

MARCH 22, 2006

The North Providence School Committee met on March 22, 2006 at 6:10 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. Scungio and Ms. Celona. Mr. Gerardi, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular session only.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Reall and carried to recess the regular session and go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Budget.

The meeting reconvened at 6:42 p.m. It began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Marciano asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman Marciano thanked the members of the School Committee for their help over the last few weeks during his illness. He added a special thanks to the Subcommittee for their diligent work on the budget. They did a great job and he is proud to say that he works with such a great bunch of colleagues.

The first item on the Agenda was Correspondence. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was the Superintendent's Report. With no objection, #6 Budget Review was moved to the top. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Cataldi. Mr. Cataldi first announced

that the Mayor asked him to praise the entire Committee for their efforts in trying to do something for the Town. He added that it has always been the intention of the Committee to put forth a budget that is responsive to the taxpayer. He cautioned that any further cuts would effect the quality of education. The state and federal government must realize that they cannot continue with unfunded mandates. With that being said, the Finance Committee recommends cutting \$2,537,404.00 from the 2006-2007 School Department Budget.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to cut \$2,537,404.00 from the 2006-2007 School Department Budget.

Mr. Wilkes thanked Dr. Pallotta, Mrs. Reall and Mr. Cataldi for stepping in to work on the budget issue. He commended everyone on the Committee for taking charge of the budget and working to make sure there is not a deficit. He added that he does not want it to be said that the School Committee is running a deficit. Mrs. Reall agreed with.

Mr. Wilkes comments. Mr. Cataldi added that perhaps the Committee should send a communication to the Council explaining our concerns with cutting any more from the budget and that an effort needs to be made from both ends. Chairman Marciano concurred with Mr. Wilkes comments. He felt that the cuts were made with a great deal of

trepidation. The schools are the most important part of the Town. We have a quality school system and have received many accolades over the past few years. Everyone likes to take credit for the good things. However, no one wants to be blamed for the hard decisions. If you look at many of the school systems, they are all experiencing budget problems. North Providence is getting a quality education for the amount of money that is spent. The members of the School Committee work very hard and it is a cooperative effort of the School Committee, the Administration and the teachers. The decision of the School Committee is very hard and the members can only hope that it is the right decision to cut the proposed budget. Mr. Martinelli asked about those areas of the budget that are tenuous and felt that we should be taking other steps right away to have a Plan B to address any deficits. When you look at cuts in gas and electric, it is very difficult. Mr. Cataldi spoke about how they came to a decision on the areas of the budget to cut. Areas in gas and electric took into consideration the improvements that have been done.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to send a communication to the Council expressing our concerns with making any further cuts to the budget.

Next was the School Improvement Team Acknowledgement. Superintendent Ottaviano turned it over to Mr. Gerardi. He read the letter included in the packets.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the School Improvement Team Acknowledgement as presented.

Next was Tenure. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the following teachers receive tenure, which was voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to grant tenure to Dino Bachini, Deana Capaldi Moore, Sara Hurley, Karianne Kaye, Shauna Pelletier, Lucille Polisen, and Kristen Spardello.

Next was Field Trip Requests. Mr. Gerardi read the list of Requests submitted in the School Committee packets and recommended approval as per School Committee Policy.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted.

Next was the Home Schooling Request. Mr. Gerardi recommended approval of the Request by Mechelle Waddington for John Waddington (Grade 9).

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the Home Schooling Request as submitted. Mr. Cataldi voted nay to this motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the February 15, 2006 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Cataldi and carried to approve the March 22, 2006 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Next on the Agenda was School Committee Reports.

Mr. Martinelli thanked Dr. Pallotta and Mrs. Reall for their comments on the Donation Policy. He felt that the Policy would help the Superintendent. He asked for the Committee's approval of the policy.

Motion by Mr. Martinelli, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried to approve the Donation Policy.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-5. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Requests to Address the Committee. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was New Business.

First was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Resignation of Christine DiSanto – Birchwood Middle School Assistant Detention Officer effective the end of the 2005/2006 School Year and Colleen Gendron – NP High School Teacher effective

March 13, 2006.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the Resignations as presented.

Next was Leaves of Absence. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence Request by Harold Smith – NP High School Assistant Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Coach effective March 23, 2006 through March 22, 2007.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Leaves of Absence Request by Harold Smith as presented.

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

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Matthew Moniz – Ricci Middle School Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Coach Effective March 23, 2006; Sheila Pilla – Birchwood Middle School Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Coach effective March 23, 2006; and Harold Smith – NP High School Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track Coach effective March 23, 2006.

Next was Old Business. There being none, the next item on the

Agenda was Use of Property Requests.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted in the March 22, 2006 School Committee Packets.

Discussion took place with respect to the Request by the Hoop Group.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Wilkes and carried to accept the Superintendent's Recommendation for Use of Property Requests with the exception of the Hoop Group Request, which will be investigated by the Director of Non-Instructional Operations and approved if it meets with his approval. A roll call vote was called. Mr. Wilkes, aye; Mr. Cataldi, nay; Dr. Pallotta, aye; Mr. Martinelli, aye; Mrs. Reall, aye; Mr. DaSilva, aye; Chairman Marciano, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

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

Providence School Department List of Bills dated March 22, 2006 in the amount of \$1,256,045.69 be approved and paid.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried that the March 22, 2006 North Providence School Department List of Bills be approved and paid.

Mr. Cataldi thanked Ms. Celona for the footnote on the List of Bills.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the February 15, 2006 Budget Meeting be approved as presented.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the February 15, 2006 Executive Session be approved as presented and kept closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 42-46.5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the March 22, 2006 North Providence School Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Pending Business. There being none,

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Wilkes and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes