

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of November 12, 2008  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Winman Jr. High School, on Wednesday, November 12, 2008. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:00 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  
David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2008-216: Moved by Mrs. 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), (a)(2), (a)(4) and (a)(9).

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

Meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m. with the following in attendance in addition to those above:

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education  
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

Student Comments – Margaret Fox (Toll Gate), Alexander DiCicco (Toll Gate), Haley Moen (Winman Junior High) and Christopher Caramello (Winman Junior High)

The Chair announced the results of actions taken in Executive Session: Employee Hearing a vote of 5-0 to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. The vote on Grievance #06-311, #05-312 and #07-313 was 5-0 to deny. With respect to Grievance #07-312 – a vote of 5-0 to hold off on deciding the grievance subject to further discussion.

**Approval of Minutes of Public Session**

MOTION 2008-217: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Open Session Minutes for October 14, 2008 and October 22, 2008.

**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 Executive Session**

MOTION 2008-218: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Executive Session Minutes for October 14, 2008 and October 22, 2008.

**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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**Approval of Transfers:**

MOTION 2008-219: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. 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 2008-220: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, 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: Appointments:**

MOTION 2008-221: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of **Nicholas Spera**, Assistant Principal at Gorton Junior High School, at the Administrative Step 3, be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

MOTION 2008-222: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **Jill Bailey**, part-time (50%) elementary special educator #2, be approved; that the status of **John McDonnell**, Social Studies teacher, be changed from Category 1 to Permanent Step 3 be approved; that the status of **Geraldine Lewis**, Kindergarten teacher, be changed from Category 1 to Permanent Step 1, be approved; and that the appointment of **Nicholas Reed**, 60% Music teacher, Step 1 be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Retirements:**

MOTION 2008-223: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the retirement of **Marilyn Petrarca**, speech language therapist at Scott School, be accepted effective December 23, 2008; that the retirement of **Edward Fowler**, music teacher at Winman Junior High School, be accepted effective November 6, 2008; that the retirement of **Kathleen DeMizio**, special education diagnostic prescriptive teacher at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center, be accepted effective December 23, 2008.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Classified Personnel items: Retirements:**

MOTION 2008-224: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the retirement of **Mary Croft**, teacher assistant at Hoxsie elementary School be accepted effective December 19, 2008; that the retirement of **Penelope Hiotas**, senior clerk typist, Guidance Office at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective December 19, 2008; that the retirement of **Sandra Healey**, senior clerk typist, Human Resource Office be accepted effective December 19, 2008; and that the retirement of Isabelle McGurn, custodian at Hoxsie Elementary School be accepted effective December 19, 2008.

**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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**Coaching appointments:**

MOTION 2008-225: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, that the following coaching appointments be approved: **Isabelle Nielson**, assistant girls indoor track coach at Veterans High School; **Chris Winnes**, assistant boys hockey coach at Veterans High School; **Howie Rosenblatt**, head boys hockey coach at Veterans High School; **David Salois**, assistant wrestling coach at Veterans High School; **David Tober**, head boys hockey coach at Pilgrim High School; **Michael Daniels**, head boys indoor track at Pilgrim; **Becky Lamarre**, assistant gymnastics coach at Toll Gate; **Michael Boyajian**, assistant boys hockey coach at Toll Gate; **John Paolino**, freshman boys basketball coach at Toll Gate and **Keith Wilson**, assistant boys hockey coach at Pilgrim.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Unfinished business:**

**FY 2008-2009 Corrective Action Plan** – Superintendent Horoschak said that the staff and Mr. Flood have been working on a final form of the amended budget for this school year. This is continuing to be refined and will be brought for a vote in December. Mr. Flood commented that work is continuing on refining the plan. There remain a number of things that need to be done before final revisions can be made. With the new uniform chart of accounts, the original corrective action plan was revised to separate out the General Fund from the Set Aside, or Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise funds. In order to fully implement the corrective action plan, cuts in specific line item accounts need to be made and presented to the School Committee for approval as budget adjustments. This is a very involved process. It is my intention to have this budget adjustment ready for School Committee action at the December meeting. Mrs. Andrade requested that this information be provided to the School Committee perhaps a full week prior to the meeting as there will be a great deal of information to review.

**Approval of Replacement of Back-up Disaster Recovery System:** Superintendent Horoschak recommended approval of the purchase of the Dell/EMC San Storage system at a cost of \$49,990.68. This system can be purchased in lieu of the 2-year extension of the warranty for the existing equipment which is in the budget. There will be a 3-year warranty in existence on the new equipment. This has been discussed at two School Committee meeting, and questions have been answered thoroughly.

MOTION 2008-226: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the purchase of the Dell/EMC San Storage System [backup system].

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Toll Gate Disney Softball Spring Training Program Request** – Varsity Softball Coach, Shana O'Connor, requested that the Toll Gate girls' softball team participate in the Disney Softball Spring Training Program April 12, 2009 through April 16, 2009.

MOTION 2008-227: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve said participation and trip.

**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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**Equal Access Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> reading.**

Mrs. Andrade read the Equal Access Policy(ACC) language: *No organization or group which seeks to utilize the limited public forum afforded by the Warwick Public Schools for meetings will be denied equal access or a fair opportunity or discriminated against on the basis of religious, political, philosophical, or content of speech at the meetings. For further details regarding equal access, please see the School Committee policies IGDA on Student/Community Organizations and KG on Community Use of School Facilities.*

She said after a meeting with Attorney Healey, it was suggested to incorporate these issues into the current policies IGDA and KG. After discussion of policy IGDA and KG and amendments, the following motion was made.

MOTION 2008-228: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve amendments IGDA and KG, and approve policy ACC for 1<sup>st</sup> reading

**MOTION PASSES (3-2)**

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

Mr. Cannistra said that periodically different groups use our buildings and equipment gets damaged with use. He wanted to establish a “repair kitty” so that principals could have access to funds to fix equipment, etc. Mr. Flood said he had requested copies of written policies from other communities, to compare to make sure are fees are in line, and he has received policies from six other communities. He commented that our fees tend to be low.

No Bids – change orders

**Policy on School Response to Bullying Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

Discussion about changing “student” to “individual”- we cannot enforce a parent to report bullying, but we can require an employee to report bullying, [an employee of the district would include administrator, teacher, clerical, custodian, etc.], comments about grammatical corrections, but it was noted that this policy was drafted by the Rhode Island Department of Education. The amendment to the first paragraph on the second page – *different individuals mandatory reporting requirements or those individuals discretionary reported requirement.*

MOTION 2008-229: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to amend JFCO specifically – 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph page 2.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

MOTION 2008-230: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of JFCO as amended.

**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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**Information and Proposals:**

**School Committee Members:**

Mr. Cannistra asked if the sixth graders will be commenting at an upcoming meeting. They will be on the agenda for the January meeting. It was noted that the GBP coordinators will report next month. The Superintendent congratulated Chairman Friel and Patrick Maloney on the recent election.

**Public comment:**

Mr. Daniels said that he had sent e-mails regarding the conditions at Holliman and had photos showing rain barrels in hallways, plywood on the ceiling, and said that mold was growing under the plywood. He also said that the Rhodes' playground is being destroyed. He had photos of a broken backboard and said that the kids were destroying the area, there was a safety light stripped off the building and there was graffiti. He requested that the School Committee or a third party go to Holliman. Ms. Netoch said she had been reviewing the September 10<sup>th</sup> minutes and asked that they reflect that she said the summer reading has always counted. This past summer reading assignment for incoming seniors was a joke because all the students had to do was complete five (5) source cards. In the past students at least had to read a book. She said commented about the summer reading because the GBP reporters earlier in the evening had spoken so glowingly about the source cards.

MOTION 2008-231: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, 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: 9:30 p.m.  
Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
Betsey Snipes, Secretary