



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **TEACHERS UNION PRESIDENT AND PARENTS OF SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS FILE COMPLAINT**

**PROVIDENCE, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007** - Steven F. Smith, President of the Providence Teachers Union and three (3) parents of Special Needs students have filed a complaint in Rhode Island Superior Court alleging that Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Peter McWalters, acted in excess of his authority by failing to deny the request by the Providence School Board for a “variance” to increase Special Education class size; by failing to ensure that the Providence School Board utilize the Caruolo Act to resolve financial disputes and by failing to carry-out Rhode Island Regents policies and programs. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Named in the complaint as defendants are Donnie Evans, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Providence School Department, Mary McClure, in her official capacity as President of the Providence School Board, and Peter McWalters, in his official capacity as Commissioner for the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.

For more information contact Steven F. Smith at (401) 421-4014.