

Approve 01/10/2012.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 13, 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 (arrived at 7:04 p.m.). School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.

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

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

- **Nancy Marie (Parsonage) Harmon:** who passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2011. Born in Newport, she was the daughter of the late John Joseph Parsonage and Adele (Oakley) Parsonage. Mrs. Harmon was employed by the Newport School Department for thirty years as a secretary, retiring in 1993, and continued to work part-time as a retiree for the school department for several years. She was very active as a member of Council 94—Local 841, holding many offices. She was predeceased by her husband Robert John Harmon of 51 years, her daughter Deborah Marie Harmon, her brothers John Joseph Parsonage of Middletown and Paul Parsonage of Middletown and South Carolina, her sisters Ellen A. Wright and her husband Graham of Naples, Florida, and Marilyn E. Edenbach and her husband William of Newport, RI, as well as many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 Resolutions.

**3.1 Resolution—Rogers High School Football Team—
Division III State Champions.**

Rogers High School Football Coach Frank Newsome and Team Players were present to accept the School Committee's Resolution to the Rogers High School Football Team in recognition of their accomplishments as this year's "Division III State Champions", as read aloud by Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley. 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. Student Council President and School Committee Representative Amy Richards provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council: Recognition to the Rogers High School Football Team as Division III State Champions, Winter Sports Season, Mock Trial Team, Mid-Term Examinations, Winter Break, Holiday Winter Concert, and Musical "Annie".

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

Taken Out of Order.

5.2 Personnel Actions—APPOINTMENT.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of: James Nelson, Principal, Rogers High School, effective December 14, 2011. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

At approximately 7:17 p.m., the Committee took a brief recess.
At approximately 7:22 p.m., the Committee resumed its meeting.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

5.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 8, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.2 Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 6 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of

the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 6 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.3 Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, November 17, 2011.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, November 17, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.4 Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 6, 2011, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

APPOINTMENT.

Taken out of Order after Item 4.1: Student Council Update.

RECALLS.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Recall of: Kristen Seyster, Special Education Para Educator, Sullivan School, effective December 14, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Recall of: Katelyn Zerba, Special Education Para Educator, Cranston-Calvert School, effective December 14, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

RESIGNATION.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of: Jamie Berdy, Cheerleading Co-Coach, Thompson Middle School, effective December 1, 2011. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Leave of Absence of: Candace Lewia, Maternity Leave, Science Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective March 7, 2012 to June 19, 2012. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 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. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary and Dr. Shoemaker requested that when Requests for Home Instruction come before the Committee, to provide the total number of students being home instructed and, of that total, how many of those students come from military families. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

- 6.1 Authorization—Submission of Space Allocation Exception to RIDE (Rhode Island Department of Education).**

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the travel of the Pell School Construction Project and the decision rendered by the Commissioner of Education regarding the Pell Citizens Group Complaint. As part of that decision, Dr. Ambrogi requested that the Committee authorize the submission of a Space Allocation Exception to the Rhode Island Department of Education for the proposed cafeteria and gymnasium. Should the Committee concur, the Submission would be reviewed by the Rhode Island Department of Education and recommended to the Board of Regents on Thursday, January 5, 2012. He reiterated that the district did not agree with the Commissioner's decision; but, to appeal the decision would delay the Project.

Public comment was received from: Resident and Architect James Asbel.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to authorize the submission of space allocation exception to the Rhode Island Department of Education for the cafeteria size and the size of the gymnasium of the new Pell School. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- 7.1 Nutrition Advisory Committee—Update.**

School Committee Member Ms. Bolan provided an update on the Nutrition Advisory Committee's continued efforts to accomplish its goals and objectives for this school year and the performance to date of the district's new food service vendor, Chartwells.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided an update on the participation and cost of the district's food service program with Chartwells and reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement for the first

three months. Discussion followed regarding the reasons higher than normal costs during the month of September occurred: lack of commodities; employee training and orientation; delayed arrival of new truck; kitchen and computer start-up supplies; purchasing of uniforms; and merchandising, signage, and posters. Dr. Ambrogi indicated that most of these expenditures resulted in one-time start up costs and that the district would continually analyze the November billing in order to provide a better estimate of the annual cost for this new food service program.

- 7.2 Truancy Summit—Next Steps.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and School Attendance Facilitator Eddie Merritt provided the Committee with an update on the steps taken to date to address the issue of truancy: letters sent to parents; several meetings held with Child and Family Services to refer appropriate families to a more intensive support system; reinstatement of the Rogers High School bus; and interventions and procedures implemented to address truancy. Discussion followed regarding next steps involving the Juvenile Hearing Board and Family Court Judges in truancy issues.
- 7.3 X2 Aspen K-12 Student Information System—Update.** At the request of School Committee Member Ms. Bolan, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee regarding the new X2Aspen K-12 Student Information System implemented this past October, as follows: (1) approximately one-third of families use Aspen; (2) all teachers use Aspen and know how to record extra credit; and (3) an estimated 90 percent (90%) of parents have e-mail addresses. Discussion followed.
- 7.4 OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) Trust—Investments—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with an update regarding the implementation and maintenance of the Trust Fund for the Post Retirement Health Benefits. He stated that, prior to Fiscal Year 2007, employee contributions were maintained in an interest-bearing account; and, in Fiscal year 2007, those funds were transferred to the Trust Investment Account. Though it appears employee contributions were not consistently transferred on a quarterly basis, employee contributions did total \$3,255,962; and, in Fiscal Year 2010, employees contributed an additional \$1,285,465. Dr. Ambrogi stated that the total monies in the Trust would barely cover the district's costs for other post employment retirement benefits. Discussion followed. Public input was received from: Resident and past Teachers' Association of Newport President Jack Cykert who provided a travel of the implementation of the Trust Fund.

7.5 Pell School Building—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the new Owner’s Representative, James Farrar, has already begun working on the Pell School Construction Project, and the district is hopeful to continue with the previous timelines established with a groundbreaking no later than March 1, 2012. Discussion followed. The Pell Building Committee will meet in early January to review value engineering changes, project expenditures to date, and cost construction documents. Mr. Leary requested a monthly update on Project expenditures.

7.6 Subcommittee Reports. There were no Subcommittee Reports presented.

School Committee Member Mr. Leary requested that the Policy Subcommittee meet to consider establishing policies and procedures to address:

- Work Groups/Proposed Membership Appointments
- Administrative Salary Step Schedule
- Long-Term Personnel Substitute Assignments

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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 School Construction—General Contractor Bid Results—Teleconference (11-04-11)
2.	RI Model Teacher Evaluation Program PD and Process—Meeting with RIDE and Principals (11-07-11)
3.	East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC) Special Board Meeting—@ Oliphant School (11-08-11)
4.	Pell School Fire Marshall Meeting @ Newport Fire Department (11-08-11)
5.	Pell Building Committee Meeting (11-08-11)
6.	Collaborative Learning for Outcomes Meeting with Central Office Administrators (11-09-11)
7.	Early Intervention Program Meeting (11-14-11)

8.	Truancy Meeting with Child and Family Services (11-15-11)
9.	NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (11-15-11)
10.	Pell School Construction—Owner's Representative—Teleconference (11-15-11)
11.	Nutrition Advisory Committee Meeting (11-16-11)
12.	NSC Special Meeting—Pell School Construction (11-17-11)
13.	Alternative Learning Program Meeting with Staff Members (11-18-11)
14.	Meeting with Boys and Girls Club (11-21-11)
15.	Pell Building Committee Meeting (11-21-11)
16.	NSC Meeting—Appointment of Owner's Representative (12-06-11)

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Ms. Bolan 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.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 10.1** At 9:15 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 9:43 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 9:45 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

Attachment:
Resolution—Rogers High School football Team—Division III State Champions—Item No. 3.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Rogers High School Football Team distinguished itself by recently winning the Rhode Island Division III State Championship Super Bowl by defeating Middletown, 27-7, on December 3, 2011, at Cranston Stadium, becoming the Division III State Champions; and

WHEREAS: The Coach and Members of the Team, by achieving this honor, proved to the citizens of Newport and the State the quality of their training and practice; and

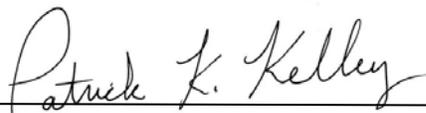
WHEREAS: The achievement of this goal is further evidence of the fine traditions of Rogers High School; and

WHEREAS: The faculty, student body, parents, and citizens of Newport actively supported the efforts of the team; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Newport School Committee formally extends to the Coach and Members of the Rogers High School Football Team its congratulations on winning the Rhode Island Division III State Championship Super Bowl for the 2011-2012 School Year and offers to the staff and Team Members a unanimous "well done" on receipt of this great honor; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee and the original be presented to Coach Frank Newsome and the Rogers High School Football Team as an expression of our sincere appreciation and acknowledgement of their service to the school and our community.

WHERETO: The following bear witness:



Chairperson
On Behalf of the Newport School Committee



Superintendent of Schools
On Behalf of the Newport Public Schools