

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of December 9, 2008
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Winman Jr. High School, on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 2008-235: 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), (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 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance in addition to those above:

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Chairman Friel introduced Patrick Maloney – most recently elected School Committee Member.

Student Comments – Career Center students

[Agenda item amendment to October 14, 2008 meeting tabled this evening – still being prepared]

Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2008-236: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Open Session Minutes for November 12, 2008 and November 20, 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 2008-237: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Executive Session Minutes for November 12, 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 2008-238: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, 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 2008-239: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, 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 2008-240: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve **Amy Barker** 60% speech language therapist, Step 3, 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

Leave of absence:

MOTION 2008-241: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that **Jennifer Christiansen**, Math Teacher at Winman, be granted a sabbatical leave effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2008-242: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the retirement of **Denise Lombardo**, Department Head, Family and Consumer Science at Veterans, 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:

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2008-243: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the **resignation** of **Linda Sheehan**, teacher assistant at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective December 19, 2008; and that the **resignation** of **Donna Bond**, teacher assistant at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center 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 2008-244: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of **William Aquilante**, head coach boys' indoor track at Toll Gate be approved for one year only; that the appointment of **Jonathan Deming**, assistant coach boys' indoor track at Toll Gate High School be approve for one year only; and that the appointment of **Jason Huddon**, assistant coach boys' indoor track at Pilgrim 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

Unfinished business

FY 2008-2009 Corrective Action Plan/Revised Budget

The Superintendent commented that in order to bring the 08-09 budget into balance, we need to address the deficit at the start of the school year. This is a very difficult year financially to contain spending, which will affect in many ways what's going on in the school district. Mr. Flood said that the addresses the general fund portion of the budget, \$158,751,216. According to UCOA format, the general fund must be separate from other parts of the budget. Of the \$158.7 million, \$100,794,000 has been encumbered through payroll and budgeting systems. If a line item is encumbered, it means there's a future liability that we know about; we know where we stand going forward. We wanted to know how many expenses we're locked into as the bills are paid; the amount spent goes up while the amount encumbered comes down. He recommended across the board budget cuts to specific line item accounts ranging from 10% to 75% which will result in budget savings of \$1,753,605. The directors and supervisors will be directed to hold spending at 50% and recommend that this limitation remains in place for the foreseeable future. He requested approval of the 08/09 budget as presented. Discussion of the 08/09 budget followed, including Ms. Andrade requested that a budget adjustment of \$539 be made for VOWS from \$6,339 to \$5,800. Mr. Cannistra questioned what controls were in place and what is being done to keep an eye on the budget. If there are further cuts in state funds, it will require additional cost-savings measures. Ms. Andrade commented that there was no decrease in postage, mentoring, catering. Ms. Mota-Costa said she didn't understand why teachers are being paid to cover detention and said that needs to be revisited. She questioned why the vice-principals couldn't cover detention. Dr. Mercurio said that teachers receive a stipend for overseeing detention – that's a practice that predates my time and my office. Ms. Tracey McDermott asked to hold up on the vote until the public could get copies of the budget that was being discussed. The Superintendent said the vote would be put on hold until copies are made.

Toll Gate Girls' Soccer England/Wales Preseason Trip 2009 (Trip: August 16 through August 23, 2009)

MOTION 2008-245: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the Toll Gate Girls' Soccer England/Wales Preseason Trip. [8/16 through 8/23/09]

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Health, Nutrition Physical Activity and Wellness Policy – First Reading

MOTION 2008-246: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to amend page 5 of the JHCE policy to read with "any student incentives."

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

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

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MOTION 2008-247: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve first reading of JHCE as amended.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

Food Services Management Policy 1st reading - Remarks made about policy: government getting into our business, clubs survive on bake sales, what are students suppose to do to raise some money, healthy choices (there are no choices to make), contract language and non-compete clause limits any competitive food sales during the time that Chartwells serving food, being able to sell one hour before and one hour after but to whom; the non-compete clause was always there; children throwing away half of what is on their tray, why spend money on lunch if children throwing away; and Chartwells was asked to put together a list of non-competitive items to be given to student groups so we will be in compliance.

MOTION 2008-248: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, approve Policy Food Services Management Policy (first reading).

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

Advanced Placement/Honors Program Review Committee - Dr. Mercurio said that given the ever-changing landscape of secondary school reform both at local, state and national level, I am respectfully seeking approval of a district committee to review the various components of the honors and advanced placement programs in light of both past practice and the current education reform context. The charge of the committee would be to develop a report to be presented at the School committee's regularly scheduled May meeting. This report would contain a synopsis of the current honors and advanced placement offerings across the district as well as a list of potential recommendations for further action. The Committee's charge will be to see if we are meeting the diverse and complex needs of our students across the district and to make recommendations to the School Committee for further future action as deemed necessary to support these student needs. Dr. Mercurio proposed that the Committee be comprised of at least the following:

- 1 to 2 teachers from each school
- 1 to 2 students from each school
- 1 administrator from both middle and high schools
- 1 to 2 parents from across the district

He said he would like to ask that Dr. Siesel, Ms. Bilodeau and Robert Callahan to be invited to participate on the committee either as full standing members and/or as they see appropriate to contribute to our discussions.

MOTION 2008-249: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the advance placement honor program review committee with the scope set forth with the added charge of looking at district statewide GPA.

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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Christopher Rhodes Playground - David Small said the inspection of the Rhodes School Playground equipment revealed the equipment was in good shape with the following notations: swing set was missing 3 swings; slide had a small burn hole; and basketball backboard was in poor condition and the support assembly has been recycled and the backboard stored for future use. He recommended dismantling and storing until it can be moved. The Public Works Department has agreed to move the playground.

MOTION 2008-250: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve moving the Christopher Rhodes playground.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of FY 2007-2008 In\$ite Supplemental Data & Report

MOTION 2008-251: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the FY 2007-2008 In\$ite Supplemental Data & Report Certification.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of 403(b) Plan document - (tabled)

Use of Building Policy - (tabled)

Christopher Rhodes Lease – The lease has been drawn up for the RI School for the Deaf. Attorney Healey said this was a short term lease period of 14 months from 6/1/09 to 8/31/10, renting approximately 35,000 square feet and reserving 10,000 square feet to be used for school district purposes. They are bring with them staff, maintenance personnel, and will perform basic repairs. The septic/sewer costs will be separately metered based on water usage. There will be a meeting on Friday to present the lease to the State Properties committee. The term lease is 14 months with monthly payment of \$21,000.

MOTION 2008-252: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Bids and Change Orders (none presented)

Adoption of Policy: Equal Access Policy 2nd Reading

MOTION 2008-253: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the second reading of Equal Access Policy ACC.

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 2008-254: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve second portion of policy IGDA.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2008-255: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve policy KG.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Chairman Friel asked if there were any additional comments on the 08-09 Corrective Action Plan - there being none the Committee voted on the **FY 2008-2009 corrective Action Plan/Revised Budget**

MOTION 2008-256: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to amend the 08-09 reduction of VOWS cut \$539 – separate line item.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

MOTION 2008-257: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the amended FY 2008-2009 corrective Action Plan/Revised Budget.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Information and Proposals: Chairman Friel thanked Ms. Andrade for her 16 years of service to the School Committee. He said that prior to assuming duties on the School Committee she was very active with the Lippitt PTO. During her term on the School Committee, one of her priorities was to protect the safety and well being of our students, appearing before our legislature pursuing BCI checks on all school employees. She also presented the Home School Policy and Equal Access Policy. Ms. Andrade has been one of the longest school committee members in the history of the school committee, and her knowledge and expertise will be sorely missed – but we will have her for one more meeting.

Superintendent Horoschak said that Mr. Bushell is at home recuperating and undergoing other tests. He was expected to be out for a couple of weeks, and he thanked Mr. Areglado for stepping in as acting director.

Ms. Bilodeau gave an update on GBP – saying that Pilgrim has 299 seniors, Veterans has 254 seniors and Toll Gate has 263 seniors with approved topics. They are working with students who don't have approved topics to identify what they need to graduate. Mr. Cannistra said in the future the update on GBP should be an agenda item.

MOTION 2008-258: 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: 9:50 p.m.
Bethany Furtado Clerk
Betsey Snipes, Secretary