

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Meeting of April 4, 2007

Special Open Session – Budget

The Warwick School Committee met in Special Open Session at Warwick Veterans High School on April 4, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson

Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice-Chairperson

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Joyce L. Andrade

Paul Cannistra

ADMINISTRATION

Robert J. Shapiro, Superintendent

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

Robert W. Dooley, Director of Business Affairs

Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

The Chair announced that tonight's meeting will be the presentation of Part 2 of the Superintendent's proposed budget. This is not the

final budget – that will be approved at the April 24th meeting. With that being said, as there is no public comment on this agenda, there will be time for the public comment after the presentation. There is no time limit but please be aware of the fact there are others would like to speak.

Special Services – Dr. D’Agostino 2006/07 2007/08 (reduced) or increase

Current Year Revised Request

Purchased Services 8,895,778 8,882,578 (13,200)

Materials & Supplies 61,780 60,940 (840)

Capital Outlay 24,420 25,720 1,300

Other Accounts 3,730 3,730 0

Totals 8,985,708 8,972,968 (12,740)

Secondary Education – (Mr. Mercurio)

Purchased Services 526,725 564,004 37,279

Materials & Supplies 640,800 726,840 86,040

Capital Outlay 231,687 414,843 183,156

Other Accounts 49,948 68,145 18,197

Totals 1,449,160 1,773,832 324,672

Human Resources (Ms. Healey)

Purchased Services 91,415 93,450 2,035

Materials & Supplies 5,340 5,980 640

Capital Outlay 1,890 1,890 0

Other Accounts 1,674 2,500 826

Totals 100,319 103,820 3,501

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Maintenance – (Mr. Small)

Purchased Services 1,679,713 2,039,280 359,567

Materials & Supplies 2,117,473 2,160,972 43,499

Capital Outlay 32,050 37,050 0

Other Accounts 2,247 2,247 0

Totals 3,831,483 4,239,549 408,066

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Curriculum Coordinator (Ms. Siesel)

Purchased Services 193,627 157,454 (36,173)

Materials & supplies 443,609 442,156 (1,453)

Capital Outlay 280 500 220

Other Accounts 935 460 (475)

Totals 638,451 600,570 (37,881)

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**Grants Coordinator (Mr. Lowery) 2006/07 2007/08 Increase/
Appropriation Request (Decrease)**

O. Services 3,646 - (3,646)

Office supplies 2,470 2,000 (470)

Equipment 570 750 180

Total 6,686 2,750 (3,936)

Title I – Education of Disadvantaged Youth

Totals 1,730,920 1,578,123 -152,797

Title II-A Improving Teacher Quality

Totals 802,373 740,473 -61,900

Title IV

Total Title IV 62,339 52,420 -7,959.00

IDEA Part-B – Totals 2,901,093 2,675,923

IDEA Preschool – Totals 142,685 112,474

Literacy Budget – Kathleen Desrosiers

Totals 974,893 954,802

BIDS:

MOTION 2007-93: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the

bid for office furniture, in the amount of \$12,693.47 be awarded to various vendors, as per bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-94: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the bid for lap boards, in the amount of \$9,897.2 be awarded to School Specialty, as per bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa – Nay

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

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MOTION 2007-95: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the bid for refrigerator condenser replacement be rejected.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Public Comment: Russell Bramley, Chairman of the Board of Child, Inc., asked if the Committee whether or not they were satisfied with the facility of Child Inc. and said if you are going to take kids back as you say is it in the best interest of those children or to serve some other purpose. Hope you are not just filling near empty buildings. We represent the poorest population in the City. Dennis Mullen (principal at Pilgrim) asked the Committee not to consolidate the department head ranks. In this current climate of “No Child Left Behind” need to keep the department heads as they presently exist. He questioned (1) if they are housed at high school how do you make lessons if teacher is absent (2) how will observations be scheduled (3) with different schedules how will meetings take place (4) how will foreign language be maintained with clerks being cut, who will monitor labs (5) who will provide evaluations (7) ELA math and science will have state testing, and the department heads do testing. He said student achievement will be negatively impacted, and asked that we maintain the current structure of department heads to continue. Tracey McDermott: science lab assistant questioned the cutting of six lab assistants as the “least impact on students.” She services 400 Aldrich students a week in the science lab, which equates to 14,000 lab experiences 180 days. OSHA regulations required don’t cut those positions – upper level jobs that are so redundant. Darleen Netoch, said the RIPAC report said that

administration is top heavy and asked if there had been any cuts in administration. She had concerns about science lab aides being cut, and said the department head issue would be a problem. John Thompson, remarked that the RIPAC report did not say administration was top heavy that was a remark in an appendix which was made by teacher union lawyer. Dr. Thompson said that science assistants play a critical role. They don't just move equipment around, they are educators, and cannot do science without labs and aides, they supervise labs, maintain and inventory. With statewide science testing is coming up, and we need these people. Mr. Ginolfi was against the proposal to eliminate special ed driver, lab aides, and elimination of dept. heads. He suggested taking day and spending it with a special ed driver, dept. heads or lab aide, to get an understanding how crucial their job is.

Brian Thomas – maintenance worked said that the administration had taken a 3% raise at the beginning of this year, and wondered if that was a smart thing to do without budget right now. Mary Palumbo (special ed teacher) said that the head start children will be served. Those children will not lose head start services. Instead they will be placed in program in a public class room. A remark was made that it was my understanding that Warwick will no longer be paying tuition for head start because that tuition is already being paid for by the federal government. We are not taking a service away. There have been mailings from head start that are inaccurate. The statement “do you want your children to eat lunch with 12 year olds” is wrong. A

Winman (parent) was concerned about the elimination of stanines, saying it is a disservice to student, the teacher will have to do middle ground work. Brenda Trembly said that Child Inc. is wonderful and her children did well and were taken off their IEP. Mary Lou Carter, a former science teacher, lends her support not to eliminate science aides, saying hands on is the way to go. Heidi, with two children at Child Inc. said shutting the door is wrong, their programs are remarkable and her children have done so well. Mary Townsend said she had 25 years preschool experience and she was

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slightly insulted regarding some of the remarks. We have curriculum, language, classroom social skills all day long. A gentleman said he had concerns about the budget, and he was leaving with more concerns. His three children all went to Child Inc. and how much was it going to cost to relocate. He said what will happen special needs kids if there are an abundance of students coming in the next few years. Where will they go?

Dawn, a parent of a deaf special needs child, said she could not get any parental services, but got them from Child Inc. Andy LaRoche remarked that Warwick School teachers are teaching at Child, Inc. and wasn't the issue over rent for classroom? Mr. D'Agostino said

basically we supply all services at Child Inc. and as a result we can provide other services. We will continue sending people we are only changing locations. We pay teachers and also pay tuition. Ann, science assistant at Tollgate, asked that the committee reconsider their position. George Landri, teacher at Gorton, said you are changing working conditions regarding the department heads and there would be grievances. Ms. Healey said she would defer to Union President and legal counsel. He also said that he thought the music budget of \$52,000 for 26 schools was much too low and that in the future we need to add to that budget. If Jr. High Intramural sports are cut, it will affect every student @ Gorton. \$30,000 at 3 Jr. HS – drop in bucket. Keep kids in school – urge reinstate.

Cherie Nickerson state that last year five WISE positions, 3 clerks 1 page and 1 second shift custodian were cut. She suggested that the committee go to the work place and observe how much these people do.

The main office clerks are overworked, one person cannot clean Career Center, and now cutting 19 positions and possibly 62 transportation people. Cutting painter, they do more than paint, six science lab assistants, 3 third shift people (there will be vandalism and theft) and 2 part-time clerks at \$18,000 each. The Athletic Director gets \$68,000 and he's retired. She opposed cuts and the underhanded way we heard of them. Ms. Lanagevin with a special needs child said that the one constant in her child's life was the start of his day and to please keep the buses and drivers.

Melanie(teacher)said after she heard about the mailing that went out personally and professional insulted.

MOTION 2007-96: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to Adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Meeting adjourned: 10:15 p.m.

Bethany Furtado Clerk

Betsey Snipes, Secretary