

**The North Providence School Committee met on September 26, 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. Martinelli, Mr. Iannetta, and Mr. Palmieri. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano 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 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. First was LIUNA Approval. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee authorize the School Department Finance Director to issue monthly payments to LIUNA for Employees' Retirement Plan for the period September 2007 through August 2008. Payments will appear on the following month bill list.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding LIUNA Approval.**

**Next was Field Trip Requests. Mr. Gerardi recommended approval of the field trip requests as submitted in accordance with School Committee policy.**

**Mr. DaSilva expressed concern with approving the Italian Class trip to Rome, Italy. He felt that the Committee should defer voting on this request until we can obtain information on potential harm for the students as well as liability. Mrs. Reall added that she felt that this came up a few years ago and Committee was informed that if it approves the request, there is liability.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Martinelli and carried to approve the requests by the North Providence High School Grades 11 and 12 Business Department to visit the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston, MA on November 20, 2007; and the North Providence High School Grades 11 and 12 Physics Class to visit the Museum of Science in Boston, MA on November 30, 2007 and to defer voting on the request by the Italian Classes for a trip to Rome Italy pending legal counsel advice.**

**Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the September 2007 Monthly Financial Report and September 2007 Fiscal 06/07 Report as submitted.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the September 2007 Monthly Financial Report and September 2007 Fiscal 06/07 Report as submitted.**

**Next on the Agenda was School Committee Reports.**

**First was the Administrators' Contracts. Chairman Cataldi announced that he had a conversation with Arthur Corsini. In the past, it has been a practice to meet with the principals to discuss what contracts would look like. This year, because of the level funding by the State and the Council cuts, we decided to meet with you first. Please accept an apology for any miscommunication. The Committee would like to acknowledge that the principals do a tremendous job. He thanked the principals for their hard work. He added that he would be in touch with them to set up a meeting and thanked them for their patience and understanding.**

**Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Martinelli and Mr. Iannetta to defer action until meeting with the principals.**

**Next was Subcommittee Assignments. Chairman Cataldi announced that the assignments were contained in the School Committee packets.**

**Next was the Civility Policy which was put on hold.**

**Next was the Student Bereavement Policy.**

**Mr. Martinelli thanked Chairman Cataldi for the memo. Mrs. Reall spoke about the current policy and clarified that no where in the policy does it mention obituaries and the policy has been in place for 15 years. She felt that the memo puts this matter to rest. Mr. DaSilva**

asked the principals present in the audience if they ever had a student that had a grandmother die three times. He felt that a lot of these types of issues can be resolved internally to move forward. Chairman Cataldi stated that in defense of the Superintendent, it was very unprofessional for the talk show host to make the comments made about the Superintendent. Mr. DaSilva added that he is not in favor of the publicity of the policy or practice.

Motion by Mr. Martinelli, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to accept the Bereavement Memo as presented.

Next was Release of Information. Mr. Martinelli requested that this matter be taken off the Agenda.

Next, Chairman Cataldi stated that the draft of the Access to Personnel Files was in the School Committee packets for their review.

Next was Information Requests by Committee Members. Mr. Martinelli removed this item from the Agenda.

Next was the Tree Warden.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mrs. Reall to send a communication to the tree warden thanking him for his help.

Next was Property Use. Mrs. Reall spoke about all the organizations

providing in-kind services for property use. Mr. DaSilva intimated that he does have the best interest of the kids at heart. He spoke about his fact-finding mission regarding the costs of the property use. The Jets use the field for a minimum of 2 nights a week, 3 hours a week. The Babe Ruth League uses the fields and sheds for a cost of approximately \$4,500.00. The soccer league costs are approximately \$4,500.00 a year at Ricci. The water at the high school is approximately \$4,500.00. Last, but certainly not least, is Basketball. They use the gym 738 nights adding up to a lot of hours plus the cost of six custodians. The information was gathered because he was told that their league was not being treated fairly.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to accept the information and place it on file. Mr. Martinelli and Mr. Palmieri voted nay to this motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2.

Next was the Annual Report. Mr. DaSilva spoke about striving to be a great school system and all of the accomplishments made over the years. He admonished people for the way some issues have been dealt with on talk shows recently and feels that the citizens of the Town should stand up for the Town.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to ask Mr. Gerardi to send a communication to the RI Department of Education to support the new Special Education requirements.

**Next was Reports on Buildings. Mrs. Reall, as Chairman of the Building Committee, spoke about the events following the reports on the buildings. The other members of the Subcommittee, Mr. DaSilva and Mr. Palmieri, met with Mr. Milazzo several times regarding the reports. All the information was sent to the Mayor and Council President. She also**

**spoke about the School Department having a great relationship with the Fire Marshal, the Building Inspector, and all the public officials. She next gave a brief chronology of the Building Subcommittee's response and action to the September 9th correspondence from the Mayor, including the partial list that was dated August 24, 2007. The Building Committee met with the Mayor and Dick Fossa on September 12th and then immediately with Mr. Milazzo to address the list of issues. At that time, they were informed that many of the items on the list had been completed and others were in line to be corrected. The Building Committee met with Mr. Milazzo again on September 14th to get an update and toured two of the schools. She next focused on the issues reported in the newspaper. She first focused on the new fire regulations relating to the fire alarm system. There has been a guestimate of the associated cost for upgrading the system. Upon receipt of the costs for upgrading the system, the Building Committee will meet with the public officials to determine where the funding will come from. With regard to the shades, there is a letter from the shade company stating that the shades are fire retardant. There is also information from 2004 stating that the drapes at the high school are fireproofed and the curtains at McGuire are**

fireproofed. With respect to the fire escapes, the Building Committee is in the process of researching options with the fire marshal to see if there is a variance. Next, she addressed the issue regarding the padlocks. The padlocks are placed on the buildings for security reasons during the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., when there is no one in the building. With respect to the Greystone sink, Mr. Milazzo explained that there are six sinks in two bathrooms – one of those sinks were ripped off the wall and we are in the process of taking the wall apart to repair it – there are still five sinks that are operable. With respect to the doors, many of them need new hardware and we are researching the cost for replacement – however, all the doors are operational. At Whelan, tempered glass needs to be put into all the doors. She next addressed the issue of the urinal at Ricci School. Of the 18 working bathroom facilities, one of the urinals was leaking. She also addressed the issue of the bolt on the fire exit and explained that it is an emergency latch, not a fire exit and it was placed on the door to lockoff the area from the basketball league – however, there are 9 other exits in the area. The rail at Birchwood has been fixed. Next was the use of extension cords. She explained that they are using heavy duty extension cords in some areas because there are not enough electrical outlets – however, the issue of upgrading the electric is important and the cost is being researched. She next spoke about the state regulation regarding artwork – if there are no sprinklers, only 20% of the entire room can be artwork – therefore, a memo was sent out on September 20th by the Superintendent informing the teachers of the regulation and asking

them to conform to the code. The issue of panic hardware is being researched along with requiring automatic latches. Mr. Milazzo added that 95% of the items have been addressed and the schools are safe. Mr. Palmieri thanked Mrs. Reall for the report. He stated that his only question was what does down the road mean with respect to putting a timeframe on addressing the bigger issues. Mrs. Reall spoke about getting estimates and finding out exactly what it is going to cost. Mr. Milazzo added that there was a meeting with the alarm company today. We are

also in the process of contacting someone regarding the fire escapes.

However, we need a letter from the fire marshal before we can seek a variance. Mr. Palmieri stated that we clearly need new electrical and doesn't want it to go on years and years. He also felt that we need to know where the money is going to come from to make the necessary upgrades. Even though Mr. Milazzo has a lot of the items on the list done, we need to do whatever is necessary to get the electric done.

Chairman Cataldi spoke about the fact that Mrs. Reall and Mr. Milazzo have been working on some of these concerns for quite a while, it is not like they decided to make everything happen in the last week. He felt that the Journal misled the taxpayers with partial information before it even had the full report details. He assured everyone that no one is shirking their responsibility. He gave the Breeze credit for being more professional regarding getting all the information and the full report before writing a story. He felt that it was very unfair that the Journal reported the story the way it did. Our schools are safe and Mr. Milazzo, Mrs. Reall, and Mr. Palmieri will make sure that

everything gets done. Mr. DaSilva asked Mr. Milazzo if the sink was a result of vandalism. Mr. DaSilva also asked how the reporter got the report since it was an internal report made to the members of the School Committee and the Mayor stated that he did not release it to the press. Mr. Martinelli asked legal counsel when a report becomes a public document. Mr. Scungio spoke about it becoming public when it is a complete report – however, the information that the press received was not a complete report. Chairman Cataldi spoke about the fact that the School Committee would never jeopardize the safety of our children. Mr. DaSilva asked Mrs. Reall if the ordinances apply to all buildings. Mrs. Reall stated that they do.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-5. First, Mr. Aiello identified himself and spoke about the principals doing an excellent job. He asked about the monthly financial report. He asked legal counsel if it was a public document. He next asked about the Report on Buildings. He felt that these issues should have been taken care of long ago. He felt that there are serious safety issues in the schools.

Next was Requests to Address the Committee.

Meganne Atkins spoke about the Rugby Organization that she is part of and the trouble they have had trying to get a field to practice on. They would like to use any field that has lighting from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Chairman Cataldi stated that he

respects where she is coming from but was concerned about the overuse of the fields and the effects on the neighbors. Discussion took place regarding other possible alternatives. Mr. Hendriks, a resident of 310 Smithfield Road, spoke about the fact that the lights are on all hours of the night and he would not be in favor of any additional usage of the field. Mr. DaSilva suggested that Ms. Atkins contact Lois Barbieri at the Recreation Department to see if she could use the Greystone Field.

Next was Old Business. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was New Business. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the following bids:

**Transportation Contract Extensions to First Student.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to extend the First Student Bus Contract to June 30, 2008.**

**Mr. Martinelli asked about the smaller buses. Mr. Milazzo stated that he received information from the Department of Education.**

**Next was the Extension for Northeast Bus.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the extension of Northeast Bus contract to June 30, 2008.**

**Next was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the resignations, which were voted on as follows:**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the resignation of Ryan Clinton – Assistant Detention Office – Ricci Middle School effective September 4, 2007; Kerri VanBemmelen – Teacher Assistant – Centredale School effective August 29, 2007; and Melissa Voller – Cheerleading Coach – Ricci Middle School effective September 5, 2007.**

**Next was Leave of Absence Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence Request for Pompea Imondi – Kindergarten – Stephen Olney School for Unpaid Leave (Pursuant to Article VI, Section 12B of CBA) effective January 2, 2008 (Beginning of the 3rd quarter) to January 2009.**

**Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the Leave of Absence Request as presented.**

**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 September 26, 2007 School Committee Packets.**

**Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to accept the Superintendent's Recommendation for Use of Property Requests as presented with the exception of the Request by Meganne Atkins.**

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

**Providence School Department List of Bills dated September 19, 2007 and the Accruals for 06/07 be approved as presented and paid.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried that the September 19, 2007 North Providence School Department List of Bills and the Accruals for 06/07 be approved as presented and paid.**

**Next was Approval of Minutes.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the July 5, 2007 Special School Committee Meeting be approved with the following corrections – The date of the Meeting was July 5, not July 7 and the Minutes were presented with Margie Caranci as recording secretary.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the August 22, 2007 Executive Session be approved as presented and kept closed in accordance with RIGL 42-44-4 and 42-44-5.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the August 22, 2007 North Providence School Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.**

**Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the September 18, 2007 Special North Providence School Committee Executive Session be approved as presented and kept closed in accordance with RIGL 42-44-4 and 42-44-5.**

**Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. Mr. Aiello asked for clarification on the Request to Address being a Use of Property. Next, Jan Piccard, a resident of the Town with two children in Stephen Olney, talked about the leave of absence request and Mrs. Pirolli being a great substitute. She felt that Mrs. Pirolli needs our support and is a fabulous teacher.**

**The next item on the Agenda was Pending Business. With respect to #4 – Future Maintenance of Fields and Grounds – the Committee requested that Mr. Milazzo provide information on the maintenance of the fields and grounds.**

**Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ronald Iannetta**