

FEBRUARY 28, 2007

SPECIAL NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARING

The North Providence School Committee met on February 28, 2007 at 6:05 p.m. in the Library at the High School for the purpose of conducting a Budget Session. 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, Ms. Celona, Mr. Gerardi, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo.

Chairman Cataldi began by stating that the purpose of the meeting is to address the 2007/2008 Budget. He turned the meeting over to Superintendent Ottaviano.

Superintendent Ottaviano reviewed the proposed budget highlighting the contractual obligations and the unfunded mandates, as well as the need to evaluate successes, prioritize needs, and continue to make improvements to the educational programs.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to close the budget session at 6:20 p.m. and go into executive session to discuss the proposed budget.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to go back into open session at 6:45 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Wilkes to cut an additional \$325,000.00 from the proposed budget. There was no second to Mr. Wilkes motion.

Mr. Martinelli stated that although he agrees with Mr. Wilkes in principle regarding his cuts, he doesn't feel that it is appropriate to make cuts based on the uncertainty of state aid.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to pass the proposed budget in the amount of \$44,639,314.00 as presented based on the recommendations of the Superintendent. Mr. Wilkes voted nay to the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to adjourn the budget session at 6:50 p.m.

REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

The North Providence School Committee met on February 28, 2007 at 6:50 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 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 Cataldi 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 first spoke about the 2007-2008 School Calendar. She announced that this item is being tabled for this month because there are still some details to be worked out regarding a date for a professional development day with the RI Northern Collaborative.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to table the 2007-2008 School Calendar item until next month.

Next was the Vendor Policy. Superintendent Ottaviano explained that a copy of the Policy is in the School Committee packets for review. The Policy will be placed on next month's agenda.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to defer this item until next month.

Next was the Kindergarten Registration Packet. Superintendent

Ottaviano recommended approval of the Packet as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Kindergarten Registration Packet as submitted.

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. Wilkes and Mrs. Reall 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 Nicole Butler for Andrew Butler (Grade 9) as submitted.

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

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

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to

approve the February 28, 2007 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Next was School Committee Reports. The Finance Subcommittee recommended that the surplus of \$1,185,933.00 be used as follows: \$1,000,000.00 applied to the deficit bond, which will pay it off a year early and the balance of \$185,933. applied to the unfunded post-retirement benefits. Additionally, the Subcommittee recommended that correspondence be sent to the Mayor and Town Council outlining the School Department's intention to use the money in the specific areas requested.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Marciano and Mr. Martinelli and carried to accept the recommendations of the Finance Subcommittee and send out correspondence to the Mayor and Town Council outlining the School Department's authority and intention to use the money in the areas outlined.

Mr. Marciano added that he felt that the Committee is doing the responsible thing by paying off the deficit. Mr. commended the members of the Finance Subcommittee for their efforts.

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. There were no Bids. Next was Resignations.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Resignation of Harold Smith, Jr. as High School Girls' Assistant Softball Coach effective January 23, 2007.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Resignation Request by Harold Smith, Jr. as High School Girls' Assistant Softball Coach effective January 23, 2007.

Next was Leaves of Absence Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence Request by Lisa Birkett – High School Girls' Lacrosse Coach effective February 2007 to February 2008.

Mr. Martinelli recommended that, out of an abundance of caution, the Committee seek a legal interpretation regarding the Committee's obligation to approve a leave of absence request for a coaching position. He added that he feels that the Committee should not accept the request because there is no explanation listed for asking for the leave of absence. Mr. Marciano felt that when a coach takes a leave of absence, there is no contractual obligation to give a reason.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Martinelli and carried to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the request pending legal counsel's interpretation as to setting a precedent.

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. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Melissa Caffrey – Portfolio Coordinator – N.P. High School effective March 1, 2007.

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

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

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the February 28, 2007 List of Bills in the amount of \$1,295,997.87 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 January 24, 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 January 24, 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 Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Reall and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes