

NOVEMBER 15, 2006

The North Providence School Committee met on November 15, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Library at the High School. Members present were Chairman Marciano, Dr. Pallotta, Mrs. Reall, Mr. DaSilva, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Martinelli. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Iannetta and Mr. Scungio. Ms. Celona, Mr. Gerardi, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular session only.

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

The first item on the Agenda was Correspondence. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was the Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for approval of the 2007 School Committee Meeting Schedule as presented.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the 2007 School Committee Meeting Schedule as presented.

Next was Field Trip Requests. Mr. Gerardi recommended approval of the Field Trip Requests as submitted in accordance with School Committee Policy.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Dr. Pallotta and

carried to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted in accordance with School Committee Policy.

Next was Special Education Monitoring. Mr. Lynch spoke about the visiting process and referred to the information provided in the School Committee packets.

Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the November 2006 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the November 2006 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Next on the Agenda was School Committee Reports. Mrs. Reall gave a brief update regarding the meeting with the Mayor's office and Town Council regarding protocol for School Department Buildings and Grounds.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-5. Mr. Floriani asked about the rocks at Stephen Olney School. Mrs. Reall explained that the Town is waiting for a new piece of equipment.

Next was Requests to Address the Committee. Mr. Floriani began by saying that he was at the meeting as a taxpayer and as a grandfather. He spoke about the need to implement a full day kindergarten

program in North Providence. He felt that it is what the kids need and should have. He asked his daughter, Gina, to address the technical needs. Gina Picard spoke about being a teacher and administrator in Providence. She spoke about the research showing that kindergarten children need at least ninety (90) minutes of learning in addition to their other activities. She spoke about the full day kindergarten program at her school and invited members of the School Department to come and see how the program works. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about the present program and the fact that there are other obstacles beyond the financial piece. Mr. Floriani and Ms. Picard felt that it is time to take a stand and start somewhere, even if it's a pilot program. Mr. Floriani reminded everyone that North Providence is an urban ring community. It creates a hardship for the parents because the Town does not have a full day kindergarten program. He cautioned the members of the Committee that he is not going to go away regarding this issue until a full day program is implemented in North Providence.

The next item on the Agenda was New Business. First was Approval of Bids.

First was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Resignation of Jody Graziano – Greystone Yearbook Advisor effective October 24, 2006.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve

with resignation of Jody Graziano – Greystone Yearbook Advisor effective October 24, 2006.

Next was Leaves of Absence. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence Request by Pompea Imondi – Teacher for Unpaid Leave effective January 2, 2007 through the end of the 2006/07 School Year and Donna Mozzetta – Crossing Guard for Unpaid Leave effective November 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried to approve the Leave of Absence Request as presented.

Next was Appointments. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointment, which was voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Ney Bezerra – K-12 Coordinator of Educational Technology effective November 20, 2006; and Beverly Leal – Science Olympiad Advisor – Birchwood Middle School effective November 16, 2006. Members of the Committee and Administration offered congratulations.

Next was Old Business. There being none, the next Item on the Agenda was approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted

in the November 15, 2006 School Committee Packets.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to accept the Superintendent's Recommendation for Use of Property Requests as presented.

Next was Approval of Bills. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the N.

Providence School Department List of Bills dated November 15, 2006 be approved as presented and paid with regret.

Mr. Wilkes asked why the phone bill for Birchwood Middle School was so much higher than Ricci. He asked that copies of the bills be provided to him and Mr. Cataldi. Ms. Celona stated that she would find out and get back to him with the information.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried that the Minutes of the October 25, 2006 Executive Session be approved as presented and kept closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-4 and 42-5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried that the Minutes of the October 25, 2006 North Providence School Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. Chairman Marciano spoke about the kindergarten issue and the fact that the State is currently one hundred million dollars in the hole. He added that perhaps there is federal funding available. Dr. Pallotta felt that no one disagrees that full day kindergarten is important and that perhaps it is time to at least look at the viability. Mrs. Reall added that the financial piece is huge; however, as Chairperson of the Building Committee, she would be willing to begin the process.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes