

**NORTH PROVIDENCE BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING  
NORTH PROVIDENCE TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
2000 SMITH STREET  
NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI 02904**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
JULY 26, 2022 5:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

G. Richard Fossa, Chairman  
Mayor Charles Lombardi  
Maria Vallee, Finance Director  
Dr. Frank Pallotta, School Committee  
James Fuoroli, Town of NP  
Mario Carreno, RIDE  
Philip Conte, Studio JAED  
Joseph Nickerson, Seaberg Cons.

Ronald Baccala, Town Council  
Charles Pollock, School Committee  
Mario Martone, Town Council  
Robert O'Brien, Former Supt.  
Joseph Goho, Superintendent  
Lisa Casinelli, School Finance Director  
Donna Handley, Principal/Centredale

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Fossa at 5:45 p.m. He explained that this was an informational meeting and an opportunity for the town to construct new schools for the town and move the administration building to a new location.

Mayor Lombardi informed the committee that he was approached on this matter and explained that the town could receive 80 percent reimbursement from RIDE on this future project. He explained that to pass up this opportunity would be a disservice to the taxpayers. Dr. Pallotta explained how this proposed project came to fruition after an assessment of the current schools. He stated the School Committee would be voting on this Wednesday night and it would then be forwarded to the Town Council.

Mario Carreno of RIDE provided a Power Point presentation and described what the town could realize as far as new schools. He explained that the General Assembly extended the bonuses for one year and North Providence was eligible for an 80 percent reimbursement. He also explained that the town may never have this opportunity again. This application includes demolishing Whelan, Centredale and Greystone schools. The new schools would be constructed where the parking/playground areas are, and the new parking/playground areas would be installed where the current schools are. Using this scenario, no swing space would have to be provided and the students would not have to be bused to a different location. The administration building would move to the high school, where an addition would be added on to the current building. The plan is to put the administration on the second floor, and the first floor would have a concession stand, bathrooms, athletic storage and other community usage. The application would also provide for improvements to the high school and middle schools. Mr. Carreno stated it would be

to the town's benefit to get any projects done now because they will not have the opportunity to receive 80 percent in the future.

Questions/Topics addressed included:

- Adding a career/tech building/program to the high school such as welding, etc.
- Repairing the sky lights at the high school
- Redoing the high school auditorium
- Renovating the 2 new middle schools now instead of waiting
- The need for no swing space is important to the parents and students
- Providing a playground area for the students during construction
- An approximate start date for the projects
- If we ask for higher than 100 million, are we required to use it all – we are not
- Putting this on the ballot in November or holding a special election
- Funding for hiring an architect as soon as possible to expedite the design of the administration building
- Construction can begin as soon as we receive RIDE approval
- Adding recreational areas in town for school use
- Ensuring the town is fiscally sound during these projects
- Having a resolution prepared by the town or council attorney

After further discussion, it was decided to have Ms. Vallee run the numbers for both \$100 million for the current proposed project and \$125 million (to include renovation of the middle

schools) and other projects to compare the tax implications on the town. This information will be forwarded to the Town Council for their meeting on Tuesday, August 2.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Baccala and seconded by Mayor Lombardi to adjourn the meeting 7:02 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan V. Fitzpatrick  
Certified Court Reporter