	Director of Human Resources
Paul Fagan	Director of Property Services
Michael Franco	Principal, Coggeshall School
Caroline Frey	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Wendy Gasior	Administrative Assistant to Superintendent
Eddie Merritt	Attendance Facilitator
John Miley	Director of Administrative Services/ Business Manager
Jacqueline Naspo	Director of Grants, Professional Development, and Community Involvement
James Nelson	Assistant Principal, Rogers High School
Lee Rabbitt	Director of Technology
Doreen Schlackman	School Accountability Specialist/ Info. System Manager

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

5.4 Bid: Newport Area Career and Technical Center/Administration Building—Exterior Door Replacement. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the Bid for "Newport Area Career and Technical Center/Administration Building—Exterior Door Replacement" to New England School Services of Medford, Massachusetts, in the total amount of \$44,942.00, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

- 6.1 HMFH Architects—Contract—Approval of Professional Services Supplements.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed two Professional Services Supplements that are required, according to state law and regulations, to continue with the Pell School construction project:

Professional Services Supplement No. 15 relates to the state requirement that someone be on site during the demolition to monitor the asbestos removal and take air samplings because of the hazardous materials found at Sullivan School, which would be destroyed during the demolition project.

Professional Services Supplement No. 16 is for additional arsenic testing, required by the State of Rhode Island, to determine what parts of the ground of Sullivan School site need to be removed, as a result of the concentration of arsenic. These state requirements have to be adhered to by law and have unfortunately added to the cost of the project.

Dr. Ambrogi stated that these Supplements have been reviewed by Owner's Representative Jon Winikur and appear to be in order and recommended that they be approved.

Ms. Bolan made a motion to approve Professional Services Supplements agreed to between the Newport Public Schools and HMFH Architects—No. 15 and No. 16. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). The Member voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary. Mr. Leary stated his support for the hiring of Rhode Island Companies.

- 6.2 A.A. Asbestos Abatement Co., Inc.—Contract—Approval of Change Orders.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed two Change Orders (Temporary Fence—\$3,000 and Crushed Stone—\$33,000) that are required to continue with the demolition phase of the new school construction project. He stated that these Change Orders result in a net credit of \$38,000 and have been reviewed by both HMFH Architect Laura Wernick and Owner's Representative Jon Winikur and appear to be in order and recommended that they be approved.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve Change Orders agreed to between the Newport Public Schools and A.A. Asbestos Abatement Co., Inc.—No. 001 and No. 002. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Pell School Building—Update.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the Pell School Construction Process is on schedule. He stated that demolition is underway, and it is hoped that the groundbreaking ceremony for the building of the new Pell School would take place at some time during the month of November. He also stated that the bids are out to the five (5) contractors who were pre-approved and are due to be opened on Monday, October 17, 2011. The School Committee is on target for awarding a contract to the successful bidder on Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

Discussion followed regarding the unexpected increase in enrollment at the elementary level and what the implications of that enrollment increase might be for the Pell School. According to the most recent enrollment projections from Whitehall Associates and New England School Development Council (NESDEC), the unexpected increase in enrollment was not realized in the projections. Dr. Ambrogi stated that it appears as though this bump in enrollment could not have been reasonably foreseen; and, at this point in time, the district is unsure as to whether or not this is anomaly for one year or if it is an indicator of a trend.

7.2 Truancy Summit—Next Steps.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that several positive things have happened regarding the follow-up from the Truancy Summit, as follows:

1. RIPTA has reinstated bus runs from the Gateway Center to Rogers High School. This will facilitate youngsters getting to school should they miss the school bus; and State Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed was publicly thanked for her request to RIPTA in support of the district's request;
2. The district held a preliminary meeting with Child & Family Services regarding their offer "to adopt" 20 families in a wrap-around service to support parents in supporting their children. It is believed that, by this approach, individual student's attendance will improve; and Dr. Ambrogi publicly thanked Child & Family Services President and Chief Executive Director Peter DiBari and his staff for spearheading this effort;

3. Approximately 121 letters were sent out to parents/guardians encouraging them to ensure their children attend school regularly;
4. The District will have to wait until the Family Court Judiciary is fully staffed before they will be able to visit Newport schools to speak with students at-risk; but, an initial outreach has been made to them;
5. The Superintendent will be meeting with representatives of the NAACP to review the substance of their letter to the Superintendent dated September 27, 2011; and
6. The district has received information from the Juvenile Hearing Board that they wish to continue to have cases referred to them through the Police Department and not directly from the Newport Public Schools. Dr. Ambrogi stated that he would be reaching out to the Police Department to see how the district can work through them to ensure that there is involvement with the Hearing Board in these cases.

Discussion followed.

7.3 Teacher Evaluation Program. At the request of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, Director of Grants, Professional Development, and Community Involvement Dr. Jacqueline Naspo provided a brief overview of the Teacher Evaluation Program, as outlined by the Rhode Island Department of Education: Gradual Implementation Defined; Process for Implementation; and Final Effectiveness—Projected Outcomes. Discussion followed. Each Member was provided with a copy of the “The Rhode Island Model: Teacher Guidebook—2011-2012.

7.4 Budget Forecast. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the unaudited Fiscal Year 2011 Closeout and Tentative Budget Forecast. He stated that the current budget forecast represents approximately \$100,000 more in expenses than budgeted and that he would work hard between now and the end of the year to be sure the district continues to operate in the black. He then reviewed potential funding sources for this year’s Budget, indicating an estimated shortfall of \$7,000. Discussion followed.

7.5 Subcommittee Reports. There were no Subcommittee Reports presented.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Discussion held under Agenda Item 7.4—Budget Forecast. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Discussion held under Agenda Item No. 7.1—Pell School Building—Update. Dr. Flowers made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mrs. Gaines 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.	Meeting with Student Attendance Facilitator – Truancy (09-13-11)
2.	Meeting with EBCAP Director – Family Services Coordinators (09-14-11)
3.	Meeting with Child & Family President and CEO – Truancy (09-15-11)
4.	Promise Neighborhood Grant Committee Meeting @ Newport Housing Authority (09-19-11)
5.	SCORES Leadership Agenda Review with Sharon Carter (09-19-11)
6.	Weekly DeBrief Meeting with SBS (Strategic Building Solutions)—Owner’s Representative re: Pell (09-20-11)
7.	Telephone Conference with RIPTA Official – Restoring Bus Route to Rogers High School (09-20-11)
8.	Meeting with First Student (09-21-11)
9.	Meeting with Non-Violence Institute—Thompson Middle School Initiative (09-21-11)
10.	SCORES Inter-Program Committee Leadership Team Meeting (09-22-11)
11.	Meeting with EBCAP Director – Family Service Coordinators (09-22-11)
12.	Meeting with Director of Curriculum and Instruction—Re: Save the Bay First Beach Grant (09-23-11)
13.	Military Officers’ Association of America—Guest Speaker--@ Officers’ Club (09-23-11)
14.	Teacher Evaluation Program Meeting with Administrators (09-26-11)
15.	C21 Learning Center Budget Meeting (09-26-11)
16.	Pell Meeting @ RIDE (09-27-11)
17.	Weekly DeBrief Meeting with SBS (Strategic Building Solutions)—Owner’s Representative re: Pell (09-27-11)
18.	NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (09-27-11)
19.	Nutrition Advisory Committee Meeting (09-27-11)
20.	Meeting with Child & Family Representatives, School Department Personnel, and East Bay Community Action Program Representatives—Truancy—Wraparound Services (09-28-11)
21.	RI Association of School Business Officials Meeting: Re: Commissioner (RIDE’s Vision for the 2012 Academic Year); and

	Re: Employees Retirement System of RI (Post Retirement Employment Update) – (09-29-11)
22.	Meeting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield re: Plan 65 (10-03-11)
23.	RI Kids Count Meeting—Newport Data (10-04-11)
24.	Weekly DeBrief Meeting with SBS (Strategic Building Solutions)—Owner's Representative re: Pell (10-04-11)

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, as follows:

- Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 4 p.m.: Pell Building Committee Meeting;
- Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 5 p.m.: Newport School Committee Special Meeting;
- Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 11 a.m.: Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting; and
- To schedule a Meeting Date for the Newport School Committee's Facilities Subcommittee.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 10.1** At 8:13 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. Dr. Shoemaker seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At 8:39 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

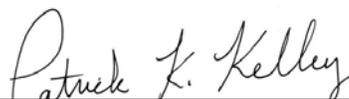
At 8:40 p.m., Dr. Flowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Patrick K. Kelley
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

- WHEREAS:** Laura Caster started her teaching career in the Newport Public Schools in September, 2004, as a special education teacher; and
- WHEREAS:** Laura Caster continued her teaching career as an exceptional and motivating teacher; and
- WHEREAS:** Laura Caster has been active within the school community in professional development and teacher mentoring activities, such as the: Coach of the Newport Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) Team at the elementary level; and
- WHEREAS:** Laura Caster has been a Member of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Network of Rhode Island; and
- WHEREAS:** Laura Caster has been a Partner with Salve Regina University in providing practicum students and student teachers with support, and Presenter as a classroom panelist at Salve Regina University on the topic of servicing students with disabilities in inclusion; and
- WHEREAS:** Laura Caster has proven herself to be a role model to the Special Education School Community by her dedication and professional manner; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED:** That Laura Caster be commended by the Newport School Committee as the “**2012 Newport Teacher of the Year**” and as the Newport Public Schools’ Nominee to the Rhode Island Department of Education for consideration as the “**2012 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year**”; **THEREFORE BE IT ALSO**
- RESOLVED:** That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee and the original to be presented to Laura Caster as an expression of our appreciation for her performance as a truly professional and outstanding member of the educational community and as one who has gained the respect of those whom she has served so well.
- WHERETO:** The following bear witness:



Chairperson, On Behalf of the Newport School Committee



Superintendent of Schools, On Behalf of the Newport Public Schools