

**REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

The North Providence School Committee met on November 18, 2009 at 6:30 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 and Mr. Henneous. Mrs. 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 Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard and carried to recess the regular session and convene in Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. in accordance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-4 and 5 for the purpose of Employee Termination Hearing Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) and (9); Litigation Advice re Potential Litigation re: Financial Situation/Funds owed to the School Department; Legal Advice re: Personnel Matter pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(1); Step 2 Grievance Hearing (#023919) pursuant to 42-46-5(a)(9); and Discussion of Information received regarding appointment of employee (personnel matter) pursuant to R.I. Gen Laws 42-46-5(a)(1).

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 7:48 p.m. into regular session as a result of the 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.

III. CHAIR TO REPORT OUT ANY VOTES TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECEIVE MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SEAL EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF RIGL 42-46-(4) & (5).

The Chair reported that any person discussed in Executive Session had been notified in advance and in writing.

Next, the Chair reported that one vote was taken in Executive Session to deny Grievance No. 09-1021.

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano to seal the Minutes of the November 18, 2009 Executive Session in accordance with RIGL 42-46-4 and 5. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair next reported that there was no correspondence received.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Monthly Financial Report.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked for advice and consent of the School Committee for approval of the Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-16. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the Monthly Financial Report as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

2. Field Trips.

Assistant Superintendent Donoyan asked for the advice and consent of the School Committee for the approval of the Field Trips as submitted and in accordance with School Committee Policy. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Marciano as to Resolution No. 09-10-17. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent, the Field Trips be approved as presented and in accordance with School Committee Policy. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent.

3. Intra-District Transfer Policy (second reading).

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Intra-District Transfer Policy as amended. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-18. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Intra-District Transfer Policy Revisions (second reading) be approved. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

4. Ethics Policy Annual Update (second reading).

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended the Committee grant advice and consent to the Ethics Policy Annual Update (second reading). Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-19. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Ethics Policy Annual Update (second reading) be approved. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

5. Affirmative Action Policy Annual Update (second reading).

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended the Committee grant advice and consent to the Affirmative Action Policy Annual Update to be in compliance with both Federal and State Laws. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Ms. Leva as to Resolution No. 09-10-20. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Affirmative Action Policy Annual Update (second reading) be approved. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent.

6. Step 2 Grievance Hearing (#023919).

This item was taken off the Agenda.

VI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. Discussion re: Technology Update.

Mr. Palmieri asked for an update regarding the technology. Assistant Superintendent Donoyan gave a brief update of the status of the technology. The Chair spoke about concerns of getting into something that we don't need. Mr. Palmieri asked why we aren't using part-time people. Mrs. Donoyan spoke about the issue last year of using a substitute and being cautious about spending money.

2. Discussion re: Reorganization of School Committee.

The Chair suggested that every member of the School Committee be allowed three items on the agenda each month. She also spoke about the recommendation for reorganizing every year. Ms. Leva spoke about the By-Laws Committee meeting and suggested that subject to the legal opinion of Ms. Leva spoke about research she conducted among other Committees and the fact that some Committees reorganize every year and that starting 2011, the School Committee reorganize yearly. Mr. Marciano spoke about the discussion of reorganizing yearly. Motion by Ms. Leva, seconded by Mr. Palmieri and carried to reorganize the School Committee on a yearly basis subject to the legal opinion of legal counsel as to the

Charter. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Leva, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, nay; Mr. Marciano, aye; and the Chair, nay. The motion carried by a vote of 5 to 2.

3. Discussion re: Instructional Time/Elementary Schools.

Ms. Leva spoke about the requirement of 330 minutes of instruction. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about the contractual obligations and that, in fact, the district is in compliance. Further information would be provided by the Superintendent.

4. Discussion re: Budget Update.

Ms. Leva asked a question regarding the \$165,000.00 back in August when the Superintendent found alternative money. Superintendent Ottaviano explained that she and the auditor have a meeting with Maria Vallee next week and as soon as the information is received, she will update the Committee in writing.

5. Discussion re: Absentee Policy.

Mr. Palmieri asked for the subcommittee to meet regarding the absentee policy. Superintendent Ottaviano stated that the policy is in accordance with state law. The three flu clinics were very successful and thanked the volunteers.

6. Discussion re: Letter Received From Concerned Parent Regarding an Employee.

This item was removed from the Agenda.

7. Discussion re: Complaints by Parents.

Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Cataldi that the parents put any complaints in writing and forward it to the Superintendent. Mr. Maguire spoke about his concerns regarding a form. The Chair suggested that legal counsel should be advised before using any form. Mr. Cataldi felt that after listening to Mr. Maguire's concerns, he would like to withdraw his second. Discussion took place regarding the protocol. Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Marciano to send out a form to every parent with an organizational chart explaining the process for handling a complaint by December 1st. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about working in the District since 1989 and about how the employees go out of their way to help people who are in need.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3-6

Councilman Caranci cautioned the members of the Committee with regard to asking legal counsel for the Council to give advice and felt that the Committee should ask their own legal counsel for advice. Members of the audience offered comments.

VIII. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

No requests to address the committee were received.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of Awarding Bids.

There were no bids.

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

A. Resignations.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Resignation submitted by Linda J. Celona – Director of Finance – Effective February 28, 2010. The Chair read a statement for the record “that it

is with great regret that I will vote to accept the resignation of Linda Celona. Linda has been a fiercely dedicated and loyal employee of the School Department over these last years. She has helped us to remove some serious financial debt to the tune of \$4 million which she had nothing to do with. We will be had-pressed to find someone who can fill her shoes – working some days from 7 in the morning until 10:00, 10:30 or 11:00 o'clock at night; to say nothing of Saturdays and Sundays as well. I wish Linda all happiness, health, and success in her new endeavor. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 09-10-23. Be it resolved that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee accept the resignation of Linda J. Celona effective February 28, 2010. A roll call vote 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 with regret. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Resignations of Lori Ann Compagnone – Special Educator – Self/Contained Teacher – McGuire School effective November 1, 2009; and Brendon Vallee – Ricci Middle School Wrestling Coach Effective October 22, 2009. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-23. Be it resolved that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee accept the resignation of Lori Ann Compagnone – Special Educator – Self/Contained Teacher – McGuire School Effective

November 1, 2009 and Brendon Vallee – Ricci Middle School Wrestling Coach Effective October 22, 2009. A roll call vote 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 unanimous vote.

B. Retirements.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee accept the retirement of Edward Bernier – Custodian – NPHS Effective November 30, 2009. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-24. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee accept the retirement of Edward Bernier – Custodian – NPHS Effective November 30, 2009. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee accept the retirement of William Gaynor – Maintenance – Effective January 8, 2010. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 09-10-24. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee accept the retirement of William Gaynor – Maintenance – Effective January 8, 2010. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta,

aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee accept the retirement of Lucille Valliere – Clerk – Effective November 13, 2009. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-24. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee accept the retirement of Lucille Valliere – Clerk – Effective November 13, 2009 with regret. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent.

C. Termination Recommendation.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee approve the termination recommendation for Bambilyn Cambio – Speech/Language Pathologist . Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 09-10-25. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve the termination recommendation for Bambilyn Cambio – Speech/Language Pathologist. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent.

The second termination recommendation was deferred.

D. Appointments.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the following appointments: Jennifer Benell – Speech/Language Pathologist 7th Step Masters Effective November 23, 2009; Crystal Bozigian – Assistant Swim Coach – NPHS Effective 2009/2010 Season; Cristina Grasso – Special Educator – Self/Contained Teacher – McGuire School – 1st Step – Effective November 19, 2009 through June 18, 2010; and Brendon Vallee – Birchwood Middle School Wrestling Coach – Effective 2009/2010 Season. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-26. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve the appointment of Jennifer Benell – Speech/Language Pathologist 7th Step Masters Effective November 23, 2009; Crystal Bozigian – Assistant Swim Coach – NPHS Effective 2009/2010 Season; Cristina Grasso – Special Educator – Self/Contained Teacher – McGuire School – 1st Step – Effective November 19, 2009 through June 18, 2010; and Brendon Vallee – Birchwood Middle School Wrestling Coach – Effective 2009/2010 Season. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye;

Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

E. Layoffs/Non-Renewals.

There were no Layoffs/Non-Renewals.

F. School Committee Authority for Legal Counsel.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mrs. Picard and Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-31. Be it resolved that the Committee authorizes legal counsel to commence appropriate action, on behalf of the Committee and the District to recover such previously appropriated funds owed to the District by the Town of North Providence. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, nay; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by a vote of 6 to 1. Ms. Leva commented that she feels that the Town owes the money. However, she is not in favor of taking legal action at the expense of the taxpayer. Mr. Cataldi stated, for the record, that the Committee has made attempts, to no avail and that he feels it is the only action available.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was presented.

XI. USE OF PROPERTY REQUESTS

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the 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. Iannetta and Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 09-10-28. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent.

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 Ms. Leva as to Resolution No. 09-10-29. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grants advice and consent to

approve and pay the October 2009 List of Bills in the amount of \$721,456.47. A roll call vote 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 unanimous consent. Mr. Cataldi raised a concern about the cost of advertising for Agenda.

XIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano as to Resolution No. 09-10-30. Be it resolved that, at the Recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve the Minutes of the October 28, 2009 Regular Session. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Cataldi, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENTS IN AGENDA ITEMS 8 - 13.

No comments were received.

XV. PENDING BUSINESS

There being no pending business, the Committee moved on to the

next agenda item.

The Chair welcomed Lucille to the retirement club and wished her health and luck in retirement.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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

Date Submitted to Committee:

Date Approved by the Committee: