

Approve 06/12/2012.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 8, 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., Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche, Student Attendance Facilitator Eddie Merritt, Jr., Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, and Director of Administrative Services John Miley.

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

1.4 Moment of Silence. No Moment of Silence was presented.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. No Public Comment was received.

3.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

3.1 Resolution—District Teacher of the Year—Newport—“2013”.

On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi, School Committee Member Mrs. Gaines and Student Council Representative and Daughter of Ms. Hermes, Gabrielle, presented Coleen Hermes with a Resolution (attached) for being named the 2013 Newport District Teacher of the Year. Ms. Hermes 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).

3.2 Certificates of Achievement—Newport Area Career and Technical Center—Rhode Island SkillsUSA Competition.

On behalf of the Committee, Members' Ms. Bolan (Gold), Dr. Flowers (Silver), and Mr. Leary (Bronze) presented Certificates of Achievement to students who participated and received recognition in this year's Rhode Island SkillsUSA Competition.

Rogers High School Principal James Nelson and SkillsUSA Advisor Colleen Murray were present.

Gold Medal Winners*:

Technical Computer Applications	Fiona Heaney
Advertising Design	Benjamin Wyatt

*To attend the Nationals in Kansas City in June.

Silver Medal Winners:

Web Design	Alexander Bronk
Web Design	Michael O'Connell
Technical Computer Applications	Erik Sola
Prepared Speech	Alyssa MacKinnon (absent)

Bronze Medal Winners:

Commercial Baking	Courtney Ferreira
Extemporaneous Speaking	Hannah Deen (absent)
Technical Computer Applications	David Richards

Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi praised Colleen Murray for her many years of service, given her upcoming retirement. At the request of the Committee, Ms. Murray highlighted the Rhode Island SkillsUSA Competition Process.

3.3 Certificates of Achievement—Newport Area Career and Technical Center—Rhode Island Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition:

On behalf of the Committee, Chairperson Patrick Kelley presented Certificates of Achievement to students who participated and received recognition in this year's Rhode Island Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills Competition.

Rogers High School Principal James Nelson and Automotive Technology Instructor Daniel Pontes were present.

Second Place Winners:

Jose Sola
Steven Stefanac

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

4.1 Student Council Update: Amy Richards. In the absence of Student Council President and School Committee Representative Amy Richards, Gabrielle Hermes provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council: History Day State Finals; George Washington Essay Contest; U.S. News rated Rogers High School as top eight in high schools in the nation; College Acceptances; Art Showcase, Spring Sports Season; "Our Town" Theatre Production; and Spring Music Events.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1 Approval of Minutes.

5.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 10, 2012, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.2 Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 3, 2012, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.3 Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 30, 2012. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 30, 2012, 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:

Melissa Crowley Para Educator, Underwood School May 8, 2012

Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary pointed out that Para Educators' educational credentials are extremely competitive. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of:

Kate Sangster Occupational Therapy 2012-2013 School Year Only
Newport Public Schools

Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Appointment of:

Katelyn Zerba Coordinator May 8, 2012
Extended School Year Services

Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

RESIGNATIONS.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Resignations of:

MariceAnn Piquette Special Education Teacher June 19, 2012
Thompson Middle School

Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Resignations of:

Alexander Renshaw Boys Soccer Assistant Coach April 17, 2012
Rogers High School

Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 Approve Recommendation of Pell Building Committee for Brick Add Alternate.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that a vote was taken to support the brick add alternate, in the amount of \$95,000, for the Pell School by the Pell Building Committee at its recent Meeting. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the brick add alternate for the Pell School in the amount of \$95,000. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.2 Rogers High School Campus—Goes GREEN.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reaffirmed his support for the Scott Dickinson's Rogers High School Campus—Goes Green Project, contingent upon receiving donations and/or volunteer services from local contractors before committing School Committee Funds. Mr. Kelley made a motion to endorse Rogers High School Campus—Goes GREEN Phase Initiative not to exceed \$10,000 for backhoe excavation and planting of materials. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

6.3 Establish Ad Hoc Committee for the Naming of Rogers High School Athletic Field.

Chairperson Mr. Kelly stated that the Track Team of 1973 requested the Rogers High School Athletic Field be named in honor of their Coach, Charles Gibbons and that their request has also been endorsed by both the Boosters Club and Athletic Club. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to suspend Policy No. 7100, Naming New Facilities. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). Mrs. Gaines made a motion to dedicate the Rogers High School Athletic Field in honor of Coach Charles Gibbons. Mrs. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Mathematics Review Team—Update.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as a result of two meetings with the Math Vertical Team, the following changes would be implemented to address improving the district's mathematics instructional program without any additional staffing and/or funding.

At the Elementary Level:

1. The goal is to extend time-on-task per day on mathematics from 60 to 90 minutes. This provides an additional 50 percent (50%) instructional time in the area of mathematics. It is recommended that this time allocation be broken up during the school day, as 90 straight minutes of mathematics instruction may be too intense for elementary school students.
2. Better monitoring of the new Envisions Math Series and Rocket Math Program at all levels.
3. Provide ongoing professional development regarding math instruction.
4. Redesign math intervention specialist position to better meet the needs of students by concentrating their efforts in grades 2 and 3.

At Thompson Middle School:

1. Implement the new mathematics series, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Course 1, Course 2, and Course 3, which is aligned to the Common Core Standards and provide ongoing professional development for that series.
2. Redesign the targeted instructional period to meet the needs of our students who require math interventions.
3. In the fifth grade level, departmentalize math instruction, ie. assign students to teachers who have an interest in teaching mathematics.

At Rogers High School:

1. Implement an innovative math program for students who struggle in math. Each 9th grade identified youngster would receive two math periods per semester. The first semester would be remedial math, preparing those selected students for a second semester in mathematics in their freshman year, which would be Algebra I. Currently, the numeracy class and Algebra I run concurrently year long. It is believed that this approach is not appropriate for the needs of the students.
2. Expand the numeracy classes from grades 9 and 10, to now include 11th grade students.

Discussion follows. Dr. Ambrogio stated that the results of these curriculum changes may or may not produce immediate results; but, in

the long run, these changes would have a significant impact on improving the district's test scores.

7.2 Public Input Prior to Union Contract Ratifications.

Mr. Leary discussed his wishes for implementation of a new process whereby after union ratification of a contract, but prior to School Committee ratification of a contract, a union contract could be available for public inspection for a specified period of time. Discussion followed. Mr. Kelley suggested that perhaps the contract could be placed in the public section on BoardDocs 72 hours prior to the School Committee's Meeting. Mr. Leary requested this item be taken under consideration by the Policy Subcommittee.

7.3 Retiree Health Benefit Trust—Council 94-Local 841 Contract—Review of Payouts.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the following steps to be taken to return the extended benefits withholdings to Council 94-Local 841 participants who no longer qualify for health care after they reach age 65 under the recently signed Council 94 Contract:

1. Payroll deductions are no longer being withheld for people that will not qualify under the new contract – this was effective with the 4/27/12 payroll date.
2. All previous amounts withheld will be returned to the participants by 6/30/12. These amounts are non taxable income.
3. Per the contract, once an appropriate and reasonable method of calculating the interest is determined, it will be returned to the participants as well. It is anticipated that this will be completed by 6/30/12. These amounts are taxable income.
4. An e-mail was issued to all Council 94 impacted participants on May 2, 2012 outlining the above items.

Chairperson Mr. Kelley requested that the Officers of the Extended Benefits Trust review the process before the actual payout.

7.4 Retiree Health Care Plans—Audit Review.

Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi updated the Committee on the Audit Review stating that, to date, 11 individuals had not returned responses for income tax returns and 8 had not returned their Medicare questionnaires. Discussion followed. He stated that there appears to be no discrepancies in enrollment status and that additional updates would be provided to the Committee.

7.5 Shared Services Analysis—Update.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the district continues to work with the new City Manager to find areas in which shared services could benefit both the city and school side. There has been one meeting since the last School Committee Meeting but no specific change has been finalized in the shared services relationship between Newport Public Schools and the City of Newport.

7.6 Truancy—Update.

As a result of an analysis of youngsters who have been out for more than 10 percent (10%) of the school year, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated the analysis results in approximately 20% of the district's youngsters. But, he noted the figure is substantially skewed by the absences at Rogers High School, as many of these students are in the district's ALP Program and that it continues to be a struggle getting them to attend.

Both Student Attendance Facilitator Eddie Merritt and Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche updated the Committee on interventions implemented thus far, this year, to address truancy. Mr. Merritt indicated the need to appoint more family court judges given the overwhelming number of cases on the court calendar. Ms. Donnelly Roche stated the district is updating its 2012-2013 elementary handbooks to include clear expectations for attendance. She updated progress on interventions to target individual families with truant children, truancy court, and next steps in conjunction with the district's ongoing relationship with Child & Family.

Chairperson Mr. Kelly suggested that we reach out to the Family Court and our Legislators to request additional supports to address truancy.

7.7 National School Boards' Association Convention—Update. School Committee Members' Ms. Bolan, Dr. Flowers, Mrs. Gaines, Mr. Kelley, and Dr. Shoemaker each provided the Committee with an update on their activities as a result of attending the National School Boards' Association Convention held last month in Boston.

7.8 Pell School Building—Update. Pell Building Committee Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the Pell School

construction process continues to move forward with weekly construction meetings: updates on furniture and technology budgets, approval of brick add-alternate, and substantial discussion regarding the Kitchen design, addressing Kitchen workspace to the satisfaction of the Building Committee. Discussion followed. Mr. Phelan requested the Committee schedule a Special Meeting to revisit the Kitchen Redesign approved by the Pell Building Committee as an action item, as he disagrees with the redesign.

7.9 Subcommittee Reports. Subcommittee Chairs of Policy, Finance, and Facilities reported out on their recently held Subcommittee Meetings.

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. Discussion followed. 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. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Damage Report, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

8.4 Superintendent's Update. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi listed for the Committee his activities to date:

1.	Pell School—Furniture Meeting (04-10-12)
2.	RIDE Training—Evaluating Administrators (04-11-12)
3.	NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (04-11-12)
4.	Newport District Teacher of the Year—Screening Committee Meeting (04-11-12)
5.	Pell School—Construction Meeting (04-12-12)
6.	Retirees Informational Meeting—Blue Cross Plans (04-12-12)
7.	Newport Family & Child Opportunity Zone (NFCOZ)—Friendraiser (04-12-12)
8.	East Bay Educational Collaborative (EBEC)—Board Meeting (04-13-12)
9.	Shared Services Meeting—City Manager and School Superintendent (04-18-12)
10.	NSC Finance Advisory/Audit Committee Meeting (04-18-12)
11.	Pell School—Construction Meeting (04-19-12)
12.	Pell School—Meeting (04-19-12) ➤ General Building Construction Testing ➤ Geotechnical Testing Pre-Construction
13.	Pell School—Technology Meeting (05-01-12)
14.	NSC Pell Building Committee Meeting (05-01-12)
15.	NSC Facilities Subcommittee Meeting (05-02-12)
16.	Pell School—Construction Meeting (05-03-12)
17.	Math Vertical Team Meeting (05-03-12)
18.	Newport Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force Awards Luncheon (05-04-12)
19.	NSC Policy Subcommittee Meeting (05-07-12)
20.	NSC Finance Advisory/Audit Committee Meeting (05-07-12)

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, as follows:

- To schedule a Special School Committee Meeting to take action on the Pell School Kitchen Redesign.

10.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** No Executive Session was held.

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT.**

At 9:20 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Patrick K. Kelley
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes started her teaching career in the Newport Public Schools in September, 1999, as a High School Social Studies Teacher; and

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes continued her teaching career as an exceptional and motivating teacher; and

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes was appointed High School Social Studies Department Chair in 2008; and

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes has increased rigor in the curriculum while actively encouraging her students to achieve at the highest level; and

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes has been recognized within the Newport Public Schools, its community, and statewide as: recipient of the 2010 Public Broadcasting System (PBS) National History Day Teacher of Merit Award for Rhode Island and PBS National History Day Teacher of Merit National Finalist; recipient of the 2011 Patricia Behring Award—as Rhode Island’s National History Day Teacher of the Year; recipient of the 2011 Susan B. Wilson Civic Education Merit Award for the Rogers High School Social Studies Department; and honored in 2011 by the Rhode Island League of Women Voters in recognition of the Rogers High School Social Studies Department’s increased civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes, with the creation of the Statewide Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements, expanded the Rogers High School Social Studies Curriculum to include National History Day Student Activities since 2007; and

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes, through her teachings of National History Day Activities, Rogers’ students: have won in all categories at the State Fair, advancing to National Competition; were awarded Best State Entry at the Nationals, enabling display of their Exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute of American History; and (3) were honored participants in the George Washington Letter Essay Contest sponsored by Ambassador John Loeb of the Touro Synagogue Visitors Center.

WHEREAS: Coleen Hermes has proven herself to be a role model to the High School Community by her dedication and professional manner; **THEREFORE BE IT**

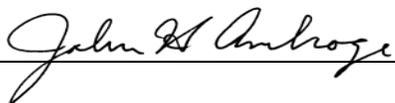
RESOLVED: That Coleen Hermes be commended by the Newport School Committee as the “**2012-2013 Newport District Teacher of the Year**” and as the Newport Public Schools’ Nominee to the Rhode Island Department of Education for consideration as the “**2014 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year**”; **THEREFORE 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 Coleen Hermes 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