

NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET WORKSHOP

MARCH 5, 2009

The North Providence School Committee met on March 5, 2009 at 6:15 p.m. in the Library at the North Providence High School for the purpose of holding a Budget Workshop.

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, Mrs. Donoyan, Ms. Celona, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Milazzo.

Chairwoman Reall began by explaining that the purpose of the Workshop is to discuss the proposed budget and that the members of the Committee would first ask questions and then public comments would be taken. She turned the meeting over to Superintendent Ottaviano for her presentation. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about the appropriation request made last February and compared the increase from last year's initially proposed budget to this year, which represents a 2.7% increase. Ms. Celona spoke about the information requested at the budget workshop last evening and provided the members of the Committee with two personnel rosters with all positions funded by grants on a separate roster. Mr. Palmieri expressed concern with the format of the budget and felt that he could not vote on a budget when he had no idea what he was

voting on because of the format. The Chair explained that the new system has been two years in the making and that everyone will be given a clean copy of the budget before it goes to the Mayor. Mr. Palmieri expressed further concerns and felt that the Administration needs to take responsibility for the budget. Superintendent Ottaviano addressed Mr. Palmieri's concerns and felt that the Administration always assumes responsibility for work product and added that there is an audit done every year. She added that the new system is being implemented in accordance with State Law and at the request of the Auditor General and that all districts and municipalities need to be in compliance by next year. Further discussion took place regarding numerous areas of the budget. Several members of the Committee asked questions regarding specific budget items and codes. The Chair next spoke about having faith in our CEOs. She added that the Committee spent three nights discussing the proposed budget and it needs to be voted on. Several members of the Committee offered comments and suggestions regarding the proposed budget. Legal Counsel offered observations and comments regarding the integrity of the new system and the fact that it is brand new. He added that once the system is in place for a period of time, it will be much easier to work with. Ms. Celona spoke about the system and the challenges it presents trying to implement a new system. Ms. Leva asked several questions regarding the temp in the technology position. Mrs. Donoyan spoke about the administrative decision regarding the technology temp and the areas of expertise needed at the high school. Further discussion took place regarding the technology

needs and the budget constraints. Ms. Leva felt that any position that is filled should be brought before the Committee. Discussion took place with respect to how subs are used and the protocol followed.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Marciano to accept the budget with the updates and corrections suggested by the Committee. Mr. Cataldi requested a roll call vote, which was taken as follows: Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Ms. Leva, nay; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Marciano and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 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