

Approve 02/14/2012.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Organizational/Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

- 1.1 **Call to Order (By Clerk).** Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi, Chairperson Pro-Tem, called the Organizational 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: Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Jo Eva Gaines, Patrick K. Kelley, 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.
- 1.4 **Moment of Silence.** Moment of Silence was presented, as follows:
 - **Kristin (Krissy) G. Dyer:** who passed away on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at Rhode Island Hospital. Born in New Bedford, MA, she was the daughter of Susan (Svirsky) Bottomley of Newport and the late Stephen J. Bottomley. As a 2001 Rogers High School Graduate, Mrs. Dyer enjoyed baking for everyone, but her joy came from being a homemaker and mother to her children. She ran a business called "Dante's Links of Love", making chainmail jewelry for autism awareness. She was active as a nursery school attendant during Sunday Services at Emmanuel Church and an involved parent at Underwood Elementary School. Mrs. Dyer also leaves behind her husband, Thomas Dyer, and their two children: Dante T.S. Dyer, a student at Underwood Elementary School, and newborn Lydia G. Dyer, and her stepfather Harvey Rose of Newport, mother-in-law Margaret R. (Michaud) Dyer of Newport, and father-in-law Thomas M. Dyer of West Kingston.

- **John D. Aldrich:** who passed away on Sunday, December 25, 2011, at his home in Florida. He was the father of Physical Education Teacher Bruce Aldrich. Originally from Bellows Fall, VT, Mr. Aldrich was a graduate of Vermont Academy and Brown University. At graduation, he was commissioned a U.S. Naval Officer and served as the Radio Officer aboard the USS Fessenden DER 142, with its homeport in Newport. He began his civilian career in 1957 as an Electronics Teacher at Rogers High School and retired in 1985 as the Director of the Newport Area Career and Technical Center. He was a member of the Newport Yacht Club for 40 years, a member and Past-President of the Newport County Radio Club, and received into the RC Church at St. Cecilia's in Ft. Myers, Florida, and a member at St. Anthony's Church in Portsmouth. Mr. Aldrich leaves behind his three sons, Andrew J. Aldrich, of Portsmouth, Bruce S. Aldrich, of Middletown, and Christopher S. Aldrich, of Newport, two granddaughters, his sister, Jane Keilty, of Branford, CT, three nephews, and his wife, Paula M. Aldrich. Linda Sumner Aldrich, the mother of his children, predeceased him.
- **Henry Rick Hole, Jr.:** who passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2012, at his home in Portsmouth. He was the husband of Jacqueline Feeney Hole (retired Nurse Teacher at Carey/Underwood Schools) and father of three daughters: Jennifer E. Hole (Grade 3 Teacher at Underwood School), Heather Hole Strout and her husband Richard of Portsmouth, Jonna Hole Conheeny and her husband Adam of Portsmouth. Born and raised in Newport, Mr. Hole was an outstanding athlete who excelled in the sports of basketball, football, and baseball. Upon receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Kansas State Teachers College, he then attended the University of Rhode Island and received his Master's Degree in Physical Education. Beginning a life-long career in the Newport Public Schools in 1968, Mr. Hole served as a Physical Education Teacher and Coach and, in 1987, was named Athletic Director of Rogers High School, until his retirement in 1996. He earned the Athletic Director of the Year Award from the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association and later inducted into the City of Newport's Sports Hall of Fame. He was a dedicated member of the Middletown Knights of Columbus, The Fraternal Order of Police Association, and a parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Newport. Besides his wife and three daughters, Mr. Hole also leaves behind his five grandchildren: Christopher and Jenna Strout and Adeleine, Anna, and Adam Conheeny; his sisters Leslie Maher and her husband Mike; Robert Cecchi and her husband Mike, and his brother John Hole (retired Elementary

Physical Education Teacher for Newport Public Schools) and his wife Kathy (retired Grade 6 Teacher at Thompson Middle School), and his brother-in-law Richard Carroll, and many nieces and nephews. Mr. Hole was preceded in death by his sister Jerilyn "Dede" Gleason Carroll and his brother-in-law Jack Gleason.

1.5 Election of Chairperson.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi called for nominations for the 2012 Chairperson of the Newport School Committee.

Mrs. Gaines nominated Patrick K. Kelley. Ms. Bolan seconded the nomination of Patrick K. Kelley. Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Dr. Ambrogi closed nominations.

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Dr. Ambrogi called for a "yea" vote from the Committee for the appointment of Patrick K. Kelley, as Chairperson, in alphabetical order, as follows: Ms. Bolan voted "yea", Dr. Flowers voted "yea", Mrs. Gaines voted "yea", Mr. Kelley voted "yea", Mr. Leary voted "yea", Mr. Phelan voted "yea", and Dr. Shoemaker voted "yea". The motion to appoint Patrick K. Kelley, as Chairperson, passed unanimously (7-0).

1.6 Election of Vice Chairperson.

Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley called for nominations for the 2012 Vice Chairperson of the Newport School Committee.

Mr. Phelan nominated Rebecca Bolan. Mr. Leary seconded the nomination of Rebecca Bolan. Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Chairperson Mr. Kelley closed nominations.

In accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley called for a "yea" vote from the Committee for the appointment of Rebecca Bolan, as Vice Chairperson, in alphabetical order, as follows: Ms. Bolan voted "yea", Dr. Flowers voted "yea", Mrs. Gaines voted "yea", Mr. Kelley voted "yea", Mr. Leary voted "yea", Thomas S. Phelan voted "yea", and Dr. Shoemaker voted "yea". The motion to appoint Rebecca Bolan, as Vice Chairperson, passed unanimously (7-0).

1.7 Subcommittee Appointments. Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept the Subcommittee Appointments, as presented (attached). Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

1.8 **A Look at the Year Ahead.** Chairperson Mr. Kelley presented a review of topics to be addressed this coming year.

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT.** Public Comment was received from:

2.1 **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)—Update.** In the absence of Joyce Williams, President, of the NAACP, Dr. Cythnia Smothers, along with Michael Lopes, Victoria Johnson and Anita DeWitt, as Representatives of the NAACP, provided the Committee with an update of the Newport County Chapter's activities and partnership with Newport Public Schools. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided an update of ongoing activities in promoting diversity through recruitment and hiring of personnel and the district's curriculum. Discussion followed.

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: Amy Richards.** Student Council President and School Committee Representative Amy Richards provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council: Mid-Term Reporting, National History Day—Revolution and Reform, College Acceptance Letters, Winter Sports Season, Rogers Theater Company—Auditions for "Our Town", and Mock Trial.

5.0 **CONSENT AGENDA.**

5.1 **Approval of Minutes.**

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

5.2 **Personnel Actions.**

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Leave of Absence of: Katharine L. Gardullo, Maternity Leave, Reading Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective April 25, 2012 to June 19, 2012. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to consent to the approval of the Leave of Absence of: Anna E. Kimes, Maternity Leave, English Teacher, Thompson Middle School, effective April 23, 2012 to June 19, 2012. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 Approval of Construction Bid Documents for Pell School.

Owner's Representative James Farrar presented an updated Project Cost Budget Report, inclusive of the Detailed Cost Savings List, for the Pell School Construction Project, as attached. Discussion followed. Public comment was received. HMFH Architect Laura Wernick answered questions regarding the add alternatives.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the Pell School Bid Construction Documents, as attached. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

6.2 Rescind School Committee Action of January 11, 2011 - Re: Nutrition Advisory Group - Request to Act as Advisory Committee to School Committee.

Chairperson Mr. Kelly reviewed the proposed motion to rescind the School Committee Action of January 11, 2011, regarding the Nutrition Advisory Group and its request to act as Advisory Committee to the School Committee. He indicated that the Committee must rescind that action as it is conflict with Rhode Island General Laws 16-21-28—Health and Wellness Subcommittee. Discussion followed. At the request of Vice Chairperson Ms. Bolan, Mr. Kelley made a motion to refer this issue to the Policy Subcommittee for report back to the School Committee at the soonest available date. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion and Public Comment followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Designate-A-Driver (D-A-D) and Youth Rugby Programs.

Christopher Gray presented the Committee with information on two programs targeted to assist youth and families within the community and requested support of the Committee and administration to introduce them into the district, namely:

- Designate-A-Driver (D-A-D)—
[Extra-curricular student transportation]; and
- Youth Rugby Program (Newport County Youth Rugby Football Club)

Discussion followed. At the request of Chairperson Mr. Kelley, these two programs were referred to administration for review.

7.2 Declaration of Trust—Health Benefits Cost Reduction Fund.

Chairperson Mr. Kelley questioned whether the School Committee has the authority to access and make withdrawals from the Declaration of Trust—Health Benefits Cost Reduction Fund and whether any City Council approval is required for such access or withdrawal. Discussion followed. The Committee requested that School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin provide his Legal Opinion regarding these questions.

At the Committee's February Meeting, Chairperson Mr. Kelley stated that action would be necessary to appoint the Offices of President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Declaration of Trust—Health Benefits Cost Reduction Fund.

Public input was received from: Resident and past Teachers' Association of Newport President Jack Cykert.

At the request of Mr. Leary, this item will be placed on the Agenda for the next Newport School Committee/Newport City Council Liaison Subcommittee Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012, beginning at 11 a.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center.

7.3 Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)—Update.

Curriculum and Instruction Director Dr. Caroline Frey presented the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Fall 2010 and 2011 Benchmarking Results—Grades 2 through 10. Discussion followed.

- 7.4 Report on Accomplishments of the 2011 Newport School Committee Goals.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided a Report on Accomplishments of the following School Committee Goals for the past Calendar Year: (1) Improve student proficiency and graduation rates; (2) Deliver high quality Pell School on time and within budget; (3) Develop a balanced budget that invests resources wisely; (4) Enhance community involvement in Newport Public Schools; and (5) Collaborate with other school districts. Discussion followed.
- 7.5 Pell School Building—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi provided the Committee with an update of the activities surrounding the construction of the Pell Elementary School. Discussion followed.
- 7.6 Subcommittee Reports.** At the request of Mr. Leary, Subcommittee Chairperson Dr. Flowers and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reported out on the Policy Subcommittee Meeting held this past Monday, January 9, 2012, regarding the consideration of establishing policies and/or procedures to address:

- (1) Work Groups/Proposed Membership Appointments;
- (2) Administrative Salary Step Schedule;
- (3) Long-Term Personnel Substitute Assignments; and
- (4) Recruitment and Appointment—Revise Policy No. 4600

Discussion followed. The next Policy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 11:15 a.m., at the Superintendent's Office. At this meeting, the organizational structure of both the Nutrition Advisory Committee and Activity Group will be reviewed in relationship to the District Wellness Policy No. 5300.

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. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mr. Phelan 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 Roger High School Student Class Officers—Rogers High School Principal Selection (12-09-11)
2.	Pell Project—Meeting with Owner’s Representative and Architect (12-12-11)
3.	SCORES—Review Proposed Agenda (12-13-11)
4.	Chartwells Meeting (12-13-11)
5.	SCORES Meeting (12-15-11)
6.	Race to the Top—Learning Challenge Grant Award—RIDE Announcement Meeting (12-19-11)
7.	C21 Learning Center—Grant Continuation Funding Application—Meeting (12-20-11)
8.	NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Monthly Meeting (12-20-11)
9.	Chartwells—District Luncheon Meeting (12-20-11)
10.	Teach for America Meeting (12-21-11)
11.	Aspen Meeting with Rogers High School and Thompson Middle School Administrators (12-21-11)
12.	RI Model Teacher Evaluation Program—Meeting with RIDE and Principals (12-21-11)
13.	Nutrition Advisory Committee Meeting (12-21-11)
14.	Pell Project—Meeting with Owner’s Representative and Architect (12-22-11)
15.	East Bay Educational Collaborative—Meeting with new Director (12-28-11)
16.	Race to the Top Quarter 1 Review—Meeting with Central Office Administrators (12-29-11)
17.	Human Services Mall—Meeting with Newport Community School Director (12-29-11)
18.	Teacher-Course-Student—Meeting with Central Officers Administrators (01-03-12)
19.	Newport Partnership for Families Meeting—Human Services Mall (01-03-12)
20.	Pell Building Committee Meeting (01-03-12)
21.	Human Services Mall—Meeting with Newport Partnership for Families’ Coordinator (01-05-12)
22.	RIDE—Board of Regents Meeting—Request to Approve Pell Space Exemption (01-05-12)
23.	Pell Project—Storm Water Management—Meeting with City Officials (01-06-12)
24.	RI Model Teacher (Mid Year) Evaluation Program— Meeting with RIDE and Principals (01-06-12)
25.	NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting (01-09-12)

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s Update, as presented. Mr. Phelan 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 and received the Annual Notice of Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings for Calendar Year 2012.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- 10.1** At 9:41 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 10:03 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 10:05 p.m., Mr. Phelan 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

Attachments:

1. NSC Officers and Assignments—Calendar Year 2012
2. Project Cost Budget Report, inclusive of the Detailed Cost Savings List