

# **Warwick School Committee Minutes**

## **Open Session**

**Meeting of May 17, 2007**

**The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School on May 17, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 5:40 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**

**Robert W. Dooley, Director of Business Affairs**

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

**MOTION 2007-138: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, 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) and (a)(2)..**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye**

**Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Meeting reconvened at 6:15 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**

**David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds**

**Announcements:**

**The Chair announced that there was a vote in Executive Session of 5-0 to accept the Superintendent's recommendation relative to a personnel matter.**

**Professional Personnel Items:**

**Leave of Absence:**

**MOTION 2007-139: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, the request for unrestricted leave by Melissa Hatch, elementary teacher at Sherman, be approved effective for the 2007-2008 school year; that the request for a parental leave by Jennifer Basile, English teacher at Gorton, be approved effective approximately June 21, 2007 through the end of the 2007-2008 school year; and that the request for parental leave by Andrea Leung,**

reading specialist/consultant at Drum Rock, be approved effective for the first semester of the 20072008 school year.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

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**Retirements/Resignations:**

**MOTION 2007-140: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the retirement of Lydia Feole, elementary teacher at Scott, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the retirement of Joann Sippy, elementary teacher at Cedar Hill, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the retirement of Monika Curnett, speech language therapist at Pilgrim High School, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the retirement of Jane Streeter, elementary teacher at Park, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the retirement of Diane Greene, elementary science teacher at Francis, be accepted effective the last day of school; and that the resignation of Kevin Hennessey, Jr., carpentry teacher on leave of absence, be accepted, effective the last day of school.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye**

**Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Classified Personnel Appointments:**

**MOTION 2007-141: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of Gregory Lynn, computer technician, Administration (Information Services) be approved effective upon School Committee approval, pending receipt of state and national BCI.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye**

**Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**[Ms. Mota-Costa stated as a point of information that Gregory Lynn was a replacement.]**

**Coaching appointment:**

**MOTION 2007-142: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of Robert Pacifico, Assistant Coach (football) at Warwick Veterans High School be approved.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye**

**Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

## **Recognitions: Toll Gate 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards**

**Lauren Fryc, Kathryn Romelczyk and Vinodk Mechery**

**Medical Insurance Contract - Mr. Dooley said he had provided a copy of information including result of a report commissioned by the City Council by Cornerstone Group. They were hired to do a study of health care for both the schools and the City. United Health and Blue Cross are here to answer questions. The City Council has voted to stay with Blue Cross. We have a letter from our attorney regarding a legal opinion. School contracts carry different language so there are different hurdles that have to be considered.**

**Mr. Robert Calise of Cornerstone Group presented the report showing a comparison of Blue Cross and United Health Care. Based on the findings outlined in the report, they recommended that the schools consider moving to United Health Care to achieve a savings. They made the recommendation with the understanding that all collective bargaining agreements must be reviewed by legal counsel to determine if there was contractual language necessary to make this change. Discussion followed including WB Community Health contract with Blue Cross; getting legal opinion, if the plans were equivalent and/**

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or comparable. Superintendent Shapiro said he had spent a good deal of time studying the proposal on both sides, and he thought the committee would be best served by sticking with Blue Cross for one year with WB Community Health as administrator. Ms. Mota-Costa said she had deep concerns regarding arbitration, and if there would be any penalty. Ms. Healey reminded the committee that we had to have coverage by July 1st and we have open enrollment week starting May 29th.

**MOTION 2007-143: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to table this vote for a week to 10 days.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Mr. Holtzman said he wanted to go on record on behalf of the WTU to object to any changes in our contractual health benefits. The labor relationships between the WTU and School Committee have been of unrest, mistrust, and lack of communication. We have negotiated a contract and we have made an honest attempt to improve our working relationship. A change in our health contract will cause a negative labor environment. The City Council on Monday voted not to change from Blue Cross to United Health. United health has been**

**fined for violations of state law. A move to change will have a negative impact to our professionals as well as future labor relations.**

**Dental Insurance Contract – Mr. Dooley – we are currently in a three-year contract with Blue Cross Dental that was obtained through the bidding process in the spring of 2006 and awarded by the School Committee. Mr. Dooley said that the Cornerstone Group recommended that we remain with our current, fully insured contract with Blue Cross and he agreed with their recommendation.**

**MOTION 2007-144: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to stay with Blue Cross.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**School Lunch Contract Extension – Mr. Dooley recommended that the contract with Chartwells for the school food service management be extended based on the budget for the 2007-08 school year, including a Chartwells guarantee of up to \$32,000 that we will not exceed the projected deficit of \$10,476. The budget proposed is based on the discontinuation of the universal breakfast program pilot at Oakland**

**Beach and Lippitt elementary schools. The cost to continue the program at Oakland Beach would be approximately \$4,000 and at Lippitt approximately \$3,500.**

**MOTION 2007-145: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the renewal extension for food service management with Chartwells.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

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**Transportation Contract Extension – Mr. Dooley said that since we are still negotiating for the option to seek bid proposals for transportation services for our special education school bus transportation services, he recommended that we extent the current contract with First Student for one additional year at this time with a 3% increase in rates for the 2007-08 year. If we are successful in negotiating the option to subcontract special education bus services, we would then go out to bid for one combined regular education and**

**special education transportation contract. The cost of the contract extension would be within the amounts budgeted for these services.**

**Mrs. Andrade asked about the 3% increase and asked if we could negotiate a 2% increase. Mr. Dooley said that “Joe” from First Student was present, and Joe said that he would have to present this scenario to the corporate offices who generate increases.**

**MOTION 2007-146: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to table at this time.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Review/Approval of updated Physical Education Curriculum**

**MOTION 2007-147: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the updated Physical Education Curriculum.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Review/Approval of updated Health Curriculum**

**MOTION 2007-148: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the updated Health Curriculum.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye            Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Review/Approval of updated Social Studies Curriculum**

**MOTION 2007-149:    Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the updated Social Studies Curriculum.**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye            Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Bids/Changes Orders:**

**MOTION 2007-150:    Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the bid for router table and accessories for the Career and Technical Center, be awarded to Technical Education Solutions, in the amount of \$35,445 as per the bid tabulation(funding to come from the Perkins Grant.)**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye            Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

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**MOTION 2007-151: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the bid for classroom furniture in the amount of \$65,349.14 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 2007-152:      Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the bid for custodial supplies, in the amount of \$71,416.11 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 2007-153: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to return to Executive Session. (7:50 p.m.)**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**Meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.**

**MOTION 2007-154: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to keep the Minutes of the Executive Session private**

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

**Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye**

**Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye**

**Paul Cannistra - Aye**

**MOTION 2007-155: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, 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: 8:15 p.m.**

**Bethany Furtado, Clerk**

**Betsey Snipes, Secretary**