

Approve 09/16/2014

5.1

NEWPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 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 7:06 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, Director of Property Services Ed Collins, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Jennifer Booth, Ed.D., Director of Student Services Amy Donnelly Roche, 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:

- **Richard J. Turner**, of Middletown, passed away suddenly on Saturday, August 2, 2014. He is survived by his brother Kelly Turner, Rogers High School custodian, and wife Melissa Turner, Thompson Middle School grade 5 teacher.

2.0 Public Comment. Public input was received by Mike Cullen regarding an opportunity for Newport Area Career and Technical Center students to participate in the CyberPatriot Program.

3.0 RESOLUTIONS AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT. No presentations were held.

4.0 STUDENT ACTIVITIES. To begin at the Committee's September 16, 2014 meeting.

5.0 CONSENT AGENDA.

5.1. Approval of Minutes. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the school committee minutes of July 23, 2014, as presented. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

5.2 Personnel Actions.

APPOINTMENTS		<u>Position</u>	
<u>Name</u>			
Dale Blaess	Elementary Curriculum and Operations Coordinator – Pell Elementary School		08/13/14
Traci Westman	Assistant Principal – Pell Elementary School		08/13/14
<u>One Year Only Positions</u>			
TRANSFERS		<u>Positions</u>	
Elizabeth Copeley	Science Teacher – RHS (FTE .6) to Science Teacher – RHS ALP (1.0 FTE)		08/13/14
Mary Falcone	Grade 3 Teacher to STEM Specialist – Pell Elementary School		08/13/14
LEAVES		<u>Positions</u>	
Dale Blaess	One Year Leave of Absence Pell Elementary Kindergarten Teacher		SY 2014-15
Traci Westman	One Year Leave of Absence Pell Elementary Grade Four Teacher		SY 2014-15
Emily Zilly	Maternity Leave – Science Teacher – Rogers High School		09/02/14 – 11/05/14
RESIGNATIONS		<u>Positions</u>	
Beth Brugnoli	Art Teacher – Pell Elementary School		08/12/14
Ashley Consider	Special Education Teacher – Thompson Middle School		08/18/14
Victoria LePree	Music Teacher – Thompson Middle School		08/13/14
James Nelson	Principal – Rogers High School		08/26/14

Appointments—

Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the appointments for one-year only, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Thomas S. Phelan.

Transfers—

Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the approval of the first transfer, as presented. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to consent to the approval of the second transfer, as presented. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.

Leaves of Absence—

Mr. Leary made a motion to consent to the approval of the leaves of absence, as presented. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Resignations—

Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the resignations, as presented. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion with regret, which carried unanimously (7-0).

- 5.3 Requests for Home Instruction.** Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the home instructions, as presented. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

6.0 ACTION ITEMS.

- 6.1 Bid Award: Computer Tables for Rogers High School Library.** Dr. Power made a motion to award the bid to W.B. Mason Company in the amount of \$4,355.00, as presented. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0). It was noted that the funds would be expended from the Perkins Grant.
- 6.2 BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative—Authorization to Participate.** Ms. Bolan made a motion to approve Newport Public Schools' participation with the "Online BuyBoard Cooperative Agreement", as presented. Dr. Power seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).
- 6.3 Policy No. 5370—Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities—Request to Suspend.** Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to suspend Policy No. 5370, Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary and Mr. Phelan stated their concern that action should be approved with a two-thirds majority vote rather than, in this case, a majority vote. Mr. Phelan stated that this process makes it too easy to suspend policies. The motion carried (5-2). Those members voting against the motion were: Robert J. Leary and Thomas S. Phelan.
- 6.4 Policy No. 6500—Academic Achievement—High School Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements—Request to Suspend.** Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to suspend Policy No. 6500, Academic Achievement—High School Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements. Ms. Bolan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary and Mr. Phelan reiterated their concern that action should be

approved with a two-thirds majority vote rather than, in this case, a majority vote. Mr. Phelan stated that this process makes it too easy to suspend policies. The motion carried (5-2). Those members voting against the motion were: Robert J. Leary and Thomas S. Phelan.

- 6.5 Early Learning Center—John F. Kennedy School Building—Lease.** Superintendent Jermain reported out that some outstanding matters were still under review and discussion, such as: the school district's payment and exposure for rent; program(s) of other partners wishing to collaboratively join the district with us at the John F. Kennedy building will require their need to secure licensing and inspection approvals. She stated that the lease could not be executed without these approvals. In the event the district needs to have an auxiliary plan B, it is being developed.
- 6.6 Pell School Project—HMFH Architects—Request for Additional Services—PSS No. 33.** Property Services Director Ed Collins stated that James Farrar and Vice Chairperson and Building Committee Chairperson Jo Eva Gaines supported the request for additional services. Mr. Collins provided the committee with a brief update, indicating his support to approve PSS No. 33. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve HMFH Architects—Request for Additional Services—PSS No. 33, in the amount of \$3,572, as presented. Discussion followed. Mr. Leary stated he could not support the motion, as the school district requested these services after the fact. Mr. Collins reported out that the Pell School roof fan unit no. 3 had the wrong filters installed. Mr. Collins assured the committee that appropriate training would commence for necessary repairs regarding Pell School facilities. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.
- 6.7 2014-2015 Budget—Modification Request.** At the request of Mr. Leary, Ms. Bolan made a motion to adjust 2014-2015 expenditures by increasing the amount—\$345,000, directing the Superintendent to make the recommendation to adjust items accordingly in the 2014-2015 budget. Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-1). Voting against the motion was: Robert J. Leary.

7.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS.

7.1 Strategic Plan Goals—Update. Superintendent Jermain shared the updated strategic plan goals via a visual chart format. Discussion followed regarding the graduation rate, AP courses, programs and enrollment at the Newport Area Career and Technical Center, Thompson Middle School Re-Design Plan; Alternate Learning Program, Early Learning Program, truancy, and budget. She also reviewed the timelines established for completion of strategic plan goals compiled by the Newport School Committee. Discussion continued regarding the new assessment plan to be implemented in 2017 and that additional information would be forthcoming. Ms. Bolan requested that documentation be provided at the committee's September or October meeting regarding the specifics of the new plan.

7.2 Policy Subcommittee—Update. School committee member and Policy Subcommittee Chairperson Dr. Flowers stated that she and her subcommittee members would be meeting on an ongoing basis to identify, review, and amend and/or create new policies with the assistance of administrative staff. She indicated that the subcommittee would begin this process shortly.

8.0 REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF.

8.1 Expenditure and Revenue Reports. Director of Administrative Services Joan Tracey reviewed the July ending, 2014 expenditure and revenue reports. Discussion followed. At the request of Mr. Leary, discussion followed regarding how to address the \$2.9M deficit. Superintendent Jermain stated that a balanced budget had been adopted by the school committee, and there is no deficit at this time. Recommendations to balance the budget had been approved but not all of them have been realized due to negotiations, waiver requests, and reallocation of funding. Mr. Leary stated that the modification budget request approved in action item no. 6.7—to make increases— will be interesting to see what outcomes would be realized. Mr. Leary requested to have a meeting with the Superintendent and the Director of Administrative Services to review budget detail adopted on June 26, 2014.

8.2 Enrollment Reports. Student enrollment reports were reviewed for the June, ending. Superintendent Jermain stated that the Alternative Learning Program would be monitored closely. Monthly student enrollment reports and weekly attendance would be available via a school-by-school basis. The new reporting format would soon be introduced to include expanded information—absenteeism, average daily membership, student demographics, and grade level data.

- 8.3 Facilities Reports.** Director of Property Services Ed Collins provided a monthly update on our school facilities—Pell, Thompson, and Rogers—cleaning. He stated that he should be able to move staff outside of their assigned school to provide assistance where needed at that particular time. Discussion followed. Ms. Bolan requested that one of the priorities should be to move forward to improve safety and correct needed improvements of the Rogers High School’s city track.
- 8.4 Superintendent’s Update.** Superintendent Jermain provided a brief update on activities to date and reviewed: 2013-2014 year-end report of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Grant; statewide ranking; Rogers High School schedule; and the resignation of Rogers High School Principal James Nelson. She publicly read aloud Mr. Nelson’s letter of resignation and stated her appreciation for all his efforts given to the Rogers High School community. She stated that Mr. Nelson did have future plans. As a result, she indicated that an Interim Rogers High School principal would be appointed.

Vice Chairperson Mrs. Gaines made a motion to receive “**Reports from Superintendent and Staff**”, 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: Newport School Committee special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2014, to act upon potential staffing prior to the start of the school year. The committee indicated that Thursday, August 28, 2014, beginning at 4:45 p.m., would be a more preferable date for the special meeting.

Superintendent Jermain reminded committee members to let her know should any one of them wish to take a walk through the school buildings before the school year begins.

10.0 **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** No executive session was held.

11.0 **ADJOURNMENT.**

At 8:53 p.m., Dr. Power made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Flowers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (7-0).

Charles P. Shoemaker, M.D.
Chairperson

Colleen B. Jermain
Clerk