

Approve 04/08/2014.

5.1

**NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**1.0 OPENING ITEMS.**

- 1.1 Call to Order.** School Committee Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., 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, in alphabetical order: School Committee Members: Rebecca Bolan, Sandra J. Flowers, Ph.D., Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines, Robert J. Leary, Thomas S. Phelan, Robert B. Power, Ed.D., and Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D. School Department: Superintendent of Schools Colleen B. Jermain, Executive Director of Teaching, Learning & Professional Development Jennifer Booth, Ed.D., Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche, Director of Property Services Paul Fagan, Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey, and Rogers High School Principal James Nelson.
- 1.3 Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 1.4 Moment of Silence.** Moment of Silence was presented, as follows:
- **John Winfred Mason**, of Newport, passed away Thursday, February 13, 2014. As a graduate of the University of Rhode Island, he was a Math Teacher at Thompson Middle School and Chair of the Math Department. Mr. Mason is survived by his wife, Carolyn (Merritt) Mason, and four daughters. His daughter, Nancy Folcarelli, is a Second Grade Teacher at the Pell Elementary School.
  - **Robert E. Cinotti**, of Middletown, passed away Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Born in Newport, he was a veteran of the United States Air Force and former Director of Buildings and Maintenance with the Newport School Department. Mr. Cinotti is survived by his wife, Wilma (Sylvia) Cinotti, and two children.

- **Kathryn L. Toracinta**, of Newport, passed away Tuesday, February 18, 2014. Born in Newport, she was a graduate from St. Catherine Academy, Newport School of Nursing, Rhode Island College, with graduate studies at Salve Regina University. Before retiring in 1990, Mrs. Toracinta developed and conducted the curriculum and methodology for the first Nursing Assistant Program at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center beginning in 1969. Married for over 60 years, she is survived by her husband Charles, an educator and retired principal for the Newport Public Schools, and their five children: Robert (and his wife Jacqueline) Toracinta, who retired in 2008 as Special Education Teacher, Coggeshall School, for Newport Public Schools; Kathleen Loftus (and her husband Garrett) who retired in 2008 as Social Studies/Language Arts Teacher for Newport Public Schools; Brian Toracinta (and his wife Patricia), Thompson Middle School Social Studies Teacher; David Toracinta; and Gail Toracinta; and one of their nine grandchildren, Meg (Loftus), is married to Raleigh Brennan, Rogers High School Dean of Students.
- **Leo F. Downey**, of Newport, passed away Monday, February 24, 2014. Born in Newport, Mr. Downey attended St. Augustin's School, De La Salle Academy, and Bryant College. He worked for 29 years at Raytheon in Portsmouth. Mr. Downey was pre-deceased by his wife, Dianne Downey, and leaves behind four children. Mr. Downey's two daughters are staff members with Newport Public Schools: (1) Mary Beth Vierra, a Rogers High School Special Education Resource Teacher, and (2) Nicolle Icart, a Thompson Middle School Art Teacher.

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

**3.0 RESOLUTIONS/CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.** None.

**4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.**

**4.1 Student Council Update - Allison Thompson.** Rogers High School Student Council President and School Committee Representative Allison Thompson reported on current student activities at Rogers High School.

**5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.**

**5.1. Approval of Minutes.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 7:00 p.m.; and Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 5:30 p.m. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

## 5.2 Personnel Actions.

### RESIGNATION

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Stacey Matos (Tabicas)	Math Teacher, Rogers High School	03/03/2014

### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Date</u>
Britany Coleman	Maternity Leave – Science Teacher, Rogers High School	04/13/2014-06/26/2014

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of Appointments, Leaves of Absence, and Retirements. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

- 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 (7-0).

## 6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

- 6.1 Pell School Project – Bacon Construction Company – Change Order Request: Bathroom Toilets.** Director of Property Services Paul Fagan presented the Bacon Construction Company Change Order request to replace a urinal with a toilet in each of the three boys' bathrooms at the Pell School. Dr. Power made a motion to approve the Bacon Construction Company Change Order Request: Bathroom Toilets in the amount of \$22,456.00 as presented. Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 6.2 Cell Tower Lease – Bid Award.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to award the bid for the lease of a location on the existing communication tower at Rogers High School to Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, as presented, pending negotiations with legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bolan, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 6.3 Care and Maintenance of Grounds – Bid Award.** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the bid award to Four Seasons Home and Lawn Care for the care and maintenance of the grounds at the Rogers High School, Thompson Middle School, Pell Elementary School, and Triplett School for the 2014 season in the amount of \$15,730 for one year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Power, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 6.4 Newport Public Schools – Calendar 2014-2015.** Superintendent Jermain shared a draft of the Newport Public Schools 2014-2015 calendar, indicating several changes from past year's calendars, including a) discussions are being held with TAN to determine the possibility of holding

parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon and early evening hours and having students attend school on days of conferences; b) historic data has shown that absences, both staff and students, are very high on the Wednesday preceding Thanksgiving, and this draft of the calendar indicates that Wednesday would be a no-school day, providing a Thanksgiving recess of three days (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday); c) still being discussed by the administrators is the possibility of a complete two-week shutdown during Christmas recess, as well as possibly extending the winter recess. Discussion followed. It was requested that major religious and cultural holidays be included on the calendar.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- 7.1 Triplet School – DRAFT Business Plan.** Superintendent Jermain presented a business plan for an Early Learning Center (ELC) at Triplet School. Expense and revenue projections with and without an ELC were presented. Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a national non-profit entity and the LISC Rhode Island branch received some Race-to-the-Top (RTTT) Early Learning Center (RTTT-ELC) funding for technical assistance and facility improvement. Cindy Larson from LISC's Rhode Island Child Care Facilities Fund (RICCFF) is interested in working with Newport on a facilities plan for Triplet that will meet both RIDE and DCYF's preschool licensing requirements. Discussions with local EBCAP Head Start representatives, Salve Regina University, and Middletown Public Schools continue. Discussion followed.
- 7.2 Strategic Plan - Update.** Superintendent Jermain reported that the administrators continue working to define metrics to measure goals and action items presented in the strategic plan.
- 7.3 Rogers High School – School Improvement Team – Update.** James Nelson, Principal of Rogers High School, presented an update on the Rogers High School's School Improvement Team (SIT) and outlined plans to group faculty by objectives and identify action steps to address the objectives, define necessary staff and resources to address the issue, determine progress monitoring tools, and determine criteria to identify a successful outcome. David Goodburn, Science Department Chairperson, presented the departments' plans to expand its offerings to support a focus on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) education.

**8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.**

**8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports.** Expenditure and Revenue Reports were reviewed regarding the continued revenue shortfall of \$188,901 and \$401,252 expenditure deficit, representing a total shortfall in this year's budget of approximately \$590,153. Superintendent Jermain stated that the district would try to manage the shortfall without requesting additional funding from the City.

Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, as presented. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**8.2 Enrollment Reports.** Superintendent Jermain reviewed the Enrollment Reports. A new report format was presented, showing totals by grade level, gender, lunch status, IEP status, Section 504 status, LEP status, and race/ethnicity. This new report format was presented at the district level, as well as at the Pell, Thompson and Rogers levels. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Enrollment Reports, as presented. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**8.3 Damage Reports.** Discussion followed regarding two damage reports at Rogers High School during a Boys' Indoor Track and Field team practice, as follows: (1) student's vehicle damaged the lawn behind the gymnasium; and (2) student's arm broke a window upon impact. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Damage Reports, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**8.4 Superintendent's Update.** Superintendent Jermain provided an update on her activities regarding: several meetings with the Alternate Learning Program staff members (ALP); administrative team meetings to review rituals and routines; plans for a School Safety Plan Workshop, which would be held in Executive Session; and several meetings to review and examine the Newport Sister City Student Exchange program. Mrs. Gaines made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Update. Mr. Leary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**9.0 SUGGESTED MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS.**

**9.1 Meeting and Agenda Requests.** The Superintendent indicated that a walk-through would be conducted at Pell School at 7:00 a.m., on Friday, March 14, 2014.

- 10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION.** At 7:46 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. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**SEALED MINUTES—CONFIDENTIAL**

**OPEN SESSION**

At 8:59 p.m., Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker made a motion to reconvene the meeting in open session. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT.**

At 9:00 p.m., Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

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**Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.**  
Chairperson

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**Colleen B Jermain**  
Clerk