

**SPECIAL NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET
ACCEPTANCE WORKSHOP**

JULY 28, 2004

The North Providence School Committee met on July 28, 2004 at 6:05 p.m. in the Library at the High School. Members present were Chairman Norato, Mr. Marciano, Mr. DaSilva, Mrs. Reall, Dr. Pallotta, Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Cataldi. Also present were Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Scungio.

The meeting began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Norato asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman Norato explained that the purpose of the meeting is to conduct a budget workshop. He turned the meeting over to Superintendent Ottaviano.

Superintendent Ottaviano explained that she, Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Azar and Mr. Scungio met to go over every line item in the budget in a collaborative spirit to come up with a set of recommendations to address the gap between the funding requests and the appropriation.

Legal Counsel informed everyone that the Committee must now attempt to make cuts to live within the Town Council's appropriations. In order to do so, it is necessary to make decisions that will be painful for the District. First, Mr. Sweeney recommended going out to bid for a payroll company to perform the payroll and check writing functions and utilizing in-house staff to perform the accounts payable function. This would represent an approximate savings of \$25,000.00 per year.

Next, Superintendent Ottaviano outlined fourteen additional recommendations outlined in an Executive Summary provided to everyone present. These recommendations included exchanging pool fees for the department use of facilities by the Town; reducing snow removal services performed by public works; hiring an additional employee to do our lawn care and snow removal instead of having public works perform those duties; eliminating middle school graduations; reducing the performance audit; reducing athletic supplies; reducing salaries and benefits; eliminating yard monitors; reconfiguring transportation; addressing out-of-district tuition for special education students; cutting two High School English positions; eliminating the girls' slow-pitch softball; reviewing the medical benefits issues; and reducing the number of lunch monitors.

Dr. Pallotta suggested setting up a meeting with the Mayor's office to discuss the recommendations.

**SPECIAL N. PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MTG –JULY 28,
2004 – PAGE TWO**

Motion by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Cataldi and carried to make a motion to send a letter to the Town requesting a meeting with the Superintendent and Medical Benefits consultant to discuss possible health care alternatives for the School Department.

Superintendent Ottaviano next spoke about the watch list for those areas of the budget that are volatile.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to take 451,676.00 from the bottom line of the budget.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the recommendations regarding reconfiguration of

the transportation.

Motion by Mr. Wilkes, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to close the budget workshop at 7:00 p.m. and recess before the reconvening the regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes