

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Meeting of January 9, 2007

Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Winman Jr. High School on January 9, 2007. Christopher Friel called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson

Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice Chair

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Joyce L. Andrade

Paul Cannistra

ADMINISTRATION

Robert J. Shapiro, Superintendent

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

Election of Officers:

MOTION 2007-1: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to nominate Christopher Friel as Chair of the Warwick School Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-2: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to nominate Lucille Mota-Costa as Vice Chair of the Warwick School Committee.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Nay Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-3: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to nominate Bethany Furtado as Clerk of the Warwick School Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-4: Moved and seconded to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(8).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Meeting reconvened at 6:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

Robert W. Dooley, Director of Business Affairs

David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Meeting of January 9, 2007

Open Session page -2-

Motion to keep minutes of January 9, 2007 Executive Session private:

**MOTION 2007-5: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra,
to keep the**

Minutes of the January 9, 2007 Executive Session private.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2007-6: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Friel, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for December 19, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Abstain

Paul Cannistra - Abstain

Vote of Minutes of Executive Session

MOTION 2007-7: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for December 19, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Abstain

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Approval of Transfers

MOTION 2007-8: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the

transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Approval of Warrants

MOTION 2007-9: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Friel to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Professional personnel items:

Retirement:

MOTION 2007-10: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the retirement of Edward Martins, Electronics Technology Teacher, at the Career Center, be accepted, effective January 12, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Recognition: Rhode Island Art Teacher of the Year: Patricia Huntington from Tollgate.

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Meeting of January 9, 2007

Open Session page -3-

Resolution concerning respiratory issues: Mrs. Andrade said she wanted to recognize the outstanding efforts that took place between the School Department, Department of Health, volunteers and nursing staff at the Greenwood School clinic. This was an enormous task. She said that a resolution has been proposed that will be introduced at the House of Representatives. The following House Resolution was proposed:

House Resolution – Respectfully requesting the Rhode Island Department of Education in Conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Health to develop a standardized syndromic school-based surveillance reporting system

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and its communities to ensure safe and healthy learning environments in primary and secondary levels of education and further ensure that the status of community health is monitored to be prepared for a timely response to any emerging public health threat, and

WHEREAS, season increases in illnesses occur within Rhode Island communities on a regular basis, and, recognizing the fact that the

spread of illnesses is predictable within areas of close contact such as schools, it is the responsibility of the state and our communities to make efforts to further protect our student populations and their families from the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Department of Education need to work to develop statewide policies on collecting information and on school absenteeism, particularly related to infectious diseases and notifying parents when appropriate as well as policies on school attendance when children are ill; and

WHEREAS, extensive efforts have been made by our local school districts and the Department of Education to develop a Comprehensive Education Information System (CEIS) that provides a common student information system across school districts that is linked to a central statewide data warehouse that achieves greater cost efficiencies and more consistent use of information-based decision-making; and

WHEREAS, extensive efforts have been made by the hospitals within Rhode Island and the Department of Health in the development and implementation of a Real-Time Outbreak Detection System (ODS) to collect and analyze information related to the number of visits to hospital emergency departments with an alert and notification capability; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH), to develop a standardized, statewide, school-based

syndromic surveillance reporting tool, to be incorporated into the CEIS, that will identify and report potential public health events in a timely manner. The development of this tool is intended to assist in ensuring healthy learning environments throughout Rhode Island's communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives requests RIDE, in consultation with RIDOH, the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association, and the Rhode Island School Committee Association to develop educational materials and policies to support these findings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives respectfully request that the Rhode Island Department of Education report back its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives on or before March 15, 2007; and be if further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Director of Rhode Island Department of Education, the President of the Rhode Island School Superintendents Association and the President of the Rhode Island Association of School Committees.

MOTION 2007-11: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Resolution.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Toll Gate Softball Team – Trip to Disney April 2007

MOTION 2007-12: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve

the recommendation for the trip to Disney April 15 through 19, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Meeting of January 9, 2007

Open Session page -4-

Pilgrim Student Council Response – Presentation by Eric Blanchard, Senior Class President, and Dina Murphy, Senior Class Secretary. In summary their remarks were as follows: in the past three years Pilgrim high performance school; school improvement team broken down to three subcommittees; remarked about the Third-Eye Program, they attended a 3-day seminar; safe school environment, eliminate bullying, etc.; Challenge Day, goal to eliminate social cliques and discrimination; community basis – donating blood; piloted program for certification of seniors in CPR upon graduation; continued student leadership programs; Juniors and Seniors attend

freshman home rooms to educate students on policy and to help them adapt junior high to high school; Homework Club; physical education dancing with faculty – competition – fundraiser; National Honor Society – Walk for Life – Pilgrim Pride Friday – every Friday encourage dressing black and white and yellow and wearing a Pilgrim t-shirt or sweater. The Chair asked if there were any other problems at Pilgrim, and they commented that the school courtyards could be cleaner, and thought they could start a clean up crew.

2007-2008 Budget – Mr. Dooley said that although we have just balanced the current 2006-07 budget, we have begun the process of preparing the budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year. He reported that the 07-08 budget will be extremely difficult to balance due to the projected lack of available revenue. 90% of our revenue is received from state aid, state and federal grants, and the city appropriation. The state is reporting large deficits; the grant offices are expecting level funding at best; the law has been changed regarding the amount of increase in property taxes that the city can raise from one year to the next. Also the Assembly has place a cap on how much the School Committee can request for a city appropriation. Our revenue growth from 2006-07 to 2007-08 will be very limited and we will be forced to look at the expenditure side of our budget very closely and ultimately make some very difficult decisions regarding staffing, programs, etc. The Chair requested figures regarding consolidating elementary schools, the enrollment at schools, saying we need those facts before us. Ms. Mota-Costa commented that there should be a time when

transfers are stopped.

Bids and change orders: none

Policy JEG – Home Schooling

Mrs. Andrade commented that this should not be listed on the agenda as the 1st reading, as it had been submitted in writing at the last meeting. She said that she went back into the original policy and as requested did strike through what would be eliminated and/or moved and added underlining. After discussion and review, the following motions were made:

**MOTION 2007-13: Moved by Chairman Friel to amended proposed JEG first sentence with The Warwick School Committee recognizes the rights of parents to utilize home schooling as an alternative method for complying with the state compulsory attendance law within the limits established by constitutional and statutory law.
seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-14: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to amend

paragraph 5 eliminating the words in the second sentence “In

addition to classroom time,”.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Meeting of January 9, 2007

Open Session page -5-

MOTION 2007-15: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve Policy JEG as amended.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Information and proposals:

Ms. Mota-Costa said that the ad going into Education Weekly for the superintendent search has been approved, and we are in the process of approving a brochure. This also has been posted in our school buildings and is on our website.

Summary of comments by public: Ms. Netcoh congratulated Mr. Friel. She asked that teachers be included in the automatic telephone system, and Superintendent Shapiro said that a number of people for one reason or another did not get into the system. He suggested that

if you did not get a call, you should e-mail Ms. Healey's office with your current telephone number. Ms. Netcoh also commented on reductions in electives, especially English, and said that electives are one of the things that keep kids interested in going to school. Sheri Nickerson said that in December a bid was given to First Student, and she heard that First Student is not ready to take care of the buses. Mr. Dooley said that they had to hire an additional mechanic, and we are in a transition period right now. Ms. Nickerson said that there were no parts and no space and that Stevie D's is refusing to take our buses. Mrs. Andrade said that she thought since we awarded them a bid, she expected them to start the first week in January and there was no talk about transition time. She asked Mr. Dooley to look into this and get back to the Committee. Michelle said she has been asking for three years to have a drop brought to her desk and was still waiting. There was a question regarding Heritage and if there had been any meetings or discussion at all. The Chair responded nothing has taken place. A comment was made about computers into the classroom, and also that the cell phone policy should be addressed, what with cell phones now having capabilities of taking movies, etc. Tracey McDermott requested that an informational meeting regarding Heritage be set up if this was going to be adopted. Mr. Ginolfi asked for a drop dead date for computers in the school, since we are half way through the year. He also asked how to get your name of the "automatic" call notification list.

Meetings: February 13, 2007 at the Administration Building

topics – update to digital portfolio

Chairman Friel asked that a copy of the RIPEC report be provided for the two new members and that a presentation be made at the February meeting what RIPEC recommended.

MOTION 2007-16: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Betsey Snipes, Secretary