

Approve 02/12/2013.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Organizational/Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

- 1.1 Call to Order.** Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D. called the Organizational Portion of the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee-Elect to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center, in Room 924.
- 1.2 Roll Call.** Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members-Elect: Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Jo Eva Gaines, Robert J. Leary, Thomas S. Phelan, Robert B. Power, Ed.D., and Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D. 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:
 - **Pearl O. (Openshaw) Carrant:** of Portsmouth, passed away on Monday, December 17, 2012, at Village House Nursing Home, in Newport. Mrs. Carrant worked as a bookkeeper in the banking industry for over 25 years and was a longtime member of the Portsmouth United Methodist Church. Mrs. Carrant is survived by two daughters: Fran Blaess and her husband John, and Dale Blaess, Underwood School Kindergarten Teacher, and her husband James, both of Portsmouth; three sisters; six grandchildren; 8 nephews and one niece and their children; and her cat, Sassy. She is predeceased by her husband Roger L. Carrant, and her sister Louise Chase.
 - **Jeanie M. Corman:** of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, and formerly of Newport, passed away at home on Tuesday, December 18, 2012. Mrs. Corman taught most of her career as a Biology Teacher at Rogers High School before her retirement.

Jeanie had two children, daughter Denise Pasvolsky Reed (predeceased) and Timothy Scott Pasvolsky and his wife, Patricia Ann, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

1.5 Election of Chairperson.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi called for nominations for the **2013 Chairperson** of the Newport School Committee.

Mrs. Gaines nominated Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D. Ms. Bolan seconded the nomination of Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D. 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 Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., as Chairperson, in alphabetical order, as follows: Ms. Bolan voted "yea", Dr. Flowers voted "yea", Mrs. Gaines voted "yea", Mr. Leary voted "yea", Mr. Phelan voted "yea", Dr. Power voted "yea", and Dr. Shoemaker voted "yea". The motion to appoint Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., as Chairperson, passed unanimously (7-0).

1.6 Election of Vice Chairperson.

Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker called for nominations for the **2013 Vice Chairperson** of the Newport School Committee.

Dr. Power nominated Jo Eva Gaines. Dr. Flowers seconded the nomination of Jo Eva Gaines. 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 Jo Eva Gaines, as Vice Chairperson, in alphabetical order, as follows: Ms. Bolan voted "yea", Dr. Flowers voted "yea", Mrs. Gaines voted "yea", Mr. Leary voted "yea", Mr. Phelan voted "yea", Dr. Power voted "yea", and Dr. Shoemaker voted "yea". The motion to appoint Jo Eva Gaines, as Chairperson, passed unanimously (7-0).

1.7 Subcommittee Appointments. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker appointed the attached Subcommittees.

1.8 A Look at the Year Ahead. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker reviewed the Goals, as follows: To measure performance against goals, as stated in the 210-2015 Strategic Plan, including goals for: Administration; Teaching Staff; Engaging Families; Facilities; Curriculum and Planning: Mathematics, and Advanced Placement Courses/Review enrollment and Scores; Alternate Schools: Early Elementary, Middle/High School—await NESDEC Report, and Clusters/Teaming; To investigate changes in the Extended Benefits Package; To explore consolidation of financial and facilities' functions with the City; To increase the number of School Committee Candidates; and To increase parental involvement. Discussion followed.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.

No Public Comment was received.

3.0 RESOLUTION AND CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION.

There were no Resolutions and/or Certificates of Recognition presented.

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: Senior Myranda Fuentes represented Rhode Island at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans; History Day—February 7, 2013—Turning Points in History; NWEA Testing; Auditions for Spring Theater Production—Guys and Dolls; Senior Projects' Deadline Approaching; and Sports Report.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 7 p.m. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 7 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.1.2 Special Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 11, 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 Monday, December 17, 2012, 4:45 p.m.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of Monday, December 17, 2012, 4:45 p.m., as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

Appointments. Mr. Leary stated that all candidates interviewed for para educator positions possessed a bachelor's degree.

Retirement. Committee Members praised Dr. Ambrogi's fiscal responsibility, timely implementation of the Berkshire Report Recommendations, and his accomplishments during his tenure with the district.

Renewals. It was requested to hold "Renewals" for separate vote.

APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATION, LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE, AND RETIREMENT.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval/acceptance of: Appointments, Resignation, Leave-of-Absence Request, and Retirement of:

APPOINTMENTS

	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Michele Ela	Special Education Para Ed – Cranston Calvert School	01/09/13
Felicia Connelly	Special Education Para Ed – Cranston Calvert School	01/09/13

RESIGNATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Ross Weene	Head Sailing Coach - RHS	12/26/12

LEAVE REQUEST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Tracey Hackley	Maternity Leave – Special Education, Rogers High School	03/12/13 – 06/21/13

RETIREMENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D.	Superintendent of Schools Newport Public Schools	01/04/14

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

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to table this item, RENEWALS—2012-2013 Contracts for Administrators, recognizing the need for further review, in light of the Committee’s action taken on December 17, 2012, to approve salary increase for Dr. Caroline Frey, as Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Power seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (5-2). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., and Robert B. Power, Ed.D. Those Members voting against the motion were: Robert J. Leary and Thomas S. Phelan.

RENEWALS - 2012 – 2013 CONTRACTS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

Kimberly Behan	Principal, Underwood School
Jennifer Booth	Principal, Cranston-Calvert School
Robert Campion	Assistant Principal, Thompson Middle School
Jaime Crowley	Principal, Thompson Middle School
Amy Donnelly Roche	Director of Student Services
Frances Eames	Director of Human Resources
Paul Fagan	Director of Property Services
Michael Franco	Principal, Coggeshall School
Caroline Frey	Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Christianne Fisher	Assistant Principal, Rogers High School
Wendy Gasior	Administrative Assistant to Superintendent
Eddie Merritt	Attendance Facilitator
Jacqueline Naspo	Director of Grants, Professional Development and Community Involvement
James Nelson	Principal, Rogers High School
Doreen Schlackman	School Accountability Specialist/Info. System Manager

- 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. Power seconded the motion. Discussion followed regarding Home Instruction Statistics. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

- 6.1 Newport School Committee Legal Counsel—Appointment.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to re-appoint Neil P. Galvin, Esquire, to the Position of School Committee Legal Counsel. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.2 Approve Contract for Natural Gas with Direct Energy Services, LLC.** Property Services Director Paul Fagan reviewed the proposed Contract for Natural Gas for Rogers High School, Newport Area Career and Technical Center, and Thompson Middle School for a period of 29 months beginning in February of 2013 and expiring at the end of June of 2015 at a fixed rate of \$5.641 a dekatherm (DTH). Mrs. Gaines made a motion that the Newport School Committee, pursuant to R.I.G.L. 16-2-9.2 (joint purchasing agreements) and 45-55-13.2, hereby endorses the selection (through a public bid process) by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees of the preferred supplier of energy related suppliers and services including natural gas supplies and that the Chairperson and Superintendent is authorized to sign a mutually acceptable contract for said services and supplies with Direct Energy Services, LLC, said preferred supplier. Dr. Power seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.3 HMFH Architects—PSS No. 28—Geotechnical and Inspection Services.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve HMFH Architects - PSS No. 28 - Geotechnical Testing and Inspection Services, in the amount of \$5,342.98. Dr. Power seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.4 Policy No. 1548—Newport Public Schools—Article II—Agenda—SECOND READING AND ADOPTION (Amendment).** Discussion followed regarding the proposed amendment:

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.~~

Dr. Flowers provided a brief background regarding the Policy's First Reading and reviewed School Committee Counsel Neil Galvin's Legal

Opinion regarding the proposed Policy language contemplating material supplied by a School Committee Member relating to an agenda item to be posted to the “electronic document library”. Mr. Galvin, in his letter, cited that if the amendment did pass, the time period for such reflection would be lost as to whether such material should be received or not. Discussion followed. Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi re-iterated, as he had during the Committee’s First Reading of the Proposed Policy last month, that he would not recommend adopting the proposed language.

Ms. Bolan made a motion to adopt Policy No. 1548—Newport Public Schools—Article II—Agenda. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which failed (3-4). Those Members voting in favor of the motion were: Rebecca Bolan, Robert J. Leary, and Thomas S. Phelan. Those Members voting against the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., and Robert B. Power, Ed.D.

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Pell Building Committee Update. Mrs. Gaines provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the Pell School Construction Process. She stated that both Bacon Construction and Owner’s Representative Jim Farrar confirmed that the Pell Elementary School would be substantially complete by June 30, 2013, with an opening date for September, 2013, for students and staff. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi stated that the district was awaiting an update from the Traffic Consultant regarding parking and traffic flow, finalizing the furniture order, and infrastructure for technology. Discussion followed.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi and Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey reviewed the Expenditure and Revenue Reports and the City of Newport’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, ending June 30, 2012. Discussion followed regarding the Report’s Fund 10—School Operating Budget (School Department) June ending, 2012 balance of \$622,906. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi reviewed the Enrollment Reports. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers 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 (12-12-12)
2.	Rogers High School – Computer Labs – Meeting (12-12-12)
3.	Rogers High School – Bike Garage – Security System – Meeting (12-13-12)
4.	Administrators' Meeting – Administrators' Contracts (12-13-12)
5.	RIDE Meeting – Complete Diagnostic Screen - Newport Public Schools (12-14-12)
6.	NESDEC – Middle School Teaming – Meeting at Thompson Middle School (12-14-12)
7.	Pell School Construction Meeting (12-19-12)
8.	Salve Regina University and Aquidneck Collaborative for Education – Island High Schools' Student Project – Meeting (12-19-12)
9.	Pell School Meeting – Music and Art Rooms – Furniture and Scheduling (12-20-12)
10.	Pell School Traffic Meeting – Conference Call with City/School Officials and VHB Parking and Traffic Consultant [Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.] (12-21-12)
11.	Pell School Construction Meeting (01-02-13)
12.	NSC and NCC Joint Inauguration Ceremony at Salve Regina University (01-02-13)
13.	Telephone Conference with NESDEC Representative John Kennedy re: Middle School Teaming (01-03-13)
14.	Meeting with John Mattson – Newport Substance Abuse Task Force – Needs Assessment Survey – Middle and High Schools (01-03-13)
15.	Athletic/Coaching Staff Meeting (01-07-13)

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update, as presented. Dr. Flowers 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: Workshop for Goals and Subcommittee Assignments; Hiring of new Superintendent of Schools; Funding Formula—Identification of Students—free and reduced lunch; Application for Supper After-School Program; and Administrative Contracts.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.

At 8:18 p.m., Mrs. Gaines 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. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL

OPEN SESSION

At approximately 8:36 p.m., Mr. Leary made a motion to call the meeting into open session. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 8:37 p.m., Mr. Leary 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