

REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 23, 2008

The North Providence School Committee met on July 23, 2008 at 5:08 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room at the High School. Members present were Chairman Martinelli, Mrs. Reall, Mr. Marciano, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. DaSilva, Mr. Iannetta, and Mr. Palmieri. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano and Mr. Scungio. Ms. Celona, Dr. Gerardi, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular session only.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to recess the regular session and go into Executive Session at 5:08 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Litigation – N.P. School Committee v. N.P. Federation of Teachers – Legal Advice in accordance with 42-46-5(a)2; Budget Legal Advice in accordance with 42-46-5(a)2; NRIC Release and Resolution Legal Advice in accordance with 42-46-5(a)2; Settlement of Multi-State Claim Legal Advice in accordance with 42-46-5(a)2; and Truant Officer Contract Legal Advice as to terms of agreement.

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m. It began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Martinelli asked for a moment of silence.

Next was the Chair to Report Out Any Votes Taken In Executive

Session. Chairman Martinelli reported that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

Next was Correspondence. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was the Superintendent's Report. First was the NRIC Release and Resolution. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Release and Resolution.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the NRIC Release and Resolution.

Next was the Kindergarten Policy. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Kindergarten Policy. She added that this is the 2nd reading. Upon approval of the Policy, it will be sent to the parents. Mr. Iannetta asked if there is language stating that the policy is for this year only. Chairman Martinelli and Superintendent Ottaviano stated that the policy does state that it does.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and carried to approve the Kindergarten Policy as presented.

Next was the Asset Protection Plan. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Plan in accordance with state law.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to accept the Asset Protection Plan as submitted.

Next was the Home Schooling Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano turned the meeting over to Dr. Gerardi. Dr. Gerardi recommended approval of the Home Schooling Request by Patricia Donatelli for Brooke Donatelli; Rose Parisella for Justin Arnold (Grade 9), Stuart and Denise Leathers for Amanda E. Leathers (Grade 9); and Elaine Marrero for Brendan Marrero (Grade 11).

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Home Schooling Request by Patricia Donatelli for Brooke Donatelli; Rose Parisella for Justin Arnold (Grade 9), Stuart and Denise Leathers for Amanda E. Leathers (Grade 9); and Elaine Marrero for Brendan Marrero (Grade 11). 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 July 23, 2008 Monthly Financial Report.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and carried to approve the July 23, 2008 Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Next was School Committee Reports. First was Budget Reconciliation. Donald Cataldi, Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the Finance Subcommittee met to address the 2.1 million dollars in cuts by the Administration. Approximately \$530,000 will be needed for the full day kindergarten. So far, the

Subcommittee has identified 1 million dollars in cuts. The decisions that will have to be made are very difficult. We have not affected any programs so far. There is still 1.1 million dollars to resolve. Chairman Martinelli thanked Mr. Cataldi and the Finance Subcommittee. Mr. Palmieri spoke about the original anticipated cost for the full day kindergarten being 1.2 million dollars. He felt that the figure was high but he knew if anyone could get the cost down, Superintendent Ottaviano could. Chairman Martinelli accepted the Finance Subcommittee Report and added that the next meeting of the Subcommittee would be August 12, 2008.

Next was the Truant Officer Contract. Ronald Iannetta, Chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee, recommended approval of the Truant Officer Contract as submitted to the Committee.

Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Truant Officer Contract as submitted.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-5. Chairman Martinelli asked if there were any comments. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Requests to Address the Committee. Mr. Manfredi request was withdrawn.

Next, Mr. Cicerone addressed the Committee regarding Independent Contractors. He identified himself as a resident living at 10 Hatherly Street. He asked if there is a limit when a job has to go out to bid?

Chairman Martinelli explained that the School Department has a Procurement Policy that he can get a copy of. The amounts are \$5,000.00 for general expenses and \$10,000.00 for construction. Mr. Cicerone next asked about Mr. Scungio's position. Mr. Scungio explained that there is a specific general law exempting lawyers. Chairman Martinelli added that Mr. Scungio is in accordance with the statute. Mr. Scungio explained to Mr. Cicerone that he either misunderstands or is mischaracterizing the facts of the ethics opinion. He is an independent contractor. He is not appointed as a city solicitor. Chairman Martinelli spoke about the fact that Mr. Scungio's position is like the town council position and the Mayor's position. Mr. Cicerone accused Mr. Scungio of lying to the Ethics Commission.

Next Mr. Cicerone spoke about the Use of Property Request and asked Mr. Burke to address the Committee. Mr. Burke asked the Committee to reconsider the Use of Property Request for Use of the High School on August 24, 2008. He explained that there would be no alcohol served and that the proceeds would be donated to several charities. Discussion took place with regard to the areas that the School Committee would consider allowing them to use. Chairman Martinelli spoke about the need to have an insurance binder before any request can be approved. Mr. Burke assured the Committee that he has a binder and offered to go home and get it. Mr. Palmieri suggested that the Committee move forward based on Mr. Burke's representation that he has a binder and allow him to give it to Mr.

Milazzo tomorrow. Chairman Martinelli suggested that the Committee take a short recess to seek legal advice. The meeting recessed at 6:55 p.m. for the purpose of getting legal advice regarding the Use of Property Request. The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. Attorney Scungio explained that the binder has to be approved by the School Department's Insurance Company to make sure that there is no liability concerns. Mr. Cataldi suggested that the Committee approve the Use of Property with the restrictions that the School Committee agreed to on a contingency basis if all the requirements are met. Further discussion took place with respect to the types of activities and vendors would be there and what areas of the school could be used.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the Use of Property Request for Use of the High School front parking lot area and stairs on August 24, 2008 with the following restrictions: the only areas that can be used are the asphalt areas of the high school and the football field will remain locked at all times; all liability policies and binders will be approved by legal counsel; that the police and fire departments approve the usage; that the electrical concerns are addressed and satisfied and provided that all the above issues can be resolved and approved.

Chairman Martinelli asked Mr. Burke if he agreed with the conditions?

Mr. Cicerone asked if they could use the front stairs as a stage and set up chairs in the parking lot and use a couple of electrical outlets?

Mr. Cataldi felt it would be OK as long as Mr. Milazzo approved the usage. Attorney Scungio also requested that they provide a list of the activities as well as a letter from the police and fire departments.

Next, Mr. Cicerone spoke about the Use of Property Requests by other organizations and read a list of requests that were approved without an insurance binder. He asked how it is determined who needs a policy? Superintendent Ottaviano explained that not all the requests are granted. Additionally, some of the organizations are covered under the School Department Policy because they are school-related. Chairman Martinelli added that the reason he has to have a policy is because he does not work for the Town. Mr. Cicerone exchanged words with Chairman Martinelli and told Mr. Martinelli that he works for him, although it may be short-lived.

Next, Dr. Gerardi acknowledged Superintendent Ottaviano publicly and thanked her for all her support. He talked about how much he learned under her direction and felt that it helped him to get the new position.

Next was New Business. First was Bids. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Bid for Transportation be awarded to Northeast Bus Company for the bid price of \$567,893.00 for Regular K-12, ESL, and Davies school transportation; that the bid for transportation for Extra Curricula Activities be awarded to Northeast Bus Company for \$65.00 Flat Fee Per Bus and \$45.00 per hour; and

the bid for Private and Parochial transportation be awarded to North Star Bus Company in the amount of \$45,000.00 for LaSalle Academy and \$56,700.00 for St. Thomas for a total bid price of \$101,700.00 and the bid for private and parochial school transportation with the exception of LaSalle Academy and St. Thomas School be awarded to First Student for the bid price of \$346,320.00; and the transportation for Special Education be awarded to First Student for the bid price of \$955,400.00.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and carried to approve the bids for transportation as recommended by the Superintendent and outlined above.

Next was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the resignation of Nicholas Cambio – NPHS custodian effective August 6, 2008.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mr. DaSilva and carried to accept the resignation of Nicholas Cambio – NPHS custodian effective August 6, 2008.

Next was Leaves of Absence. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence request, which was voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to

approve the Leave of Absence Request by Deanna Parrillo – NPHS English Teacher for Paid FMLA Leave effective August 25, 2008 to October 2, 2008 and Unpaid FMLA Leave effective October 2, 2008 to November 21, 2008 and Unpaid Leave effective November 24, 2008 through the end of the 2008/2009 School Year.

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

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Cataldi and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Barbara DaSilva – Ricci Middle School Science Olympiad Advisor effective July 24, 2008; Justin Anzeveno (2nd step) Ricci Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher effective August 25, 2008; Lori Ann Compagnone (5th step with Masters) Birchwood/Ricci Middle Schools Reading Specialist effective August 25, 2008; Robert Kilduff – NPHS Math Teacher (1st step) (Pending Certification) effective August 25, 2008; Alison Marchetti – NPHS Math Teacher (1st step) effective August 25, 2008; Heather Morrison – Centredale School Grade 2 Teacher (1st step) effective August 25, 2008; Alicia Charpentier – NPHS Science Teacher effective August 25, 2008; Kalena Macari – Birchwood Middle School Math Teacher effective August 25, 2008; and Jill Usenia – NPHS English Teacher effective August 25, 2008. Mr. DaSilva asked the record to reflect that he abstained from voting on the appointment of Barbara DaSilva.

Chairman Martinelli asked the appointees present to stand. Members of the Committee and Administration offered congratulations and applause. Mr. Iannetta congratulated everyone and read a statement welcoming them to North Providence School Department.

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 with the exception of the NP Taxpayers Association.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Use of Property Requests as submitted with the exception of the NP Taxpayers Association.

Next was Approval of Bills. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the List of Bills as presented.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve the July 18, 2008 List of Bills in the amount of \$814,414.99.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Settlement of Multi-State Claim be approved and paid.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Settlement of the Multi-State Claim as presented.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2008 Executive Session 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 to approve the Minutes of the June 25, 2008 Regular North Providence School Committee Meeting as presented.

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

Chairman Martinelli requested that All Day Kindergarten be removed from Pending Business.

Mrs. Reall reported that she is making her annual trek through the buildings and grounds and everything is going well.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Iannetta