

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of April 7, 2009
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. 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
Paul Cannistra
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

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

MOTION 2009-59: 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) and (a)(9).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m. with the following present in addition to those listed above:

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Chairman Friel announced that in Executive Session there was a personnel matter heard and by a vote of 5-0 the Committee approved the Superintendent's recommendation.

Student comments:

Scott Elementary (grade 6): Wei Li and Ryan Douglas
Greenwood Elementary (grade 6): Nicholas Lemoie and James Meizoso
Lippitt Elementary (grade 6): Brittany Lane and Coby Howard
Holliman Elementary (grade 6): Joel Dunn and Michelle Lee

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2009-60: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Minutes for the February 10, 2009 Open Session.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

It was noted by the Chair that the March 10, 2009 Open Session minutes needed to be amended on page 5 to change the spelling of Alan.

MOTION 2009-61: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2009 Open Session as amended.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

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MOTION 2009-62: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for February 10, 2009 and March 10, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2009-63: 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
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2009-64: 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
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Professional Personnel Items:

Appointments

MOTION 2009-65: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **Darlene Netcoh**, English Department Chair at Toll Gate High School be approved; that the appointment of **Frances Cripps**, Family and Consumer Science Department Chair at Veterans High School be approved; and that the appointment of **Traci-Lyn Smith**, Special Education Teacher at Winman Jr. high School, from Category 1 to Permanent, Step 2, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Leave of Absence:

MOTION 2009-66: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the request for a sabbatical leave by **Suzanne Vieira**, Social Studies Teacher at Toll Gate high School, be approved effective for the 2009-2010 school year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Retirement/Resignation:

MOTION 2009-67: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the **retirement** of **Janice Crowley**, Special Educator at Winman Jr. High School be accepted effective the last day of school; and that the **resignation of Cynthia Scheller**, Music Teacher on DOE Fellowship Leave be accepted effective March 27, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Classified Personnel items:

Retirement/Resignation:

MOTION 2009-68: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the **resignation of Pamela Lussier**, Cleaner at Toll Gate High School be accepted effective April 2, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

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Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2009-69: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **William King**, head coach football at Toll Gate High School be approved for one year only; and that the appointment of **Thomas Paquette**, assistant volleyball coach (boys) at Toll Gate High School be approved for one year only.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Graduation by Proficiency Update

Denise Belodeau reported that of 774 high school seniors, 66 haven't completed proficient senior project research papers and are at risk of not graduating. Of the 66, 22 are not even engaged in the senior project. There has been notification to students and parents, telephone calls, assemblies, letters have gone home, conferences with students and parents, tutoring, and one-on-one help with teachers. There is another deadline on April 21st. The students can be anywhere in the continuum. Mr. Maloney questioned if a student drops out but completes a GED, are they still required to do the project. The answer was students won't be required to do that until 2012. Training for judges will be held May 19th and again before the presentation on May 21st.

Consolidated Advisory Committee Report – Superintendent: as reported in the media and on our website last meeting able to reduce number of schools from six to two; Greene and Warwick Neck. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 9th, with a presentation by Mr. Bushell. The recommendation has to come before the School Committee for action at the May meeting. Mr. Maloney asked if questions were posted on the website, who was responsible to answer them. The Superintendent responded either Chairman Friel or himself.

Preschool Tuition

Dr. D'Agostino recommended that the following fees be charged beginning September 1, 2009 for the Community Peer Preschool Programs: 3-day programs for children 3 ½ (a.m. sessions) \$100 per month or \$1,000 for one year. The 5-day program (for children who are 4 years of age, Monday through Friday p.m. sessions) \$125 per month or \$1,250 for the year. These rates are consistent with those in Cranston, Pawtucket, and Lincoln school districts. They will help offset some of the costs of operating this program, while still providing the community with preschool experiences and instruction at a nominal rate.

MOTION 2009-70: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the preschool tuitions as outlined by Dr. D'Agostino.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Holliman School Playground Plans – David Small – Proposal is to install not only the existing Rhodes playground to Holliman, but also to install a new playground. The installation of the Rhodes playground is being planned for May 16, 2009, and the new playground equipment is being proposed for September 2009. There is no conflict with existing underground or overhead utilities. Funds are being raised by Holliman parents.

MOTION 2009-71: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the proposal for the Holliman School Playground.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

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Blue Cross Contract Amendment – Mr. Flood: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island has submitted a proposed amendment to the WB Community Health/Warwick School Department Cost Plus (Medical Only) Agreement that will lower the guaranteed retention rates. We are contractually committed to WB Community Health and Blue Cross/Blue Shield through June 30, 2011. Under the terms of our agreement, we have the option of opting out of our contract as of June 30, 2011 without penalty. Under the terms of the proposed Blue Cross/Blue Shield contract amendment, we also have the option to terminate our relationship with them as of that date but our withdrawal would be subject to liquidated damages. We have two options:

(A) approve contract with Blue Cross and save at least \$330,027 for the period what we are contractually obligated to stay in WB Community Health with the understanding that we would be subject to liquid damages of \$312,042 by Blue Cross if we left at that time, and (B) if we decided in 2011 to stay in WB, we would achieve projected contract savings over our current contractual rates for the term of the contract of \$993,612.

(B) do not sign the agreement and continue to pay the higher retention rates and know that we will pay \$642,068 more through June 30, 2011 than we would have under this agreement.

Mr. Flood recommended Option A as being in the interest of the Warwick School Department.

MOTION 2009-72: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield contract amendment.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
 Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
 Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

No bids or change orders presented

Public Comment: Mary Rounds asked if Family & Consumer Science is removed from curriculum next year, who decides when the students can be pulled out. The Chair commented we are putting together a proposed budget with the assumption that the program will be curtailed, but no final decision has been made. The administration will be deciding where we are putting these students. Ms. Rounds commented on how much work this puts on guidance with changing schedules. She also said that FCS teachers are certified to teach financial literacy programs. There is a large amount of equipment invested in our program, where are these things going? Another FCS teacher said by eliminating this program it will have a big impact on our special needs students. This is a program base that keeps them going.

MOTION 2009-73: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye
 Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
 Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
 Bethany Furtado, Clerk
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary