

**REGULAR NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2009**

The North Providence School Committee met on October 28, 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 and Mrs. Picard. Also present was Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Scungio and Mr. Henneous. Ms. Leva, 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 Obtaining Legal Advice re: Employee Matter; Employee Termination Hearing Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) and (9); Litigation Update re: a. Collective Bargaining Update Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-(a)(2); Legal Advice re: Potential Litigation re: Financial Situation/Funds owed to School Department; Legal Advice re: Personnel matter; Step 2 Grievance Hearing (#023919) pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-5(a)(9); and Consideration of Non-Renewal or Renewal of Employee 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 7:30 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 next reported out that there were no votes taken in Executive Session and that any person discussed in Executive Session had been notified in advance and in writing.

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano to seal the Minutes of the September 23, 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; and Mr. Marciano, 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 recommended approval of the Monthly Financial Report as submitted. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 09-10-01. 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. Veterans Auditorium.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Veterans Auditorium as the High School Graduation Venue. Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Marciano as to Resolution No. 09-10-02. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the Veterans Auditorium as the High School Graduation Venue. 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. 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. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 09-10-03. 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: 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.

4. Assistant Superintendent Reports.

a. Federal and State Grant Funds Utilization.

Assistant Superintendent Donoyan reported on the grants utilization and allocation. Committee members expressed appreciation for all the hard work that goes into developing the grants.

b. Science NECAP Assessment Reports.

Assistant Superintendent Donoyan gave a brief explanation of the NECAP results. Members of the Committee asked questions and offered comments and congratulations to the faculty and administration responsible for the increase in the numbers. A member of the Committee asked about the timeframe for implementation of the plan for the middle schools.

5. Binding Arbitration Resolution.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended the Committee grant advice and consent to the Binding Arbitration Resolution as presented. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Picard and Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 09-10-04. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Binding Arbitration Resolution 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. District Technology Plan.

Assistant Superintendent Donoyan recommended the Committee grant advice and consent to the District Technology Plan (2010-2013).

Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 09-10-05. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent, the District Technology Plan (2010-2013) 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.

7. District Emergency Response Plan Updates.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the District Emergency Response Plan. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Picard and Mr. Cataldi as to Resolution No. 09-10-06. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the District Emergency Response Plan Updates 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.

8. Intra District Transfer Policy Revisions (First Reading).

Superintendent Ottaviano submitted the First Reading of the Intra

District Transfer Policy Revisions to the Committee. The Chair recommended that any questions be directed to the Superintendent or Legal Counsel.

9. Ethics Policy Annual Update (First Reading)

Superintendent Ottaviano submitted the First Reading of the Ethics Policy Annual Update to the Committee.

10. Affirmative Action Policy Annual Update (First Reading)

Superintendent Ottaviano submitted the First Reading of the Affirmative Action Policy Annual Update to the Committee.

11. Commissioners Review Presentation (NPHS)

Mr. Goho gave a brief overview of the Commissioner's Review of the Diploma System scheduled for November 18, 2009 and the seriousness of the review. He spoke about the revised regulations to include the middle school and felt that the changes produce a better product.

The Chair requested a short two-minute recess at 8:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

12. Step 2 Grievance Hearing (#023919)

Before beginning the grievance hearing, Chair Helen Reall read a brief statement regarding the procedure to be followed for the grievance hearing.

Ms. Audrey Lombardo thanked the Committee and gave a handout to the members of the Committee that explains what the grievance is all about. She explained that she represents Barbara Bezerra for a grievance and explained their position regarding work performed outside of the scope of her job description. Next, Mr. Henneous explained to the members of the Committee that they have been the fact that the claim is frivolous and without merit. He referred to several sections of the job descriptions.

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Palmieri to deny the grievance. Ms. Leva asked clarifying questions regarding the grievance. Discussion took place and Mr. Cataldi moved the question. Mr. Henneous spoke about his discussion with Ms. Lombardo and her agreement to allow the Committee to postpone the vote tonight. Mr. Palmieri agreed to withdraw his motion.

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mrs. Picard to vote on the grievance tonight. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, nay; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, nay, Mr. Cataldi, nay; Mr. Marciano, nay; and the Chair, aye. The motion failed by a vote of 4 to 3.

The Chair announced that, on a lighter note, the Breeze voted Attorney Henneous as an up and coming attorney.

VI. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. Discussion re: Technology and Upgrades.

Mr. Palmieri made a motion to have the computers fixed. Assistant Superintendent Donoyan gave an explanation as to the steps that were taken regarding the outage and the problem. Members of the Committee asked questions and offered comments. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the technology issues for the District and the possible fixes. Members of the Committee felt that going forward, any problems like the computer outage should be reported to the Committee.

Motion by Mr. Palmieri, seconded by Mr. Marciano to go out to bid to fix the problem and to look at the technology for the whole District, including a company that will handle emergencies. 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

2. Discussion re: Reorganization of School Committee.

Ms. Leva spoke about research she conducted among other Committees and the fact that some Committees reorganize every year and that starting 2011, she would like to reorganize every year. The Chair referred the matter to the By-Laws Committee. Mr. Cataldi asked Ms. Leva why she always thinks that North Providence has to do what other Committees do? Motion by Mr. Cataldi to deny the request. Hearing no second, the Chair referred the matter to the By-Laws Committee.

3. Discussion re: Instructional Time/Elementary Schools.

Ms. Leva spoke about some of the schools dismissing students before the scheduled time. Superintendent Ottaviano spoke about an upcoming administrators meeting. She would discuss schedules and talked about assuring that the principals adhere to the schedule approved by the state.

4. Discussion re: Legal Expenses.

Mr. Marciano spoke about the subcommittee meeting held to discuss legal expenses and went through some of the items. He felt that there is no question as to the quality of the work. Ms. Leva questioned whether or not it is necessary for legal counsel to be at all the meetings. Mr. Marciano spoke about all requests for legal advice be made through the Chair and the fact that legal counsel never goes to

a meeting unless asked. If the Chair feels that legal counsel should attend, then legal counsel will be asked to go. It was pointed out that sometimes legal counsel attends meetings of their own choosing and does not bill for those meetings.

5. Discussion re: Marieville School Stairs.

Ms. Leva spoke about the stairs being short and steep. She asked that the Building Committee look at the stairs to decide if there is any possibility of making them better. Discussion took place regarding the stairs and Mr. Milazzo spoke about the structure of the stairs and the fact that they are in compliance with code. Members of the Committee asked questions and offered comments.

6. Discussion re: Records Update.

Ms. Leva made a request to see the withdrawals and deposits and a complete list of all the vendors, including all the individuals.

7. Discussion re: North Providence High School Graduation Venue.

This matter was discussed under the Superintendent's Report.

8. Discussion re: Special Education Programs.

Mr. Palmieri asked for an update on the Wilson Programs. He asked

if any additional

teachers were added yet? Mr. Lynch explained that twelve teachers are going on November 5th and the Department of Education is in the process of approving the grant.

9. Discussion re: Renovations (Stephen Olney School).

Mr. Palmieri asked Mr. Milazzo for an update. Mr. Milazzo spoke about the nurse being happy with the room she was moved to. He also discussed the plan he had in place going forward.

10. Subcommittee Reports.

a. Team Sponsorship.

There was no new information regarding the team sponsorship.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS 3-6

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.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the bid for Ready Nurse Staffing Services temporary contract subject to attorney review and changes. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mrs. Picard as to Resolution No. 09-10-07. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the N.P. School Committee grants advice and consent to the bid for Ready Nurse 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.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the bid for Dental Services to Frank D'Amato as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Motion by Mr. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Marciano as to Resolution No. 09-10-07. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grants advice and consent to the bid for School Dental Services to Frank D'Amato. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

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 Robert Arrighie – Middle School Wrestling Coach – Birchwood Middle School Effective October 2, 2009; John DiSumma – Assistant Football Coach – NPHS Effective October 15, 2009; Jennifer Goulding – Girls’ Freshman Basketball Coach – NPHS Effective October 19, 2009; Kevin McHugh – Assistant Wrestling Coach – NPHS Effective September 17, 2009; and Jessica Pasquarelli – Assistant Swim Coach – NPHS Effective October 7, 2009. Motion by Mr. Marciano, seconded by Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-08.

Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the resignations as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

B. Leaves of Absence.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Leave of

Absence requests for Linda Brown – Superintendent’s Secretary – Paid FMLA – September 24, 2009 through November 3, 2009 and Unpaid FMLA – November 4, 2009 through November 13, 2009 Effective September 24, 2009; and Lori-Ann Compagnone – Special Education Teacher – McGuire School – Paid Medical Leave – October 13, 2009 through November 4, 2009 and Unpaid Medical Leave – November 5, 2009 through November 13, 2009 Effective October 13, 2009. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Ms. Leva as to Resolution No. 09-10-09. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant advice and consent to the Leaves of Absence as presented by the Superintendent. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Ms. Leva, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

C. Appointments.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the following appointments: Robert Arrighie – Assistant Wrestling Coach – NPHS Effective – 2009/2010 Season; Ashlee DeSimone – Ricci Middle School Cheerleading Advisor – Effective October 29, 2009; and Jennifer Goulding – Girls’ Assistant Basketball Coach – NPHS Effective – 2009/2010 Season. Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Mr. Marciano and Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-11. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grant

advice and consent to the appointments as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

D. Layoffs/Non-Renewals.

There were no layoffs/non-renewals.

Superintendent Ottaviano noted to the School Committee that at this point, she has been informed that Linda Celona will be leaving the District next February and more information will be provided to the Committee when it becomes fully available to her.

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. Iannetta, seconded by Mr. Marciano as to Resolution No. 09-10-13. 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: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; 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 Mr. Iannetta as to Resolution No. 09-10-14. Be it resolved that, at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee grants advice and consent to approve and pay the September 2009 List of Bills in the amount of \$668,700.19. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Ms. Leva, aye; and the Chair, aye. The motion carried by unanimous consent.

XIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Ms. Leva as to Resolution No.

09-10-15. Be it resolved that, at the Recommendation of the Superintendent, the North Providence School Committee approve and seal the Minutes of the September 23, 2009 Executive Session and approve the Minutes of the September 23, 2009 Regular Session. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Iannetta, aye; Mr. Marciano, aye; Mrs. Picard, aye; Mr. Palmieri, aye; Mr. Palmieri, 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.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Picard, seconded by Ms. Leva and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 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: