

SPECIAL NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

The North Providence School Committee met in joint session with the North Providence Town Council on February 17, 2009 in the Library of the North Providence High School at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of addressing the Financial Matters and Collective Bargaining. President Burchfield called the meeting of the Town Council to Order.

Chairwoman Reall called the meeting of the School Committee to order at 5:10 p.m.

Members present were Chairwoman Reall, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Marciano, Mr. Iannetta, Mr. Palmieri, Ms. Leva and Mrs. Picard. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Scungio, Ms. Celona, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Donoyan and Mr. Milazzo. Town Council members Burchfield, Caranci, Douglas, Giammarco, Giusti, Manfredi, and Zambarano were present as well as Mayor Lombardi, Mr. Fossa, Mr. Gesualdi, Ms. Vallee, and the Auditor General, Ernest Almonte.

President Burchfield turned the meeting over to Mayor Lombardi to speak about the Deficit Reduction Plan. Mayor Lombardi read a prepared statement regarding the deficit and the reduction in State Aid of 3.5 million dollars. He spoke about the 20% reduction in municipal services at the pool and library. He expressed concern with running out of time and options and asked everyone to come to

the meeting to list to what the Auditor General has to say regarding the Town. President Burchfield thanked Mayor Lombardi and next turned the meeting over to the Auditor General, who began by speaking about his core values. He next addressed the current serious economic challenges and the 6 million dollar deficit in North Providence in addition to the 7 million dollar rolling deficit. He next focused on his advisory role and different ways to raise revenue as well as cut expenses. He cautioned everyone against raising revenue through tax increases only and felt that there needs to be a balance between raising revenue and cutting expenses. He felt that it would be in the Town's best interest to figure out a way to bring the Town into compliance and eliminate the rolling deficit. He also expressed concern with the structural deficit going forward and advised everyone not to count on the stimulus package for any substantial income. Members of the Council and School Committee as well as the Administration asked questions. Mr. Almonte also spoke about the concern that the Town's bond rating could reach junk bond status, at which point the State would come in and take over until the budget is balanced.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Date Submitted to the Committee: March 20, 2009

Date Approved by the Committee: March 25, 2009