

REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2007

The North Providence School Committee met on October 24, 2007 at 5:30 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, Mr. Scungio and Mr. McAllister. Ms. Celona, Mr. Gerardi, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular session only.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to recess the regular session and go into Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Administrators' Contracts, Construction Bid Investigation, and Litigation Update. Mr. McAllister was present for the Executive Session only.

The meeting reconvened at 6:35 p.m. It 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. Chairman Cataldi asked if there was any objection to moving two items on the Agenda – the Teacher Recognition and the Report on the Vestibule. Hearing none, Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about the award given to Janine Napolitano. The Milken Foundation Award

honoring Janine Napolitano is one of the most notable accolades. She spoke about Ms. Napolitano's achievements and offered congratulations to Janine and her family. Chairman Cataldi read a statement of congratulations on behalf of the Committee and presented Janine with her award.

Next was the Independent Report on the Vestibule. Mr. Martinelli announced that he extended an invitation to the Mayor to address the Committee regarding the Report; however, he first wanted to congratulate one of the best teachers in the country, Janine Napolitano. He next asked the Chairman to read the statement regarding the Report on the Vestibule. Chairman Cataldi read a statement regarding the independent report on the Vestibule that the members of the Committee received in Executive Session and explained to Mayor Lombardi that he would be given a copy of the report tomorrow. He added that no one else has a copy of the report. Mayor Lombardi stated that there was never a question as to the need for the vestibule. He came before the Committee in Executive Session to ask questions about the vestibule. However, he cannot make any statement due to the fact that there is an active police investigation. He asked that until the investigation is complete, no more funds be expended on this project. He added that he feels that the project is beautiful. However, it is necessary to defer all questions to the police department. Mr. Marciano asked how long the investigation will take. Mayor Lombardi again stated that no more money should be expended until the investigation is complete. Mr.

Martinelli thanked the Mayor for coming to the meeting. He added that the School Committee is an autonomous body but he appreciates that people outside the body have a responsibility also and does not want the

Mayor to be discouraged to the point that he won't have the same enthusiasm. Mayor Lombardi thanked the Committee for their time.

Next was the Superintendent's Report. First was the Updated Emergency Plan. Superintendent Ottaviano announced that in accordance with State Law, all the Districts must have an emergency plan. Each year the plan is updated. The updated plan is being presented for the Committee's approval.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Updated Emergency Plan as submitted.

Next was Field Trip Requests. Mr. Gerardi recommended that the field trip requests be approved as presented in accordance with School Committee policy.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the October 24, 2007 Field Trip Requests as presented.

Next were the Home Schooling Requests. Mr. Gerardi recommended approval of the Home Schooling Requests as submitted based on the requests meeting all the requirements.

Mr. Martinelli asked if there are any other Home Schooling Requests that are being worked on. Mr. Gerardi stated that there are no pending requests. Mr. Iannetta asked if the requests can come in at any time. Mr. Gerardi stated that most of the requests come in at the beginning of the school year, but they can come in at any time.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the Home Schooling Request by Elizabeth Goldberg and Michael Colbert for Esther Colbert (Grade 11) and the Request by Kimberly and Ian Marsland for Erica Marsland (Grade 11).

Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the October 2007 Monthly Financial Report and the 2006-2007 Accruals as submitted.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the October 2007 Monthly Financial Report and the 2006-2007 Accruals as submitted.

Next was the Request for Records Policy which was moved to the November meeting. Chairman Cataldi announced that it is being taken off until the next meeting so that the members can get the policy before next month. Mr. Martinelli stated that he would like a considerable amount of time to vet issues.

Next on the Agenda was School Committee Reports.

First was the Administrators' Contracts. Mr. Palmieri moved passage of the proposed Administrators' Contracts as discussed in Executive Session. Mrs. Reall asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. Palmeri, aye; Mr. Martinelli, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Reall, aye; Mr. DaSilva, nay; and Chairman Cataldi, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-5. First, Mr. Aiello identified himself and asked if there was a bid process for the vestibule. Chairman Cataldi stated that there was a process and all the standards were followed. He next asked about the Administrators Contracts. He wanted an overview of the discussion from Executive Session. Attorney Scungio explained that there was a question as to what to do about several administrator contracts. However, it is personnel so it cannot be discussed. The Committee extended two contracts. However, it is not public until the individuals sign the contracts. Each administrator has an individual contract. The contracts are submitted to the individuals for their approval before they become public.

Next was Requests to Address the Committee.

John Hagan addressed the Committee to speak about in-kind

services. He first asked to comment about the cost analysis report from last month that he felt was false. He spoke about the NPYBA League meeting with the subcommittee to discuss in-kind services which has not been approved by the full committee yet. However, over the years, the organization has done many things to give back to the community and the children. He felt that he would like to be able to have the league come back before the entire committee to let their intentions be known. He felt that the organization should be seen as a benefit, not a burden. He spoke about the report that Mr. DaSilva presented and the fact that many times, they do not use the schools on a Saturday. The figures on the costs for the league are not correct. He added that the organization is grateful to the Town and thanked the Committee for their time. Chairman Cataldi began by stating that no one feels that the organization is a burden to the Town. We are a community and the facilities are here for everyone to use. The Committee tries to accommodate everyone and no one feels that the league is a burden. He also stated that it is not a problem for the organization to come before the entire Committee. He expressed the Committee's appreciation for all the work it does and assured him that the Committee is here to help. Mr. Marciano complimented Mr. Hagan for his presentation and felt that the organization does a great job. He spoke about the fact that his son played in the league and found it invaluable. Everyone appreciates the work that the organization does and all the volunteers. He asked how many children are in the organization. Mr. Hagan stated that there are approximately 400 children. Mr. DaSilva spoke about the fact that the

report included all the property usage by all organizations, not just NPYBA. It outlined the amount spent on lights, water bills. He made the report in public so that everyone would know what the costs were. It was simply a report of information. The word "burden" never came out of his mouth at any time. Mr. Iannetta spoke about being on the Committee for a year now and the fact that he had an opportunity to meet with the volunteers to see what they do. He felt that they do an outstanding job for the youth. They teach leadership skills and cooperation. He commended them for their commitment. Mr. Palmieri spoke about serving as Treasurer for the League until he was appointed to the School Committee. At that time, he resigned because he did not want anyone to feel it was a conflict. He felt that the League should be part of the school day. He spoke about the money that the league spends and the fact that it is self-supporting. He felt that the children on the league are just as important as the school teams and that all the time spent with the children is in kind services and the only thing that they should have to do is clean up after their games. He proposed that the only in-kind services that should be required for the Jets, Basketball, Soccer, and Baseball Leagues is to clean up after themselves as the school teams do. Chairman Cataldi asked where all this is coming from? Mr. Palmieri stated that permits were held up. Chairman Cataldi stated that no permits were held up and added that the policy for in-kind services was meant to be proactive, not to hold up use of the facilities. Mr. Martinelli apologized to Mr. Hagan for voting on the Use of Property pending a meeting with the subcommittee. He didn't realize that was

part of the vote. Mr. Martinelli also spoke about being one of the skeptics in the beginning. However, after the organization was explained to him and he realized how valuable the organization is, he wanted to apologize for giving the leagues a hard time. He also added that he would like to let Mr. DiPrete from the Jets know the same thing. Mrs. Reall spoke about the vote taken on February 15, 2006 for the in-kind services policy agreement. She felt that you cannot vote on a new agreement with this in place. She also spoke about how the subcommittee got started and felt that one policy has to be rescinded first. She added that if the motion is carried and there is no longer a need for in-kind services, that it is her hope that the organizations will continue to be generous. Chairman Cataldi wanted to make it clear that the School Committee has the final approval for all use of property. Mr. Marciano felt that Mr. Palmeiri's proposal is reasonable and hopes that everything will go smoothly. Mr. DaSilva spoke about how the in-kind service issue came up and added that the subcommittee never held up a permit.

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Martinelli and carried that the only in-kind service that should be required for the Jets, Basketball, Soccer, and Babe Ruth Organizations is to clean up after themselves as the school teams do. Once the property usage is approved by the School Department, they cannot withhold permits pending in-kind services. In-kind services for these organizations will be voluntary and will not be mandatory.

The next item on the Agenda was New Business. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the following bids:

Elevator Maintenance by Atlantic Elevator South Co, Inc.

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the elevator maintenance bid as presented.

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

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the resignation of Donna Mozetta – Crossing Guard effective August 22, 2007.

Next was Retirements. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Retirement of Pamela Domenicone – Elementary Librarian – Centredale/Greystone Schools effective September 28, 2007.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the retirement of Pamela Domenicone as presented.

Next was Appointments. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointment of Christine Onorato – Crossing Guard effective October 25, 2007.

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Christine Onorato – Crossing Guard effective October 25, 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 as submitted in the October 24, 2007 School Committee Packets based on availability and the requests meeting all the necessary requirements.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to accept the Superintendent's Recommendation for Use of Property Requests as presented with the exception of the Request by David Santagata pending a meeting with Mr. Milazzo to work out the details and costs.

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

Providence School Department List of Bills dated October 23, 2007 as presented and paid.

Motion by Mr. Martinelli, seconded Mr. Palmieri that payment be deferred on all bills subject to his review and receipt of additional information requested.

Superintendent Ottaviano explained that holding up payment of the bills could cause problems because they will be late. Chairman Cataldi explained that Mr. Martinelli can call Ms. Celona and get whatever information he needs. Chairman Cataldi felt that Mr. Martinelli should not micro-manage. Mr. Palmieri added that there is a bill for \$18,000.00 that he has no idea what it is for. Mr. Iannetta asked Mr. Martinelli if he could guarantee that he would meet with the Finance Director this week to get his information so the bills can be paid. Mrs. Reall felt that we are a Committee of seven and that one person should not be able to hold up the bills. Mrs. Reall asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Reall, nay; Mr. DaSilva, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mr. Martinelli, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; and Chairman Catalid, nay. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the September 26, 2007 School Committee Executive Session be approved as presented and kept closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-44-4 and 42-44-5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the September 26, 2007 North Providence School

Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. Mr. Aiello asked for clarification on the Basketball League and who would be responsible for picking up the garbage. Mr. Aiello felt that the leagues are fundamental to the town. Mr. Aiello also asked about the Report on Schools and asked for an update. Mrs. Reall explained that an update was sent to the Mayor and Council and that 95% of the items have been completed. The Fire Marshal issue is different and we are in the process of meeting with a couple of companies to get prices.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for clarification on the payment of bills and expressed concerns with the bills that are tied into grant funding. Mr. Martinelli explained that he will be by the office tomorrow and has no intention of holding up grant funds. Superintendent Ottaviano explained that there is an administrative meeting at 10:00 a.m. and she would call when it was over.

The next item on the Agenda was Pending Business. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Adjournment.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Martinelli and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Iannetta