

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of October 22, 2008  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building, on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. 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 Chair  
Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
Joyce L. Andrade  
Paul Cannistra

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent  
Leonard Flood, Director of Business Affairs  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2008-212: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, 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)(2) and (a)(4).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m. with the following in attendance in addition to those above:

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education  
David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

The Chairman introduced Pat Boucher and Cheryl Langevin of Bacon and associates. He said that there is a document available for the public relative to their recommendations for the 2007-08 audit. The two suggestions on the document were as follows:

**Suggested procedures to identify the cause of overages in the final budgeted 2008 salary and benefit accounts**

1. Perform a review of the original and adjusted 2008 budgeted salary and benefit accounts to identify the specific budget modifications that were made to the original budget submitted to the City Council and the final adjusted budget reported at year end.

2. Perform a review of payroll and benefits records to determine that the specific budget modifications that resulted in decreases in personnel costs actually occurred.

[Estimated hours – 80 at estimated cost of \$9,250]

**Suggested procedures to determine that the 2009 budget monitoring procedures are in place.**

1. Perform a review of current monitoring procedures which will include inquiries of personnel and review of systems utilized to monitor the actual and projected expenditures.

2. Review of financial reports provided to management to determine that the information is adequate to properly monitor the budget.

[Estimated hours – 60 at estimated cost of \$7,250]

Ms. Boucher said they will look at the salary and benefits account and how overages occurred. They will look at the modifications and back track to look at the additions and deletions and whether they actually occurred. We will look at the 09 budget and monitor procedures to see whether operating effectively. Then they will report back to the School Committee.

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MOTION 2008-213: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the audit as outline in the October 22, 2008 Memorandum from Bacon & Associates.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Replacement Backup Recovery System**

Chairman Friel said this was on the agenda for October 14<sup>th</sup> and was tabled at that time for additional information. The School Committee has been provided with further documentation, and tonight we will have a power point presentation. Dianne Silva presented the power point presentation covering the following topics:

1. What is the current SAN (Storage Area Network CX 300 system)
2. The discovery of data loss on the backup tapes
  1. information services procedures
  2. support/logs with Dell/EMC
  3. MIS staff commitment
3. Why present a proposal for an upgraded SAN system vs. an extended service renewal
4. Why Dell vs. other vendors and/or platforms
5. Presentation of 5-year district plan
6. Support

Information was provided covering the current SAN system, explanation of diagram of proposed configuration highlights of the Dell PowerVault 132T tape library; Warwick PS current SAN environment; Dell PowerVault 132T Tape Drive; explanation of what is backed up; explanation of the support contract; information services documentation and department procedures; MIS staff commitment, support logs; environmental considerations, numerous computer room issues.

Discovery of data loss on the backup tapes: in mid-September, when asked to restore several spreadsheet files, we were only able to restore non-corrupt files going back to mid-June 2008. After testing and review with Dell, the outcome indicated corrupt firmware (software) on the CX300 SAN device, which then corrupted the tapes in the tape library of the PowerVault. There was no indication to us or to Dell that there was a problem. The hardware, tape jobs and schedule was indicating normal copying of files to the tapes.

Cause of problems: numerous computer room issues – power outage – outlet burn – circuit tripped in the computer room and the air conditioning did not come back on and it became 100 degrees in the room.

Ms. Mota-Costa commented why upgrade and buy higher end backup, when we have not fixed what the problems are. She felt that this should be put out to bid. Mr. Cannistra asked if Dell addressed to store and verify in their latest upgrade. Ms. Silvia did not know. Ms. Mota-Costa asked what timeframe covered because of the data loss, and Ms. Silvia said June 2008 back a year. She then commented, if Dell doesn't have safeguards with a store and verify function, why spend \$49,000. We need to address air conditioning – not risk \$49,000.

Mr. Flood commented that the computer room is inadequate, filled with windows, above the boiler room, and the computer room should be somewhere environmental controlled. Discussion regarding moving the computer room: it would be difficult to relocate, it would probably cost a half million dollars, there was a

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suggestion to move to Drum Rock, but there is no room there now, and it couldn't be moved into the administration conference room, because there is no other area for a conference room.

Ms. Silvia reviewed the comparison of the Current CX300 SAN to the recommended CX4 San. She said to migrate to another system it has to be compatible. Dell discounted to \$49,990.68 from \$70,000. The boxes are by EMC, but Dell puts their name on them. She said that she had budgeted for a warranty, gave it to Len in August, and Dell came back to us with an offer of a brand new system with a 3-year warranty.

Ms. Mota-Costa said she wanted to meet with Dianne, and she was concerned about spending \$50,000. She again said we should go out to bid. She also said that someone should be checking the computer room at least two times a day. Ms. Andrade asked if we were required to go out to bid, and Attorney Healey said we are not. Ms. Andrade was concerned about losing the device, and said it was within the budget. Mr. Flood commented that since 2005 we have invested \$152,000. Superintendent Horoschak said we have attempted to comply with questions raised by the School Committee. He suggested that if you are not prepared this evening, we could meet another day coming up next week.

Ms. Mota-Costa said she still wanted to go out to bid. She said she wanted a written procedure on how this will protect us and how we are going to be assured we will be protected. She said she has looked at prices, and she needed more time. She asked for another five days.

MOTION 2008-214: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa to table any decision until the special meeting next week at which time she would report back to the Committee, and to go forward with an RFP, seconded by Chairman Friel.

**MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 nay)**

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

Next scheduled meeting will be November 3, 2008

Meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup>

MOTION 2008-215: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, 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: 8:45 p.m.**

Bethany Furtado Clerk  
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary