

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Budget Meeting of April 28, 2008
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Winman Jr. High School on April 28, 2008. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson
Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice Chair
Bethany Furtado, Clerk
Joyce L. Andrade [absent]
Paul Cannistra

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent
Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
Leonard Flood, Director of Business Affairs
David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

Chairman Friel said that this evening will be devoted entirely to the budget with explanations of the overview of uniform of chart of account. Budget presentations by Directors of Elementary, Secondary, Special Services, Assistant Director of Curriculum, Supervisors of Music, Visual Art, Math/Science and Athletics and the Coordinator of Literacy/ELA.

Superintendent's Presentation

The proposed 2008/2009 budget presented tonight and tomorrow night reflects the cost of ever increasing services to students mandated by the state and federal government and cost reductions to be achieved by major operational changes which will impact staffing across the school department. In January the projected deficit was just shy of \$6.0 million. The proposal before you tonight reduces that deficit to approximately \$4.6 million.

The limit placed on increasing the local school appropriation (5%) and the prospect of no increase in state aid to education have created a severe gap between the school department's obligations and its ability to adequately fund the requisite programs and operations. This results in the presentation of an unbalanced budget which projects spending in the salary line items to be \$4.6 million greater than the revenues required to support that level of funding. The major cost increases in the salary line items result from the negotiated settlement with the WTU which calls for a 3.5% increase in salaries, a 7% increase in the cost of benefits and a retroactive salary payment amounting to approximately \$4.8 million. It should be noted that a settlement of the contract with WISE is still unresolved.

The 2008-09 school year will bring about major changes in the operation of the school district with the closing of three K-6 elementary schools, the opening of an early childhood center and significant staff reductions in the administrative, teaching and support areas of school operations. These include the restructuring of administrative functions, reduction of elementary school staff, reduction of one team of teachers at the middle school level, and cutbacks in custodial and maintenance supervisors and staff. We will need to wait to determine if we can achieve the full potential of staff reductions due to consolidation, as it is dependent on realizing savings from teacher retirements in certification areas that will not have to be replaced. Other substantial savings could be realized by privatizing support operations, but the WISE contract prohibits contracting out services performed by its members. Where feasible, tuition savings are

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achieved by returning out placed special needs students to the schools. It should be noted, though, that the special services department serves 2,219 students this year, with the count projected to increase in 2008/2009. In addition, we must budget \$900,000 for children placed in our district by DCYF and \$75,000 in special education legal fees previously paid out of the city budget.

The Warwick School Department is responsible for educating over 11,000 students. The School Committee and administration must work together to protect program offerings and strengthen services to students. We cannot allow a crisis in revenues to diminish our capability to effectively and efficiently fulfill the school department's mission and retain the public's trust.

Uniform Chart of Accounts (UCOA)

Explanation by Mr. Leonard Flood – The Uniform Chart of Account is a system of numbers and a method of accounts used by all districts and charter schools. All schools will use same account codes and methods for tracking costs. Representative Crowley introduced legislation to mandate an establish uniform method of accounting, which required the auditor general and RIDE to develop and implement a uniform system of accounting. The primary purpose is to provide richer financial data for analysis, i.e transparency (clear, logical and detailed), uniformity (same principles, standards and rules), accountability (financial data aligned to goals and objectives), comparability (comparison between different districts and charter schools). UCOA will provide information to address questions related to return of investment and will combine financial information with student demographic and assessment data. Those who benefit from this data are superintendents, schools leaders, board of regents/DOE, auditor general, legislators/stakeholders, parents, community leaders and educators. There are eight required segments of the UCOA, which represent fund, subfund, location, function, program, subject, object and job classification.

Mr. Flood reviewed the 2008-2009 School Department Proposed Budget. The following figures represent the Total Column for the chart prepared for the 4/28/2008 meeting [printed at 2:11 p.m.].

Figures presented at April 28, 2008 meeting

Expenses:

Salaries*

Professional*	81,607,244
Professional Retro*	4,081,517
Classified*	19,015,032
Total Salaries	104,703,793

Benefits

Professional*	32,694,851
Retro benefits	708,959
Classified*	10,051,854
Employee Assistance	29,000
Total Benefits	43,484,655

Purchase Services	13,392,193
Supplies/Materials	6,142,668
Capital	1,032,709
Other (dues/fees)	110,968
Fund transfers out	501,141
Total Expenses	169,368,137

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Revenues	
City Appropriation	123,968,068
State Aid	37,626,000
Ind Cost	100,000
Tutitions	1,000,000
Medicaid	1,250,000
E-rate refund	95,000
Insurance refund	175,000
Miscellaneous	275,000
Fund transfer in	0
Prior Year fund balance	120,000
Total Revenues	164,609,608
(Deficit)	(4,759,069)

1. Director of Elementary Education

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	110,700	124,730	130,920	6,190
Supplies & Materials	283,244	211,678	275,727	64,049
Capital Equip & Property	106,077	33,978	44,204	10,226
Debt Service & Misc.	9,635	10,740	10,750	10
General Fund Totals	509,656	381,126	461,601	80,475

Elementary Set Aside

Purchased Services	318,410	192,195	154,332	(37,863)
Supplies & Materials	0	0	0	0
Capital Equipment	0	0	0	0
Prof. Dev.. Set Aside	318,410	192,195	154,332	(37,863)

Elementary Nutrition/School Lunch

Capital Equip. & Property	0	0	12,002	12,002
Nutrition/School Lunch total	0	0	12,002	12,002

Nutrition/School Lunch	902,942	684,740	758,393	73,653
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2. Director of Secondary Education

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	242,148	325,905	375,459	49,554
Supplies & Materials	667,812	545,921	546,251	18,330
Capital Equip & Property	92,755	59,282	87,729	28,447
Debt Service & Misc.	52,937	56,508	63,300	6,792
General Fund Totals	1,055,642	987,616	1,090,739	103,123

Secondary Set Aside

Purchased Services	241,969	158,185	164,183	5,998
Supplies & Materials	0	0	13,000	13,000
Prof. Dev. Set Aside	241,969	158,185	177,183	18,998

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Secondary Nutrition/School Lunch				
Capital Equip & Prop.	0	0	6,600	6,600

Secondary Summer School				
Purchased Services	1,094	1,094	1,400	306
Supplies & Materials	881	1,417	1,300	(117)
Summer School Remedial	1,975	2,511	2,700	189

3. Director of Special Services

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	8,894,916	7,093,039	7,255,191	162,152
Supplies & Materials	61,838	42,199	48,330	6,131
Capital Equip & Property	24,416	18,708	35,923	17,215
Debt Serv & Misc	1,038	1,017	1,300	283
General Fund Total	8,982,208	7,154,963	7,340,744	185,781

Early Childhood

Set Aside	0	0	12,354	12,354
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Special Services Initiatives Update – re reducing outside placements. Returning all appropriate preschool students to the Warwick Schools.

2007-2008 – preschools classless returned from Crayons and Child Inc.

In 2008-2009 return of preschool students from Westbay and Y's Owl, creation of Early Childhood Center

Secondary Therapeutic Program:

2007-2008 program established and working well.

2008-2009 – expand program to include 3-5 more students

Step Down Program:

2007-2008 – not addressed – due to budget constraints

2008-2009 – step down to be located at Wickes School

Professional Development

2007-2008 – autism training and behavior strategies for 6 weeks in May and June, New IEP Training and RTI Training

2008-2009 – behavioral strategies/classroom practices, remainder of elementary schools to be trained in use of RTI

Title III Language Assistance

	2006-07	2007-2008	2008-2009
	Budgeted	Budgeted	Projected
Totals	19,422	28,002	15,943

IDEA Preschool

Totals	142,685	112,474	106,860
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IDEA Part-B

Totals **2,901,093** **2,675,923** **2,676,247**

4. Assistant Director of Curriculum

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	44,700	46,580	127,999	81,419
Supplies & Materials	442,909	406,093	492,698	86,605
Capital Equip & Property	140	0	0	0
Debt Service & Misc	500	0	0	0
General Fund Total	488,249	452,673	620,697	168,024

Prof. Dev. Set Aside

Purchased Services	57,354	38,392	33,602	(4,790)
Supplies & Materials	0	0	3,454	3,454
Capital Equip & Property	0	0	0	0
Prof. Dev. Set Aside	57,354	38,392	37,056	(1,336)

Total Prof. Dev. Set Aside 545,603 **491,065** **657,753** **166,688**

	2007-08	2008-09
Textbooks	370,000	450,000
Curriculum Development	28,000	70,000
Testing	25,000	35,000
Printing	18,000	15,000
Copy Machine	3,000	8,000
Set Aside	113,254	113,254

5. Supervisor of music

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	1,500	1,500	2,550	1,050
Supplies & Materials	30,810	26,126	22,980	(3,146)
Capital Equip & Property	16,780	10,053	11,881	1,828
Debt Service & Misc.	3,115	2,116	2,590	474
General Fund Total	52,205	39,795	40,001	206

6. Supervisor of visual art

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	0	0	0	0
Supplies & Materials	115,683	108,030	108,787	757
Capital Equip & Property	3,440	12,164	8,501	(3,663)
Debt Service & Misc.	1,339	1,683	2,158	475
General Fund Total	120,462	121,877	119,446	(2,431)

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7. Supervisor of math/science

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	5,507	4,600	7,100	2,500
Supplies & Materials	42,785	41,175	38,956	(2,219)
Capital Equip & Property	8,577	1,273	2,013	740
Debt Service & Misc.	1,715	414	758	344
General Fund Total	58,584	47,462	48,827	1,365

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8. Coordinator of literacy/ELA

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	28,285	21,521	29,296	7,775
Supplies & Materials	30,389	27,300	28,659	1,359
Debt Service & Misc.	445	372	372	0
General Fund Total	59,119	49,193	58,327	9,134

Projected Literacy Budget 08-09

	2007-2008 Budgeted	2008-2009 Projected
Salaries	628,845	622,066
Fringe Benefits	203,177	241,278
Purchased Services	55,000	75,998
Supplies & Materials	55,424	50,001
Capital Outlay	995	4,459
Totals	943,441	993,802

9. Supervisor of Athletics

	FY06-07	FY07-08	Dept. Request	Difference
Purchased Services	170,001	184,643	193,808	9,165
Supplies & Materials	52,139	46,130	45,589	(541)
Capital Equip & Property	4,721	1,071	0	(1,071)
Debt Service & Misc.	476	394	395	1
General Fund Total	227,337	232,238	239,792	7,554

MOTION 2008-79: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, 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: 9:15 p.m.
Bethany Furtado, Clerk
Betsey Snipes, Secretary