

**REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2009**

The North Providence School Committee met on January 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Administrative Conference Room at the High School. Members present were Chairwoman Reall, Mr. Marciano, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Iannetta, Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Leva and Mrs. Picard. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Scungio, Ms. Celona and Ms. Donoyan. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo were present for the public session only. Appropriate disclosure was made by the Chair concerning compliance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) indicating that any person to be discussed had been appropriately notified.

Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and carried to recess the regular session and convene Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. in accordance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-4 and 5 for the purpose of Obtaining Legal Advice re: Personnel Contract Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5. The Chair, by open call, polled the present Members of the Committee who voted unanimously to move into Executive Session for the purpose stated.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m. into regular session as a result of unanimous vote of the Members of the Committee to recess the Executive Session and reconvene into open session.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order.

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

The Chair led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

The Chair next asked that if there was no objection from the Committee, based on a medical emergency, two items from the School Committee Reports would be taken first. Hearing none, the Nurse Layoffs and Stephen Olney School Bench items were taken next.

VI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT *Moved Up - Ok

1. Nurse Layoffs – Mr. Cataldi.

Mr. Cataldi first spoke regarding the Governor’s proposal for repeal of the requirement to hire certified school nurses. He cautioned everyone that such a cut would jeopardize the quality of the children’s health care and would present a health and safety issue. He turned the meeting over to Alice Brady. Mrs. Brady introduced the members of the nurse teacher staff and spoke about the certification process for the nurse teachers. She outlined the services provided to the students and the individual health plans. Members of the

Committee offered comments. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard to rescind the layoff recommendation of the nurse teachers. Members of the Committee offered comments in support of the nurse teachers. Mrs. Picard called for a roll call vote, taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; and Mrs. Reall, aye. The motion unanimously carried by a vote of 7-0. Mrs. Brady completed her Powerpoint presentation and thanked the members of the Committee and the parents for their continued support. Dr. Alario commented regarding the nurse teachers and felt that the district is blessed to have them as part of the district.

2. Stephen Olney School Bench – Mrs. Picard.

Mrs. Picard spoke about the missing bench being a huge disadvantage to the students. The bench cost approximately \$2000.00 and includes the names of all the students and teachers as well as the principal. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano to return the bench to the school by tomorrow morning. Discussion took place with regard to the bench. Several members of the Committee offered comments regarding this issue. The Chair asked Mr. Tony Norato to explain why the bench was removed from the school. He spoke about the custodian at the school and his sore throat and sinus infections because of his allergies to the bench, which is oak. Several members of the audience offered comments regarding the bench, including testimony that the bench is made from

pine, not oak. Mrs. Picard called for a roll call vote, which was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; and the Chair voted nay. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

The Chair next excused the members of the audience who wished to leave and waited a few minutes for them to exit.

Next, the Chair returned to the original Agenda format.

III. CHAIR TO REPORT OUT ANY VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair next reported out that there were and no votes taken in Executive Session. She added that any person to be discussed has been notified in advance and that they may request that such discussions be held in open session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a).

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to accept and seal the record of the February 25, 2009 Executive Session in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-46-4, 5, and 7(c).

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair reported that the Committee had not received any

correspondence.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Monthly Financial Report.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the February 25, 2009 Financial Report as submitted. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi to approve the February 25, 2009 Financial Report as submitted. Members of the Committee pointed out inconsistencies on the report and felt that it didn't make any sense. Discussion took place. Mr. Marciano and Mr. Cataldi agreed to withdraw the motion. Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mrs. Picard and unanimously carried to put this report on for next month. The Superintendent commented regarding the upgrades to the software and the inconsistencies with the Town reports also.

2. Assessment Presentation.

Mrs. Donoyan gave a presentation regarding the NECAP scores. She spoke about the reading and math scores for Grades 3 through 8 and writing scores for grades 5 and 8. The District outperformed the State in reading and writing and the District has been diligent in closing the gap for the math scores. Members of the Committee offered comments.

3. Field Trip Requests.

Ms. Donoyan recommended approval of the Field Trip Requests as submitted. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried to approve the Field Trip Requests as submitted and in accordance with School Committee Policy.

4. Home Schooling Requests.

The Chair reported that there was no home schooling requests.

5. Kindergarten Registration Packet.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Kindergarten Registration Packet to be distributed to the elementary schools. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to approve the Kindergarten Registration Packet as submitted.

VI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT.

3. By Laws Amendment. – Ms. Leva.

Ms. Leva spoke regarding the meeting of the By-Laws Committee to consider amending the By Laws requiring that any vote to be taken be read as a resolution and to be followed by a roll call vote. Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to amend #5 of the By-Laws to add that all items requiring a vote shall be read as a resolution on the Agenda. Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mr. Marciano to amend #10 of the By-Laws to add to the beginning of #10 that a roll call vote shall be taken for each resolution. Discussion took place regarding this amendment. The Chair called for a roll call vote, which was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. The Chair added that she personally didn't like it but would go along with the vote.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments and opinion were received on Agenda Items 3-5.

VIII. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

1. Night Sports at NPHS – Mr. Hendricks.

Mr. Hendricks identified himself and thanked the members of the Committee, both past and present regarding the vote taken last year with respect to the Night Sports at NPHS. He also thanked the Sports Associations for their support. He added that he would like to assure that the present vote stays in place for the upcoming season.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Awarding Bids.

There were no bids received.

2. Consideration of Resignations; Retirements; Leaves of Absence; Dismissals; Layoffs; Non-Renewals; Layoff Rescissions; Appointments/Other.

A. Resignations.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Resignations submitted by Cheryl Caccia – Crossing Guard Effective January 30, 2009; David Doiron – Class Advisor North Providence High School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; and David Doiron – National Honor Society Advisor North Providence High School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year. Motion by Mr Marciano, seconded by Mr.

Palmieri and unanimously carried to approve the Resignations as submitted.

B. Retirements.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Retirements listed in the School Committee packet and made a brief statement of the accomplishments of each retiree and wished them the best. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried to approve the following retirement requests with deep regret.

Marilyn Begin – Teacher Grade 1 McGuire Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Demetra Bianchi – Middle School Guidance Counselor Birchwood Middle School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Donald Bianco – High School Guidance Counselor North Providence High School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Ann Marie Bobola – Teacher Grade 4 Whelan Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Jean Cardarelli – Teacher Grade 3 McGuire Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Marie Cerra – Resource Teacher Marieville Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Linda D’Ambra – Middle School Math Teacher Ricci Middle School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Leslie DesJarlais – Pre-School Coordinator District Wide Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; David Doiron – Secondary Social Studies

Teacher North Providence High School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Barbara Emerson – Art Teacher Marieville/Whelan Schools Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Dawn Faraone – Special Education/DPT Tester District Wide Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Maria Keil – Special Education/DPT Tester District Wide Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Karen Landrigan – Teacher Grade 1 McGuire Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; John McGuire – English Teacher North Providence High School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Elaine Milkaitis – Teacher Grade 1 Greystone Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Beverly McNeil – Teacher Grade 2 Whelan Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Paul Morry – Elementary Principal Whelan Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Lorraine Moschella – Elementary Principal McGuire Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Janet Murray – Library Media Specialist Birchwood Middle School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Virginia Pappas – ESL Teacher Ricci Middle School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; JoAnn Picone – Special Educator Birchwood Middle School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Marion Pogorilich – Teacher Grade 5 McGuire Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Sandra Proulx – Kindergarten Teacher Centredale Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Deborah Signoriello – Teacher Grade 1 Whelan Elementary School

Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Harold Smith – Physical Education/Health Teacher Birchwood Middle School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Anne Marie Vale, Ph.D. Teacher – Grade 4 McGuire Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Donna Vanasse – High School Guidance Counselor North Providence High School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; Susan Venturini – Speech/Language Pathologist Centredale Elementary School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year; and Jeannine Zisk – Teacher Grade 3 Greystone School Effective at the End of the 2008/2009 School Year. Members of the Committee offered comments and spoke about the years of experience that the retirees represent.

C. Leaves of Absence.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of Absence requests for Holly Fulgham – Elementary Resource Teacher Greystone/McGuire Schools for Paid FMLA Effective January 7, 2009 through February 2, 2009 and Unpaid FMLA Effective February 3, 2009 through April 9, 2009.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried granting approval to the Leaves of Absence Requests as presented.

D. Non-Renewals (Layoffs)

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Non-Renewals (Layoffs) contained in the School Committee packets excluding the Nurse Teacher Layoffs based on the March 1 deadline and due to the uncertainty of State and Federal Funding and an abundance of caution. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried to approve the Non-Renewals (Layoffs) contained in the School Committee packets excluding the Nurse Teacher Layoffs.

D. Appointments.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the following appointment, which was voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried granting advice and consent to the appointment of Paul Autiello Custodian – 2nd Shift Ricci Middle School Effective February 2, 2009.

E. Appointment Changes.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant

advice and consent to the following Appointment Changes, which were voted on as follows:

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and unanimously carried granting advice and consent to the appointment changes for Anne Annese – Speech/Language Pathologist from .6 to .8 Effective January 23, 2009; and Judie Berlinsky – Speech/Language Pathologist from .7 to .8 Effective January 23, 2009.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of Contract.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta and Mr. Marciano and carried to approve the Contract for the Assistant Superintendent as presented to the Committee. Ms. Leva and Mrs. Picard voted nay to the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2. Mrs. Picard and Ms. Leva spoke about what a great job Mrs. Donoyan does and the reasons that they could not vote to approve the contract. The Chair added that the contract agreed to by the Committee six months ago was accepted by Mrs. Donoyan and it was agreed to before the present money situation was known.

2. Corrective Action Plan.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to approve the North Providence School Committee Corrective Action Plan with the caveat that the Committee does not change the North Providence Basketball League cost for custodians for the upcoming tournaments. Discussion took place with respect to the motion.

XI. USE OF PROPERTY REQUESTS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Use of Property Requests submitted which were not previously approved, based on School Committee Policy, availability and the request meeting all the necessary conditions. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and unanimously carried to approve the Use of Property Requests as submitted.

XII. APPROVAL OF BILLS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the List of Bills as presented and submitted to the Committee. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and unanimously carried to approve and pay the February 2009 List of Bills in the amount of \$1,473,312.36.

XIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and unanimously carried to accept and seal the Minutes of the January 28, 2009 Executive Session and keep closed under R.I.G.L. 42-46-4 and 42-46-5.

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to accept the Minutes of the January 28, 2009 Regular Meeting of the North Providence School Committee based on the amendment to include the motion made by Mr. Cataldi regarding filling positions.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS IN AGENDA ITEMS 7-12

Members of the audience offered comments Agenda Items 7-12.

XV. PENDING BUSINESS

There being no pending business, the Committee moved on to the next agenda item.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Margie Caranci,
Recording Secretary of the North Providence
School Committee**

Date Submitted to Committee: March 20, 2009

Date Approved by the Committee: March 25, 2009