

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of February 13, 2007  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building on February 13, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson  
Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
Joyce L. Andrade  
Paul Cannistra

Administration

Robert J. Shapiro, Superintendent  
Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education  
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2007-20: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, 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 (4-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa - [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade - Aye      Bethany Furtado - Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

Reconvened at 7:45 p.m. with the following also in attendance:

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education  
Robert W. Dooley, Director of Business Affairs  
David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Announcement: Chairman Friel announced that during the Executive Session a vote was taken to accept the Superintendent's recommendation with a vote of 4-0; one member not present.

**Motion to keep Executive Minutes private.**

MOTION 2007-21: Moved and seconded to keep the Minutes of the Executive Session for February 13, 2007 private.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa - [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade - Aye      Bethany Furtado - Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Approval of Minutes of Public Session:**

MOTION 2007-22: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Open Minutes of January 9, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa - [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade - Aye      Bethany Furtado - Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-22: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Open Minutes of January 16, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-23: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Open Minutes of January 29, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-24: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Open Minutes of February 1, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Vote of Executive Session Minutes:**

MOTION 2007-25: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Executive Minutes of January 9, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-26: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Executive Minutes of January 16, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-27: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Executive Minutes of January 29, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-28: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Executive Minutes of February 1, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Approval of Transfers**

MOTION 2007-29: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Approval of Warrants**

MOTION 2007-30: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee:

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Professional Personnel Items:**

**Appointments:**

MOTION 2007-31: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of **Catherine Hawthorne-Kocak**, science teacher, step 3, be approved (pending receipt of state and national BCI).

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-32: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of **Scott Bailey**, special education diagnostic teacher, step 1, be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Retirements:**

MOTION 2007-33: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the retirement of **Joanne Fonesca**, special educator at Pilgrim, be accepted, effective January 18, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-34: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the retirement of **Marie Carter**, science teacher at Pilgrim, be accepted, effective February 2, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Classified Personnel items:**

**Retirement:**

MOTION 2007-35: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the retirement of **Kevin J. McAteer, Sr.**, bus driver, transportation, be accepted, effective January 26, 2007.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Coaching appointments:**

MOTION 2007-36: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the following coaching appointments be approved: **Michael Vadney**, head coach, boys' lacrosse at Toll Gate **Timothy Hayes**, assistant coach, boys' lacrosse at Toll Gate; **Eric Krum**, assistant coach, baseball at Toll Gate (for one year only); **Evan Lima** assistant coach, boys' outdoor track at Pilgrim (for one year only); **Evan Lima**, assistant coach, boys' indoor track at Pilgrim (for one year only) and **Charles Benson**, head coach, girls' lacrosse at Warwick Veterans (for one year only).

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Non-renewals/Predeprivation hearing:** - Superintendent Shapiro recommended the non-renewal of the positions and individuals discussed in Executive Session for the reasons discussed at that time.

MOTION 2007-37: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

Superintendent Shapiro recommended the non-renewal of the three School Based Coordinators/ Program Specialists for the reasons discussed in executive session.

MOTION 2007-38: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

Superintendent Shapiro recommended the non-renewal of the full-time English Language Arts Site Based Literacy coach, the two part-time English Language Arts Site Based Literacy Coaches, the two part-time Math coaches, and the part-time Transitional Advocate for the reasons discussed in executive session.

MOTION 2007-39: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Administrative re-appointments:** The Superintendent said that generally during this period of time I recommend the list of Administrative reappointments by virtue of our policy. The Superintendent recommended said list which had been presented to the Committee.

MOTION 2007-40: Moved by Chairman Friel, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to table the recommendation of the Superintendent.

**MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Nay      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**School Committee Member Appointments:**

**Health & Wellness Committee**

MOTION 2007-41: Moved by Chairman Friel, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to appoint Bethany Furtado to the Health & Wellness Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye	Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye	Bethany Furtado – Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye	

**District Technology Committee**

MOTION 2007-42: Moved by Chairman Friel, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to appoint Lucille Mota-Costa to the District Technology Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye	Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye	Bethany Furtado – Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye	

**Digital Portfolio/First Class Demonstration -** Mr. Mercurio, along with Denise Bilodeau, and the three high school graduation by proficiency coordinators, made a presentation of the new state-mandated graduation by proficiency requirements that will be expected of all high school students beginning with the class of 2008. The digital portfolio is one of three criteria in which students will be required to demonstrate proficiency for graduation, along with the Carnegie unit coursework currently in place and senior exhibition project. A fourth component of the revised diploma system includes participation in state assessments in English language arts, mathematics and science. Students post their work and teachers grade and comment on their work. Students are currently starting their portfolios for English and mathematics only. Science and social studies will be included next year. At the end of the year, students will select one English and one math assignment that they think best represents their proficiency. Two teacher-directed assignments will be selected also. At the end of the year, all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders should be up and running. Discussion followed regarding backups, budget woes and the need for computers, teachers being trained in the technology, assistance will be provided for those students without home computers or who have disabilities that prevent them from typing. Ms. Bernard said that we have to trust that the Department of Education is backing up the system, and students can make hard copies of their work. Miss Thompson and a student, Alexis, gave the School Committee a demonstration of her portfolio and how she entered her work.

**2007-2008 School Calendar** – Superintendent Shapiro presented the 2007-2008 School Calendar to the School Committee for their approval. He said that he discussed the calendar with the Teachers' Union and has their approval.

MOTION 2007-43: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the 2007-2008 School Calendar.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye	Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye	Bethany Furtado – Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye	

**Additional 3/5 Technology Education Position at Winman** - Mr. Mercurio requested that a 3/5 position be added to the current technology staff.

MOTION 2007-44: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the 3/5 technology position.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**RIPEC Update Report** – Status Report (February 2007) of the RIPEC Report of March 2006 was presented by Mr. Dooley. This report identified the recommendations that were included in the Management Study and Benchmarking Analysis of the Warwick School District prepared by RIPEC in March of 2006, as well as a status report regarding each recommendation.

**Additional Project Bond 2000** – Mr. Dooley said that there was about \$50,000 left the old 2000 Bond, and requested that the emergency repair of the #2 boiler at Veterans High School be paid out of this money. The invoice total was \$12,223.70.

MOTION 2007-45: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, that we utilized the 2000 Bond money for payment of the boiler repair.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Bids/Change Orders**

MOTION 2007-46: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the bid for lighting efficiency upgrade from Bond funds be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-47: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that Contract Change Order No. R-01, Auditorium Seating Replacement – 2006 at Robertson Elementary School, in the amount of \$799, be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-48: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that Contract Change Order No. S-01, Auditorium Seating Replacement, 2006 at Sherman Elementary School, in the amount of \$1,322 be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

MOTION 2007-49: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that Contract Change Order No. 03, re-roofing of Winman Jr. High School, in the amount of \$12,972, be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Adoption of Policies**

**Graduation by Proficiency – 1<sup>st</sup> reading – Policy IKFA –** Suggested amendments: (page 2 under School-Based Advisory Committee) – Community member (**not that child’s parent**) instead of (not a parent) - Also amendment under “Transfer Students” – All decisions of the District-based Appeals committee are final **at the district level, student may then exercise any and all rights to appeal that decision to the RI Dept. of Education.**

MOTION 2007-50: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to amend policy IKFA and approve the first reading.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Policy EFB – Free and Reduced Price Food Services – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

MOTION 2007-51: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the second reading of Policy EFB.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Home School Policy JEG – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

MOTION 2007-52: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the second reading of Policy JEG.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – [absent]  
Joyce L. Andrade – Aye      Bethany Furtado – Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye

**Information and Proposals:**

**School Committee Members:** Paul Cannistra recommended that three resolutions be put on the agenda for the next meeting: Health Care Cost Savings; Possible Technology Savings; and Resolution regarding Crossing Guards.

**Public Comment** – Jackie (parent from Potowomut) said that we would like to prevent any problems like we had two years ago. There was a lack of communication, and we would like to start the communication. We would like to be involved, and asked how the Committee would include us in the on-going budget discussions? Chairman Friel said this is the very beginning of the initial 207-2008 budget, and no decisions have been made relative to Potowomut at this time. Everything is on the table. Jackie said that they would like to be involved in strategic planning, and the Chair said you are welcomed to express your concerns. He said he promised it would not be a political decision and the School Committee will stand by their decision. Jackie asked when the decision is made, would they be able to present a case to the School Committee members. The Chair said you are .always welcomed to come and speak on any issue. The School Committee is elected to make these difficult decisions. The question was asked if there were any discussions regarding redistricting, and the Chair said everything is on the table subject to budget cuts, but redistricting had not been discussed yet. Jason (parent from Potowomut) said that he is disappointed but not surprised that this goes on every September about the school closing. He said the solution would be redistricting, but that is a very bad word in Rhode Island. He said he thought since the teacher contract was settled this problem would go away, and asked for a little acknowledgment that they had the best “test scores” in the City.

**Future business:**

**Special meeting dates: February 20, 2007**

**Regular: March 13, 2007**

**MOTION 2007-53:** Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to adjourn.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye	Lucille Mota-Costa - [absent]
Joyce L. Andrade - Aye	Bethany Furtado - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye	

**Meeting adjourned: 9:45 p.m.**

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Betsey Snipes, Secretary