

Approve 01/08/2013.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 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.
- 1.3 **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 1.4 **Moment of Silence.** There was no Moment of Silence presented.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.

No Public Comment was received.

3.0 RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION.

- **Resolution—Rogers High School Freshman Football Team—Division II State Champions.** On behalf of the Newport School Committee and Newport Public Schools, Vice Chairperson Ms. Bolan presented the Resolution (attached) to the Coaches and Members of the Rogers High School Freshman Football Team, as Division II State Champions. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to pass the Resolution—Rogers High School Freshman Football Team—Division II State Champions, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- **Certificate of Recognition—Newport School Committee Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley.** On behalf of the Newport School Committee and the Newport Public Schools, Vice Chairperson Ms. Bolan presented the Certificate of Recognition (attached) to Chairperson Mr. Kelley for his

dedication and service as School Committee Member from 2009 to 2012. Discussion followed. Committee Members applauded Mr. Kelley's service, initiatives, and accomplishments. Dr. Shoemaker commended Mr. Kelley's due diligence throughout the E-Rate Project Installation Appeal Process. Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to pass the Certificate of Recognition—Newport School Committee Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Mr. Kelley thanked the public and his Committee Members.

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

4.1 Student Council Update: Gabrielle Hermes. Student Council President and School Committee Representative Gabrielle Hermes provided the Committee with an update on Student Activities of the Student Council: Martin Luther King Food Drive, Rock the Socks Drive, Mock Trial, Theater, Music Department's Annual Winter Concert, Mid-Terms, Sports—Freshman Football Team Recognition by Newport School Committee and Newport City Council, Sports Roundup, and that the students at Rogers High School would not support an option of relocating the Preschool to Rogers High School, Room 500, upon the opening of the new Pell School next fall.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.2 Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 6 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 6 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.3 Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, November 15, 2012, 5 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Thursday, November 15, 2012, 5 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.4 Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, November 21, 2012, 5 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, November 21, 2012, 5 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

RESIGNATIONS AND LEAVE-OF-ABSENCES.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignations and consent to the approval of the Leave-of-Absence Request of:

RESIGNATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Matthew Dougherty	Second Shift Custodian - RHS	12/15/12
Rachel Harnett	Co-Coach, Cheerleading – TMS	11/13/12
Carlene Willis	Special Education Para Educator – Cranston Calvert School	11/30/12

LEAVE REQUEST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kerri Smith	Maternity Leave Extension – Occupational Therapist – Sullivan	01/02/13

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

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

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 To Act on the Recommendation of the Pell Options Subcommittee. Pell Options Subcommittees Members Melissa Turner and Aida Neary presented a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Pell Options Subcommittee Recommendation—to house all kindergarten classes at alternate site for 2013-2014 school year; and, their second recommendation would be to place modular classrooms at the Pell School site. Discussion followed. Public input was received from: Teachers' Association of Newport President David Koutsogiane, supporting the Subcommittee's findings on behalf of his membership; and Council 94—Local 841 President Mary Souza, stating concern that self-contained classrooms may not be able to be integrated into Kindergarten through Grade 2, therefore necessitating same site accessibility. Vice Chairperson Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept the findings of the Pell Options Subcommittee and to house all kindergarten classes at alternate site for 2013-2014 school year. Chairperson Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines stated, echoed by Dr. Shoemaker, that the Committee should accept the Pell Options Subcommittee Report at this time but wait to make a decision at a later date. The motion failed (3-4). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley, Vice

Chairperson Rebecca Bolan, and Robert J. Leary. Those Members voting against the motion were: Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Jo Eva Gaines, Thomas S. Phelan, and Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D. Mr. Phelan made a motion to accept recommendations of Pell Options Subcommittee, to place modular classrooms at the Pell School site—but, should that not be feasible, to default to housing all kindergarten classes at alternate site for the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley, Vice Chairperson Rebecca Bolan, Robert J. Leary, and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion were: Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Jo Eva Gaines, and Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.

- 6.2 Motion to Approve Funding for Thompson Middle School – Band Pants (approximately \$3,000).** Discussion followed. Mr. Leary made a motion to Approve Funding for Thompson Middle School—Band Pants in the amount not to exceed \$4,000. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.3 Motion to Approve Rogers High School—Athletic Department—Request to Increase Budget to Fund Hockey Coaches.** Discussion followed regarding the request to increase budget to fund Rogers High School—Athletic Department—Viking Hockey Team—Hockey Coaches. Mr. Kelley made a motion to allocate an additional \$2,500 to the Rogers High School—Athletic Department’s Budget to support the Viking Hockey Club. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.4 Request Newport City Council Representation—Newport School Committee Negotiation Teams—Future Employee Contracts.** Mr. Leary made a motion to forward a communication to the City of Newport requesting a city staff member, as a trusted agent, designated by the City Manager, to attend Newport School Committee Negotiation Team Meetings for future employee contracts. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (4-3). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Patrick K. Kelley, Vice Chairperson Rebecca Bolan, Robert J. Leary, and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion were: Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Jo Eva Gaines, and Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.

- 6.5 **Motion to Appeal Decision of Universal Service Administrative Company—Schools and Libraries Division—to the Federal Communications Commission in Order to Avoid Wasting \$200,000 in Taxpayer Funds.** Chairperson Mr. Kelley stated that Universal Service Administrative Company—Schools and Libraries Division provided their final decision to the Committee stating that technology equipment installation may be delayed until the Pell School opening. As such, Chairperson Mr. Kelley stated that no further action would be necessary in this matter.
- 6.6 **Policy No. 5540—Newport Public Schools—Students—Disciplinary Policies—Dress and Grooming Code—SECOND READING AND ADOPTION (Amendment).** Ms. Bolan made a motion to adopt Policy No. 5540—Newport Public Schools—Students—Disciplinary Policies—Dress and Grooming Code. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D.
- 6.7 **Policy No. 1548—Newport Public Schools—Article II—Agenda—FIRST READING (Amendment).** The following proposed amendment was discussed:

Add Sentence to End of First Paragraph:

Any supportive material supplied by a School Committee Member in support of an agenda item shall be posted to the electronic document library and distributed to School Committee Members by other means, as necessary, by the Superintendent or his/her Administrative Assistant.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi objected to this proposed amendment, as stated below:

1. The Superintendent's Administrative Assistant reports to him/her and not the School Committee; and
2. This would leave the School Committee wide open to lawsuits and ridicule should an individual School Committee Member decide to post back-up information that defames personnel or that would put the district in an awkward position.

Ms. Bolan made a motion to adopt Policy No. 1548—Newport Public Schools—Article II—Agenda for First Reading, as amended: to strike the words: **“or his/her Administrative Assistant”**; and to strike the word: **“supportive”**; and to have Legal Counsel review the proposed amendment prior to its Second Reading. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D.

- 6.8 Policy No. 3205—Newport Public Schools—Business—Procurement—Purchasing and Bidding—FIRST READING (Amendment).** Discussion followed. Ms. Bolan made a motion to adopt Policy No. 3250—Newport Public Schools—Business—Procurement—Purchasing and Bidding for First Reading, as amended: “Any purchase in excess of \$25,000 (strike: \$50,000) shall require a written contract which has been approved by the School Committee and signed by the Chairperson of the School Committee”; and to refer the proposed amendment to the Newport School Committee’s Finance Subcommittee for review prior to its Second Reading. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.9 Motion to Identify Alternative Reliable and Auditable Method of Managing Employee Attendance.** Discussion followed. Ms. Bolan made a motion to stop the practice of the sign-in sheets and investigate alternative methods of monitoring employee tardiness. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Thomas S. Phelan.
- 6.10 To Act on Teachers’ Association of Newport Contract.** Discussion followed. Teachers’ Association of Newport President David Koutsogiane stated that the Contract should be ready for School Committee approval at its first meeting in January of 2013.

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- 7.1 Discussion of Contracts related to E-Rate Equipment Purchase and Installation at Thompson Middle School and Rogers High School.** Discussion followed. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that he received communication that the Thompson Middle School Project was committed to by the district and that the Rhode Island Department of Education stated it would assume the monies for the Rogers High School E-Rate Project. He further stated the district was currently in discussion with the Rhode Island Department of Education and CBE Technologies regarding the E-Rate work to be done at Rogers High School and received confirmation from the Rhode Island Department of Education that state bond monies would pay for the costs difference between E-Rate and the total cost of the Rogers internet access, resulting in no charge to the Newport Public Schools for making Rogers a total wireless environment.
- 7.2 Status of the Standing Advisory Committee for Teaming at Thompson Middle School.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as the School Committee recently agreed to contract with NESDEC (New England School Development Council) to review middle school teaming, NESDEC Representative John Kennedy would be interviewing staff on Friday, December 21, 2012—meeting with the Standing Advisory Committee on

Middle School Teaming, consisting of three teachers, and administrators, consisting of Thompson Middle School Principal and Assistant Principal, Jaime Crowley and Robert Campion, and himself as Superintendent of Schools. Teachers' Association of Newport President David Koutsogiane stated that the Standing Advisory Committee had not yet met but was established and soon to meet independently.

- 7.3 Alternative Learning Program—Enrollment and Average Daily Attendance.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that, as the School Committee recently agreed to contract with NESDEC (New England School Development Council) to review the Alternative Learning Program, it was his hope that NESDEC would be able to provide the district with some appropriate alternatives to the current program model, making it more robust, that it meets state regulations, increases student participation, and that the program provides an individual script for each student. Discussion followed.

7.4 Subcommittee Reports.

Ms. Bolan updated the Committee regarding the upcoming RIDE Rewriting Policy Workshop to assist in revising the district's Wellness Policy.

Mrs. Gaines provided an update to the Committee regarding the Pell School Construction Process.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

- 8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, inclusive of the Special Education Out-of-District Tuitions Budget and Expenditure Forecast. 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.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Enrollment Reports. Discussion followed regarding Pell School projected enrollment and classroom space availability. 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.** There were no damage reports presented.

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

1.	Pell School Construction Meeting (11-14-12)
2.	Newport Community School – US Department of Education – Site Visit - Luncheon (11-14-12)
3.	E-Rate Project Meeting (11-14-12)
4.	Pell School – Interactive Whiteboards (11-15-12)
5.	Newport School Committee-Elect Meeting (11-15-12)
6.	East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (11-16-12)
7.	Newport School Committee Wellness Subcommittee Meeting (11-16-12)
8.	Newport School Committee – Pell Building Committee (12-04-12)
9.	Trim-a-Tree—Preservation Society--The Elms (12-04-12)
10.	Pell School Construction Meeting (12-05-12)
11.	Newport School Committee—Pell Options Subcommittee Meetings (12-05-12 and 12-06-12)
12.	Finance Resolution Meeting with City Manager, Superintendent of Schools, City Finance Director, and School Business Administrator @ City Hall (12-07-12)
13.	RIDE—Diagnostic Screen Process Meeting 3 (12-10-12)
14.	PreK/K Transition (12-11-12)
15.	NSC/NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (12-11-12)

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:

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

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT.**

At 9:08 p.m., Mr. Kelley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.
Clerk

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS: The Rogers High School Freshman Football Team distinguished itself by recently winning the State Division II Championship; 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

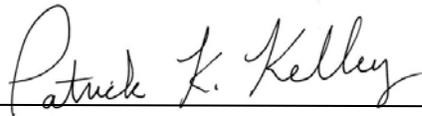
WHEREAS: The achievement of this goal is further evidence of the fine traditions of Rogers High School; and

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 Coaches and members of the Rogers High School Freshman Football Team its congratulations on winning the Rhode Island State Division II Championship for the 2012-2013 school year and offers to the staff and team members an unanimous "well done" on receipt of this great honor; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the official records of the Newport School Committee and the original be presented to Coaches Chris Lewia, Blair Morgera and the Rogers High School Freshman Football Team as an expression of our sincere appreciation and acknowledgment 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

EDUCATIONAL AWARD

Presented to

Patrick K. Kelley

In Recognition of Your
Dedication and Service
to the
Newport Public Schools
and
Its Children

As
**Newport School Committee
Member**

2009—2012