

MARCH 28, 2007

The North Providence School Committee met on March 28, 2007 at 6:40 p.m. in the Library at the High School. Members present were Chairman Cataldi, Mr. DaSilva, Mrs. Reall, Mr. Marciano, Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Martinelli, and Mr. Iannetta. Also present were Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Scungio and Mr. Milazzo. Ms. Celona, Mr. Gerardi, and Mr. Lynch were present for the regular session only.

The meeting began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Cataldi asked for a moment of silence. He next recognized Dick Fossa and Mayor-Elect Lombardi.

The first item on the Agenda was Correspondence. There being none, Chairman Cataldi next asked if there was any objection to moving Student Recognition to the beginning of the Agenda. Hearing none, the School Committee presented awards to the members of the High School Boys' Swim team and High School Girls' Basketball Team. Members of the School Committee offered congratulations. Mrs. Reall told the recipients and their supporters that were excused from the rest of the meeting.

Next on the Agenda was the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Ottaviano first spoke about the 2007-2008 School Calendar. She recommended approval of the Calendar as presented.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the 2007-2008 School Calendar as presented.

Next was the Vendor Policy. Mr. Martinelli explained that he asked that the Policy be held until his meeting to give him an opportunity to review it and make a change with respect to the \$10,000.00 donation policy.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Martinelli and carried to approve the Vendor Policy as presented.

Next was Field Trip Requests.

Mr. Gerardi read the Field Trip Requests and recommended approval in accordance with School Committee policy.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the Field Trip Requests as presented.

Next was Home Schooling Requests. Mr. Gerardi recommended approval of the Home Schooling Request by Rose L. Parisella for Nicholas Arnold (Grade 10) as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Marciano and Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Home Schooling Request as submitted.

Next was the Draft Mentoring Policy. Superintendent Ottaviano explained that a copy of the Policy was included in the School Committee packets. She recommended approval of the Policy as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the Draft Mentoring Policy as presented.

Mrs. Reall commended everyone on the Policy and added that she wished that the Policy was around fifty years ago. Superintendent Ottaviano added that the Policy will be instituted using an annual grant and is a State Initiative.

Next was the Graduation Policy. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Graduation Policy as submitted.

Next was Tenure. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the following teachers be granted tenure: David Andreozi, Lauren Bianchi, Kimberly DiTusa, Zachary Farrell, Jennifer Goulding, Michelle Poirier, and David Radcliff.

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. DaSilva and

carried to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to grant tenure to David Andreozzi, Lauren Bianchi, Kimberly DiTusa, Zachary Farrell, Jennifer Goulding, Michelle Poirier, and David Radcliff.

Mr. Iannetta added that he worked with Lauren Bianchi, Kimberly DiTusa, and Jennifer Goulding at the High School and can say, with pride, that the North Providence School Department is lucky to have them. He congratulated each of the tenure candidates.

Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the March 28, 2007 Monthly Financial Report as presented.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the March 28, 2007 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Next was School Committee Reports. Mr. Martinelli spoke about the Special Education Information Packet he requested. He requested a detailed accounting of all Special Education expenditures. It is no reflection on the Administration. However, there is a 16.3% increase in purchased services. He would like to try to see if there are creative ways to expand services within the district. He asked Mr. Lynch how many students receive special services. Mr. Lynch explained that there are 3400 students in the district and approximately 570 students receive special services, or 19% of the student population. He spoke about the fact that the School Department is an educational facility,

not a mental health agency. Many students requiring mental health services need to be referred outside the district. He made a motion to set up a meeting with Mr. Lynch to review possible ways to reduce costs. Chairman Cataldi stated that a motion is not necessary and that any member of the Committee can meet with any administrator. He added that Mr. Lynch has done a great job keeping costs down and has initiated many cost-saving measures. He felt that Mr. Lynch does his job well.

Next was Administrator Contracts.

Motion by Mr. Martinelli, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Wilkes and carried to accept the contract for the Director of Non-Operational Instruction.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3 – 5.

Mr. Lombardi spoke regarding a letter he sent to the Committee and Mayor. He stated that although he understands that the School Committee is autonomous, he would respectfully request that the Committee defer action on the Administrator Contract until the audit is completed. He continued that all buildings are owned and maintained by the Town and it may be possible to save the Town money by having one person take care of all the buildings. He asked how many contracts the School Committee has. He again asked the Committee to defer action in an effort to save the Town money.

Chairman Cataldi spoke about the position that the Committee voted on and stated that the performance audit and the SALT report both praised the person in the position voted on tonight. He spoke about the money that Mr. Millazzo saves the Town by performing many tasks outside of his job and talked about the fact that Mr. Millazzo is on call 24/7 at no extra cost to the School Department or Town. He added that the School Department has a specific need and that the Committee is justified in voting on the contract. Mr. Martinelli agreed that you should always look at getting the most from a position. He added that all Administrator Contracts are addressed within ninety days of their expiration. Mr. Wilkes congratulated Mr. Lombardi on his primary victory. He stated that he will work with the Administration for the purpose of serving the residents. He also agreed with some of the points made by Mr. Lombardi with respect to cost-savings and felt that since Mr. Millazzo does such a great job for the School Department, the Town should look at eliminating their building supervisor position and ask Mr. Millazzo if he would be willing to take care of all the Town buildings for an additional sum to be determined. The Town would experience a cost saving by eliminating their Town position. He added that Mr. Millazzo has saved the School Department a lot of money over the years. Mr. Fossa spoke about the fact that we need to remove the personalities from the position. The plan is to save the Town money. Mr. DaSilva felt that we need to move forward with our contract positions. There are a lot of new state regulations. Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Fossa thanked the Committee for their time. Chairman Cataldi stated that the

Committee is always willing to keep the dialogue open to this and any other topic.

The next item on the Agenda was Requests to Address the Committee. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was New Business.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the current contract for Fuel Oil be extended for one year.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mrs. Reall to extend the Fuel Oil Contract for one year.

Next was Custodial Supplies. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the contract for Custodial Supplies be extended for one year.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mrs. Reall to extend the contract for Custodial Supplies for one year.

Next was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the resignations be approved, which were voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Resignation Requests by Wendy Evans-Bronick – Crossing Guard effective March 8, 2007 and Sheila Pilla – Girls' Fast

Pitch Softball Coach – Birchwood effective March 5, 2007.

Next was Leaves of Absence Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence Request by Melissa Caffrey – Portfolio Coordinator – N.P. High School for Unpaid Leave for the Remainder of the 2006-2007 School Year and Beverly Sepe – Secretary – Administrative Office for an Indefinite Transfer effective April 23, 2007.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to grant the Request by Melissa Caffrey as submitted.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and Mr. Marciano and carried to grant the Request by Beverly Sepe as submitted.

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. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and Mrs. Reall and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Alicia Charpentier – High School Boys’ and Girls’ Assistant Outdoor Track Coach effective March 29, 2007; Helia Deshong – Crossing Guard effective March 29, 2007; Kimberly DiTusa - High School Assistant Fast Pitch Softball Coach effective March 29, 2007; David Doiron – National Honor Society Advisor – N.P. High School effective

September 1, 2007; Donald Emerson – Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Coach – Birchwood effective March 29, 2007; and Susan Rainone – High School Girls' Lacrosse Coach effective March 29, 2007.

Members of the Committee congratulated the appointees.

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 not previously submitted and subject to availability and meeting the necessary requirements.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Use of Property Requests as presented by Superintendent Ottaviano pending a meeting with the Subcommittee for the organizations as outlined by Mr. DaSilva.

Next was Approval of Bills. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the March 28, 2007 List of Bills be approved as presented and paid.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the March 28, 2007 List of Bills in the amount of \$1,262,093.50 as presented and paid.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Minutes of the February 20, 2007 Budget Hearing as presented.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2007 Executive Session and keep them 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 to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2007 Budget Hearing as presented.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Minutes of the Special February 28, 2007 Executive Session as presented and keep them 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 February 28, 2007 North Providence School Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.

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

There being no further business,

**Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to adjourn
the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes