

Approve 04/10/2012.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 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. and Caroline Frey, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

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

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

- **Donald H. Smith:** who passed away on Friday, March 2, 2012. Born and raised in Newport, he was a graduate of Rogers High School prior to enlisting in the United States Navy. After his honorable discharge, he worked as an Administrator at the Naval War College until his retirement. In retirement, Mr. Smith served as a Crossing Guard for the Newport Public Schools while remaining active in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Mr. Smith is survived by his sister, Carol Smith of Hyannis, MA, four nieces and nephews, and four grand nieces and nephews.

2.0 **PUBLIC COMMENT.** No Public Comment was received.

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:

Senior Project Portfolios and Presentations on March 27, 2012; Mid Term Exams Reported Out; Pie Day—March 14, 2012; Girls' Technology Program; Mr. Viking Pageant; Green Team; Rogers' Boys Basketball Team; Grace Janes, Indoor Track Nationals; and Winter Sports Wrapup.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

5.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

Discussion followed. At the request of Dr. Shoemaker, it was the Committee's consensus to hold Executive Session prior to the start of the Regular Meeting. Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 14, 2012, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.2 Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, March 7, 2012, as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Dr. Flowers made a motion to consent to the approval of the Leave of Absence of: Corey Johnson, Maternity Leave, Music Teacher, Rogers High School, effective May 24, 2012 to June 19, 2012. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 Policy No. 4600—Newport Public Schools—Human Resources—Recruitment and Appointment—SECOND READING and ADOPTION (Amendment).

The Committee reviewed its Policy No. 4500—Statement of Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt Policy No. 4600: Newport Public Schools—Human Resources—Recruitment and Appointment. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.2 Policy No. 1530—Newport Public Schools—Article I—Appointments—SECOND READING and ADOPTION (Amendment).

At the request of Mr. Leary, discussion followed regarding community membership. At the request of Ms. Bolan, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt Policy No. 1530: Newport Public Schools—Article I—Appointments, including appropriate language stating the School Committee may elect to advertise in local media outlets. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Moving Forward to Improve Student Proficiency in Math—NECAP [New England Common Assessment Program]. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that a special Committee would be established to discuss strategies to improve students' math proficiency consisting of the Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, one mathematics teacher from each of the district's three levels, and one administrator from each of the district's three levels. He further stated that the district would be piloting a concept at the fifth grade level next year providing teachers with the opportunity to teach math all day long. He indicated this concept would allow students who need more individualized attention to receive it and, at the same time, allow students who are able to pick up concepts quickly to go as fast and as far as they need to. With this concept, he also indicated that math time could be increased in the classroom by melding together subjects—such as reading and social studies. Discussion followed. Rogers High School Department Head Carol Pembroke reviewed strategies implemented to improve student proficiency in mathematics.

7.2 Setting Informational Meeting with Retirees—HealthMate Coast-to-Coast vs. Blue Cross Plan 65. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that it's important the retirees be aware of the differences between HealthMate Coast-to-Coast and Blue Cross Plan 65; and, as a result, an informational meeting would be scheduled at which time Blue Cross Representatives would be available to discuss the differences in the two plans with our retirees who are currently on HealthMate Coast-to-Coast instead of Blue Cross Plan 65. Discussion followed. Public input was received from: Resident and past Teachers' Association of Newport President Jack Cykert.

7.3 Conducting Audit of Retiree Health Care Plans. Because so much of the district's budget is a result of an obligation to fund retiree healthcare plans, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that it's important the district initiates a comprehensive Audit regarding the

eligibility of retirees on those plans. He indicated that the district's in-house staff should be able to accomplish this task and that it would not be necessary to contract out to a private organization to conduct the Audit. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary requested that the Committee consider an External Audit. At the request of Mr. Phelan, Dr. Ambrogi will reach out to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, once again, to clarify Health Care Plan Options available to Municipalities—Family Plan; Husband/Wife Plan; and Individual Plan.

7.4 Truancy—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that he had reached out to Police Chief Gary Silva regarding the school department's truancy concerns and the Juvenile Hearing Board and hopes to provide the Committee, at their next meeting, with a comprehensive view of next steps implemented and an analysis of test scores of youngsters who are considered truant and/or in poverty. Discussion followed regarding the Compulsory Attendance Law.

7.5 Pell School Building—Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the district is moving forward quickly on the construction of the Pell School, the Contract with Bacon Construction has been negotiated and signed, and on Friday, the Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place on Friday, March 16, 2012, beginning at 3 p.m., at the Dexter Street site, and everyone in the community is encouraged to attend this important event. Discussion followed.

7.6 Subcommittee Reports. There were no Subcommittee Reports presented.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. 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, along with cohort comparison. 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.	RHS Theater Funding Meeting (02-13-12)
2.	General Contractor Bid Opening (02-14-12)
3.	Bacon Preconstruction Meeting (03-01-12)
4.	Finance Advisory/Audit Subcommittee Meeting (03-01-12)
5.	Meeting with Roger Warburton re: EJMP Fund for Philanthropy (03-02-12)
6.	Absenteeism and Test Scores Meeting with Central Office Administrators (03-05-12)
7.	Thompson Middle School – Technology Grant Meeting (03-05-12)
8.	RI-CAN Meeting with TMS Principal and RI-CAN Representatives (03-05-12)
9.	Budget Meetings with Administrators (03-06 to 03-12 2012)
10.	Meeting with CPA/Business Consultant re: Business Office (03-06-12)
11.	Administrative Team Meeting (03-07-12)
12.	Pre-Budget Meeting with School Committee and City Council (03-07-12)
13.	Rhode Island School Superintendents Association Meeting (03-08-12)
14.	RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust – Loss Prevention Awards Luncheon (03-08-12)
15.	East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (03-09-12)
16.	Rogers High School Pep Rally (03-09-12)
17.	Surveyworks Data Meeting with David Roderick (03-12-12)
18.	E-Rate Meeting with CBE Technology Representative (03-12-12)

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 8:21 p.m., Dr. Shoemaker 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 8:39 p.m., the meeting was called in Open Session.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:40 p.m., Mr. Phelan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Patrick K. Kelley
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk