

Approve 01/14/2014.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1.0 OPENING ITEMS.

1.1 Call to Order. Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., called the Regular Meeting of the Newport School Committee to order at 3:00 p.m., at the Newport Public Schools' Administration Center, in Room 924.

1.2 Roll Call. Attendance was as follows: School Committee Members: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Robert J. Leary (arrived at 3:05 p.m.), Thomas S. Phelan (absent), and Robert B. Power, Ed.D. School Department: Superintendent of Schools John H. Ambrogi, Ed.D., Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Jennifer Booth, Ed.D., Director of Technology Osiris Gonzalez, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, and Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey.

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

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

- **Diane Edith (Homer) Downey:** of Newport, passed away Wednesday, November 27, 2013. She was employed by General Electric and Sig's Market until her retirement. Mrs. Downey leaves behind her daughter, Mary Beth Vierra, Rogers High School Resource Teacher.
- **Constance Barbara "Bobby" Watts:** of Newport, passed away Wednesday, November 27, 2013, at Newport Hospital. Mrs. Watts managed the Robert Potter League of Animals for over 17 years, dedicating her life to the care of animals. She is survived by her son, Jeffrey Watts, First Shift Rogers High School Custodian.
- **Paul William Schulz:** of Portsmouth, passed away Monday, December 2, 2013, at his home in Portsmouth. Graduating from Rogers High School in 1942, Mr. Schulz served in World War II in the US Army, returning to Newport as a well-respected gunsmith,

opening a shop, and performed as a master carpenter for the Hammersmith Farm, Eisenhower House, and Clarendon Court. Mr. Schulz leaves behind his daughter, Maria Mare Schulz, retired Sullivan School Principal.

- 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT.** No public input was received.
- 3.0 RESOLUTIONS/CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.** No Resolutions and/or Certificates of Achievement were presented.
- 4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.** Rogers High School Student Council President and School Committee Representative Allison Thompson read aloud her prepared Dedication, on behalf of the students of Newport Public Schools, to Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi, upon his upcoming retirement.
- 5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.**
- 5.1. Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 12, 2013, 7:00 p.m.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 12, 2013. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- 5.2 Personnel Actions.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Resignation of Peter O'Connell, Assistant Softball Coach, Rogers High School, effective October 17, 2013, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- 5.3 Requests for Home Instruction.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Requests for Home Instruction, as presented. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- 6.0 ACTION ITEMS.**
- 6.1 Policy No. 5531—Newport Public Schools—Students—Administrative Policies—Waiver for State-Assessment Graduation Policy—Second Reading and Adoption (NEW).** Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Dr. Jennifer Booth reviewed the proposed Policy No. 5531. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt Policy No.: 5531—Newport Public Schools—Students—Administrative Policies—Waiver for State-Assessment Graduation Policy. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mrs. Gaines requested Dr. Booth submit the adopted Policy to the Rhode Island Department of Education. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- 6.2 Authorize Implementation and Funding of the Rogers High School Wireless Internet Communication Plan.** Director of Technology Osiris Gonzalez answered questions from Committee Members. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to authorize implementation and funding of the Rogers High School Wireless Internet Communication Plan. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Mrs. Gaines moved to amend the Agenda in order to take Discussion Item No. 7.2—Pell School Update as the first Discussion Item.

- 7.2 Pell School—Update.** Pell School Owner’s Representative James Farrar provided the Committee with an update as to the progress made on the Punch List for Pell School. Financially, after the completion of the school, Mr. Farrar indicated that the cost reports of the Pell School Construction Progress has been ongoing and that all of the soft and hard costs have been encumbered into the Project of \$30M. As a result, an adjusted remaining balance is projected to be approximately \$384,000 of the total Project Cost of \$30M, which could be considered for additional improvements and/or the possibility of additional change orders. For the next School Committee Meeting, the Committee will consider an additional invoice of extra billable hours, over and above the original financial agreement entered into by and between the Newport School Committee and Farrar & Associates, to be approved and paid to Farrar & Associates, for their additional hours provided for the Project to be substantially completed before the projected timeline and under budget. The most recent Punch List will be provided to the School Committee.

7.1 Pell School—Technology Update.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi announced that the van bueren Charitable Foundation awarded a matching Grant to Newport Public Schools in the amount of \$100,000 for student computers (50 more i pads and 100 more laptops and its accessories) for Pell Elementary School.

Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Dr. Jennifer Booth provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation showing the extent to which the teachers have been trained and currently utilize technology in their daily instruction at Pell School. She stated that this presentation would be placed on the district’s website. Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker requested all assessment documentation indicating classroom growth charts as an informative tool to monitor student growth models and assist in communicating with the district’s community that technological advancement has been implemented and is being utilized at Pell School.

- 7.3 Shared Services/Middletown—Update.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi spoke to next steps regarding benefits of Newport and Middletown Facilities Shared Services Concept and the sharing of the School to Career Counselors between districts. Discussion followed.
- 7.4 Budget Freeze.** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi indicated that the major purchases had been processed and that he would need to review, with Superintendent-Elect Colleen Jermain, what items would constitute a budget freeze, as non-essential, that could be taken to address the continued budget deficit. Mr. Leary requested this item be carried to the January meeting.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

- 8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Expenditure and Revenue Reports were reviewed and discussed. Superintendent Dr. Ambrogi reiterated that the district had not yet balanced its current school year Budget and was awaiting response from the City regarding next steps, as requested by the School Committee. He further reiterated to the Committee that the district was still projecting a budget deficit but that the lack of revenue for the Newport Area Career and Technical Center had not yet been adjusted. Discussion followed regarding next steps. Mr. Leary requested that administration analyze trust funds, restricted and non-restricted, and provide this information to School Committee Members. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- 8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).
- 8.3 Damage Reports.** No Damage Reports were presented.
- 8.4 Superintendent's Update.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update of his activities to date, as presented below. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

1.	East Bay Educational Collaborative Board Meeting (11-08-13)
2.	Early Intervention Meeting (11-13-13)
3.	Meeting with Pell School Owner's Representative Jim Farrar (11-19-13)

4.	Meeting with Mayor Winthrop (11-21-13)
5.	RI After School Plus Alliance—Aquidneck Island Education Summit at Pell School (11-25-13)
6.	Shared Services Meeting with Middletown—Rogers High School Staff (11-26-13)
7.	Shared Services Meeting with Middletown—Facilities (11-26-13)
8.	Annual Trim a Tree at Elms (12-03-13)
9.	NSC and NCC—Budget Workshop (12-04-13)
10.	Superintendent-Elect—Meeting with Administrators (12-06-13)
11.	NSC and NCC Liaison Subcommittee Meeting (12-10-13)

Amend Meeting Agenda. At the request of Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker, Mrs. Gaines made a motion to amend the Meeting Agenda to acknowledge Superintendent of Schools Dr. John H. Ambrogi on his pending retirement. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0). Each Committee Member thanked outgoing Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ambrogi for his 8.5 years of service with the Newport Public Schools, while citing his accomplishments during his tenure with the district. The district's Video Producer Dave Wolfenden presented Dr. Ambrogi with the video of his farewell reception recently held on November 22, 2013.

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. No Executive Session was held.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 5:01 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Clerk