

Approve 07/23/2014.

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 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 7:02 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 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:

- **James R. O'Brien, Sr.**, of Englewood, Florida, formerly of Newport, passed away on Thursday, May 27, 2014. He was a medic in the Air Force and, upon returning home, he was a letter carrier with the Newport Post Office until his retirement in 2004. He is survived by his daughter, Jane Perry, Librarian at Pell School.

Taken Out of Order—

2.0 Public Comment. Dr. Flowers made a motion to take out of order agenda sections 3.0—Resolutions and Certificates of Achievements and 4.0—Student Activities, then followed by 2.0 Public Comment. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

3.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT.

- 3.1 Resolution—High School Boys Lacrosse Team Champions 2013-2014.** On behalf of the school committee, member Ms. Bolan introduced and publicly read aloud the Resolution recognizing the Rogers High School and Tiverton High Schools' Co-op Boys Lacrosse Team for winning the division state lacrosse championship game.
- 3.2 Certificate of Achievement—National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT)—Rogers High School—Student Award Recipient.** Rogers High School senior Hannah Dean received an award from the National Center for Women and Information Technology.
- 3.3 Certificates of Achievement—National French Exam—Thompson Middle School—Student Award Recipients.** Thompson Middle School Principal Jaime Crowley presented student certificates of achievement to Mathilde Tash, Owen Martin, and Henry Rayner for their high scores on the National French Exam.
- 3.4 Certificates of Achievement—Arts Program—Student Award Recipients.** Multiple awards were presented for achievement in art, music, and chorus. Pell School students honored: Owen McNally, grade 1; Alyssa Cecilio, grade 4; and Vika Huth, grade 4. Thompson Middle School students honored: Nicole Evans, Owen Martin, and Mathilde Tash. Rogers High School students honored: Keeley Cunningham, Michael Garvey, Tyler Louie, and Pearl Emerson—cited for artistic endeavors. Staff members Alan Bernstein, Victoria LePree, and Donald Chilton were also recognized.
- 3.5 Letter of Appreciation—Baby Steps Program—Music Educator Corey Johnson.** Committee member Dr. Flowers, echoed by Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker and Founder of the Baby Steps Program, publicly read aloud a letter of appreciation to music educator Corey Johnson for her tireless efforts in supporting the Baby Steps Program.
- 3.6 Letter of Appreciation—First Student School Bus Transportation Program.** Committee Chairperson Dr. Shoemaker publicly read aloud a letter of appreciation to John Henry (Hank) Myers and his staff members of First Student School Bus Transportation for a job well done throughout this school year.

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

4.1 Student Council Update—Allison Thompson. The committee presented a farewell gift to Allison Thompson for her year-long contributions as the president of the Rogers High School Student Council and as the Student Council's representative to the Newport School Committee. Committee members wished Ms. Thompson much success as she begins her college education this fall.

4.2 Introduction of 2014-2015 Student Council Officers. Rogers High School Student Council Advisor Stephen Ferris and outgoing Student Council President Allison Thompson introduced the incoming officers for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year, as follows:

Catherine Hermes, President
Elizabeth Murphy, Vice President
Caroline Coaty, Treasurer
Hannah Davis, Secretary

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT. Some of the Pell School staff members addressed the committee in support of Pell School's Lower School Principal Jane Perkins given that the committee would be voting on the Superintendent's recommendation not to renew Perkins' contract for the coming school year. On behalf of staff and faculty of Pell School, Carla Jewell, Pell School special educator, publicly read aloud a prepared statement in support of Principal Perkins. Superintendent Jermain stated that the decision was a personnel matter. She further stated that there were organizational issues at Pell School to address and that administrative leadership at Pell School would need to be restructured.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1. Approval of Minutes. No minutes were presented.

5.2 Personnel Actions. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the consent agenda for Personnel Actions recommended by Superintendent Jermain, as presented and attached hereto. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

6.1 Budget 2013—2014. Superintendent Jermain and Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey urged the committee to take action to balance the 2013-2014 school budget, as the district has been out of compliance since September, 2013. At the request of Chairperson Dr.

Shoemaker, Mr. Leary made a motion to table budget 2013-2014 action until the committee's upcoming special meeting to be held on June 26, 2014. Dr. Power seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Those members voting to table action did so hoping that at tomorrow evening's city council meeting they would vote on the school committee's request to appropriate the maximum of four percent (allowed by state law), which would be \$918,366. The motion carried (4-2-1). Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Chairperson Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D., Robert J. Leary, Thomas S. Phelan, and Dr. Robert B. Power. The members abstaining from the motion were: Vice Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines and Dr. Sandra J. Flowers. Voting against the motion was: Rebecca Bolan.

6.2 2014-2015 School Calendar. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adopt the 2014-2015 school calendar, as amended, by not scheduling school on parent/teacher conference days and to move the last day of school from June 19th to June 23rd. Mr. Phelan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). Discussion followed regarding scheduled graduation dates of surrounding school districts and Rhode Island school districts exploring the feasibility to eliminate February school vacation week.

6.3 Approval of Food Services One-Year Renewal Contract between Compass Group/Chartwells and Newport Public Schools. Ms. Bolan made a motion to approve the food services one-year renewal contract between Compass Group/Chartwells and Newport Public Schools for fiscal year 2014-2015. Dr. Power seconded the motion. Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey spoke to the projected finances relating to the one-year renewal. The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Title I and Title II Budgets. At Ms. Bolan's request, Dr. Jennifer Booth, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, reviewed Title I (100% federally funded supplemental education program for students) and Title II (100% federally funded supplemental educational program providing financial assistance to districts to improve skills of teachers) Budgets. She spoke to the Title I comparison of 2013-2014 to 2014-2015—allocations: personnel services (compensation); personnel services (employee benefits); purchased services accounts; supplies and materials; and indirect costs. She clarified that Title I funds were for students. She then spoke to Title II comparison of 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, reviewing personnel services (compensation) and personnel services (employee benefits). She also clarified that Title II funds were for teachers. Ms. Bolan wanted to go on record—stating that the district has not invested in

students across the board and that mathematics and reading must be a priority to attain proficiency.

- 7.2 Special Education Budget.** At Ms. Bolan's request, Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche reviewed the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA) narrative and budget comparison for 2013-2014 to 2014-2015. She defined the IDEA—Part B, as intended to partially offset the district's excess cost for services required for students with disabilities—private schools and early intervening services. Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey spoke to defining indirect and direct costs in the financial administration of special education programs.
- 7.3 Enrollment Projections for Out-of-District Placements.** Mr. Leary requested that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion. Superintendent Jermain commended the Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey, Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche, and Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Booth for implementing trends and costs to accurately project budgetary costs. Discussion followed. Ms. Donnelly Roche did indicate that additional special education tuition costs of approximately \$450,000 have been budgeted for the coming fiscal year, bringing the total budget request to \$2.43 million.
- 7.4 Enrollment Projections for MET School.** At the request of Mr. Leary, Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey reviewed rising projected enrollment costs for the MET School in next year's budget. She indicated that their student tuitions are absorbed by the district, with 42 students who attend the school. As reported by Joan Tracey, this year's tuition rate is \$6,585, and it will rise to \$8,651 for the coming year. Discussion followed. Dr. Power's position was that the state should be absorbing these costs.
- 7.5 Budget 2014-2015—Update.** No discussion at this time. School committee members wish to await for council's action on adopting first reading of the city's 2014-2015 operating budget, which is scheduled on their docket to be heard tomorrow evening.
- 7.6 Policy No. 1545—Article II—Order of Business—Regular Meetings.** Superintendent Jermain requested that the next School Committee's Policy Subcommittee agenda include review and proposed amendments to both the customary order of business at regular meetings and its public comment period under section 2.0—proposing set a time limit of three minutes per citizen input.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey reviewed the May ending, 2014 expenditure and revenue reports.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. The enrollment and enrollment census were addressed regarding reduction in student enrollment and related tracking. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary stated that it is the district's responsibility to track the students who leave the district.

8.3 Facilities Reports.

At the suggestion of Superintendent Jermain, Director of Property Services Ed Collins will begin to provide a monthly update on facilities; thus, item no. 8.3—Damage Reports will be amended to read—"Facilities Reports". It was clarified that "damage reports" will be included as part of his monthly report, as may be needed. He then shared his vision, goals and objectives, and an action plan to begin to incorporate and/or amend procedures and practices within the umbrella of facility functions and responsibilities—such as, currently, he has met with his facilities staff, introduced "School Dude Maintenance Direct electronic program for work order tracking and related expenses"; trash pickup program (five days to three days—emptying dumpsters); HVAC contractor joint bidding process; bid process for the purchase of paper products (realize potential savings of \$5,000 to \$7,000); utilization of green sealed products to realize green sealed certification for custodial supplies; and implementation of ticket system with assistance from the technology department. With these changes, the district will begin to reinvest into strengthening conditions of our schools. Discussion and suggestions followed by committee members—staffing chart; collaborative relationships; dead zone—delivery area--visual concern at Pell School; and meeting with families abutting fence in back of Pell School. Mr. Collins stated that he is in the process of analyzing and addressing these entities.

8.4 Superintendent's Update. Superintendent Jermain provided a brief update on activities—administrative team accepted for Harvard Graduate School of Education Program; room changes in central office; district's strategic plan—the dashboard should be completed later this month for measuring goals; alternative learning program restructuring; discussion ongoing regarding re-instituting the position of director for the Newport Area Career and Technical Center; determine summer school committee meeting dates and times preferable for members; and a reminder that tomorrow evening the city council would be meeting to consider the adoption, for first reading, of the city's 2014-2015 operating budget. Without any objection from committee members, Superintendent Jermain stated that she would plan to include ongoing enrollment, homeless, and

attendance reports, forwarded weekly to the committee, as part of the Superintendent's monthly update should further review and/or discussion be necessary.

Ms. Bolan made a motion to accept "**Reports from Superintendent and Staff**", as presented. Dr. Power 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: Newport School Committee special meetings scheduled for June 17 and June 26, 2014.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION. No execution session was held.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT.

At 9:22 p.m., Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Colleen B. Jermain
Clerk