

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of June 23, 2009
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. 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
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
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

MOTION 2009-123: 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) and (a)(2).

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 7:25 p.m. - Present in addition to those listed above:

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

Professional Personnel Items:

Retirements/resignations

MOTION 2009-124: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to accept the following **retirements**: **Arlene Nappa**, elementary teacher at Greenwood Elementary School, effective the last day of school; **Kathryn Jackson**, Family & Consumer Science teacher at Veterans High School, effective the last day of school; **Susan Dundulis**, elementary art teacher at Hoxie Elementary School, effective the last day of school; **Gerald Champagne**, psychologist at Winman Junior High School, effective June 26, 2009; **Elizabeth Olausen**, elementary teacher at Warwick Neck Elementary School, effective the last day of school; **David Tanner**, Department Head Math at Winman Junior High School, effective June 29, 2009; **Susan Hirons**, elementary science teacher at Wyman Elementary School, effective the last day of school; **Deborah Tillinghast**, Family & Consumer Science teacher at Toll Gate High School, effective the last day of school; and **Judith Robinson**, elementary teacher at Robinson Elementary School, effective the last day of school.

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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Principal transfer, recall, reassignment

Superintendent Horoschak recommended that Marilyn Feeney be recalled from layoff and assigned to Park School as principal.

MOTION 2009-125: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the recall and reassignment.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstention)

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

Budget presentation:

Superintendent Peter Horoschak said that he was recommending to the School Committee that the original reductions in the budget be maintained, and after Mr. Flood's presentation you will have more detail of adjustments that have to be made. We need to reduce our expenditures by \$554,135.

Mr. Flood reported that we need to cut an additional \$554,135 from the FYE 2010 General Fund Budget. Numbers that have already been taken into consideration are: \$180,000+ savings from change in dental insurance from Blue Cross to WB Community Health; \$77,000 savings in Workers Compensation premium; \$500,000 eliminated in debt service expense due to reduction in requested allocation from the city; elimination of \$2,900,001 repayment to the city for prior year deficits; elimination of \$453,015 in professional development set aside funds; increase of \$200,000 in Medicaid revenue and an increase of \$80,000 in professional development expenditures. Superintendent Horoschak recommended that \$554,135 be reduced from the non-personnel items of the budget which amounts to approximately 2.7 % of allocation of "non personnel line items."

The following issues were discussed: the proposed elimination of ALAP position, looking at declining enrollment, going to try inclusion models, ALAP teacher will go into targeted classrooms; the Marine Science Program, which has a strong curriculum and is a "hands on" program. The GBP additions, a \$350,000 item, was discussed in detail, including Ms. Massey telling the Committee that we are over extended and there is no way to meet expectations without help. Ms. Bilodeau commented that regulations are saying everything we do at the high school level needs to go down to the junior high level, and without help we will not make it. There was the question why a step 10 teacher would be involved, but no knowing who would apply for the position, it had to be at step 10. Dr. Siesel explained how teachers and department heads are trained. The Superintendent commented that the role of the department head in working with GBP needs to be laid out. The superintendent said there are no funds in the budget to support additional positions and we have to look at ways to do it differently. Mr. Cannistra said he could not support cutting and could we cap maybe \$150,000, and give the Superintendent and Dr. Mercurio latitude to come up with alternative between now and September? The answer to the question if stimulus money could be used, Mr. Flood cautioned relying on stimulus money. It's not extra money – it is just replacing what the state give us in state aid. We'll be receiving \$1.8 million in federal stimulus funds to replace a reduction of the same amount in state aid next year. Chairman Friel asked in the \$77,000 for trailers was still in the budget and the Superintendent said it was.

MOTION 2009-126: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to amend the proposed budget by reinstating the Marine Science Program (\$77,522).

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

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MOTION 2009-127: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to amend the proposed budget by eliminating \$315,538 from GBP.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 nays)

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

MOTION 2009-128: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Chairman Friel, to reinstate the .5 ALAP teacher position.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

MOTION 2009-129: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Chairman Friel, to add \$150,000 to the line item to help the GBP folks for assistant coordinator.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes 3 nays)

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

MOTION 2009-130: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to eliminate the 3% increase for the assistant directors outlined [Paul Jansson and David LaPlante].

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 nays)

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

MOTION 2009-131: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to remove the proposed increase of 2.25% for administrators and middle management.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes 3 nays)

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

MOTION 2009-132: Moved by Chairman Friel, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to reduce administrators' raise of 2.25% to 1.5%.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 nays)

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

MOTION 2009-133: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to reduce the non-salary line item to \$251,202.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

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

Public Comment:

Mr. Turner said he couldn't believe recommended increase for administrators and why not use bond money to fix the schools. He asked if John Greene had been rented (it has not). Ms. Townsend said

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giving administrators 1.5% raise while we have lost 75 people and we all have increased duties and we have received 0% raise. Marie Cote, assistant principal at Pilgrim, said she was afraid of losing the GBP coordinators if they didn't get assistance because they've been given no hope. They are working endless hours to facilitate this, and they also take care of the First Class system. Michele Landri commented about the elimination of the FCS program and GBP. Mary Rounds commented about the elimination of the FCS program. Darlene Netoch commented that she was perfectly capable of accessing a portfolio and classroom teachers are not getting enough credit in the process. Ken Kurkoski said the GBP coordinators need help. It takes a lot of time to chase kids to get the work done and make sure they graduate. He proposed a rotating position by installing a teacher already in the building and backfilling them with a first-year teacher. He also said there is a lot of turnover with the GBP coordinator position.

MOTION 2009-134: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to take the gentleman's suggestion [Ken Kurkoski] to look at a teacher currently at each high school to fill the role of an assistant GBP coordinator and have a first-year teacher replace that teacher in the classroom.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

[Note this is not a budget item, but a suggestion to be investigated.]

MOTION 2009-135: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Budget as amended (\$165,005,968).

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

MOTION 2009-136: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary