

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of July 14, 2009
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, July 14, 2009. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson
Bethany Furtado, Clerk
Paul Cannistra
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Leonard Flood, Director of Business Affairs

MOTION 2009-137: 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 (4-0)

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

Meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m. - Present in addition to those listed above:
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

The Chair announced earlier in executive session the Committee tabled Grievance #08-332 pending additional information, denied Grievance #08-328 with a vote of 4-0; and tabled Grievance #08-334 pending drafting suitable resolution language.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2009-138: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of Open Session for June 9, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2009-139: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to amend the Minutes for the Open Session for June 23, 2009 on page 3 [Motion 2009-131] the motion failed with a vote of 2 ayes[Mota-Costa/Maloney], 2 nays [Friel/Cannistra]and 1 abstain Ms. Furtado.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2009-140: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the June 23, 2009 Open Minutes as amended.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

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MOTION 2009-141: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for June 9, 2009 and June 23, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2009-142: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2009-143: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Professional Appointments:

MOTION 2009-144: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the following appointments: **Stephen Carter**, Special Education Department Chair at Aldrich Jr. High School; **Frederick Schweizer**, English Department Chair at Winman Jr. High School; **Deidre Ward**, Math Department Chair at Winman Jr. High School; **Erin Mullaugh**, Science Teacher, Step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI and pending receipt of RI certification in General Science; **Eric Kratz**, Science Teacher, Step 1, pending vacancy or declination of position and pending receipt of RI certification in Chemistry/Biology/Science; **Alexander Hatzberger**, Science Teacher, Step 1, pending vacancy or declination of position and pending receipt of State and National BCI and pending receipt of RI certification; **Caitlyn Noury**, English Teacher, Step 1; **Bethany Hogan-Zawislak**, English Teacher, Step 7; **Jeanine Fitzgerald**, English Teacher, Step 2, pending appointment of department head; **Michelle Blanchette**, English Teacher, Step 2, pending vacancies or declination of positions; **Sarah Patos**, Math Teacher, Step 1 pending receipt of RI certification and pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Brooke Sullivan**, Math Teacher, Category 1, Step 2; **Heidi Banville**, Math Teacher, Step 1 pending appointment of department head and pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Jenna Mendonsa**, Math Teacher, Step 1, pending vacancies or declination of positions and pending receipt of RI Certificate; **Jared DeAlmo**, Physical Education/Health/Adaptive PE Teacher, Step 1 **Nicholas Durand**, Physical Education/Health/Adaptive PE Teacher, Step 3 be approved pending appointment of department head; **Jonni Goddard**, Social Studies Teacher, Step 2; **Michael O'Brien**, social Studies Teacher, Category 1, Step 5; **Casey Kimber**, Music Teacher, Step 2 **David Planka**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 1; **Kimberley Markarian**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 4, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Kimberly Hatton**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 1 pending vacancies or declination of positions; **Susan Petersen**, Foreign Language Teacher, Step 5, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Lydia Smith**, Foreign Language Teacher, Step 1, **Heather DeMarco**, Reading Specialist/Consultant, Step 7; **Gina Asermely**, Reading Specialist/Consultant, Step 5, pending receipt of State and National BCI and pending receipt of Official Certification in the State of RI; **Lisa Murray**, Pre-School Special Educator, Step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Sallie Brooks**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 3, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Heather Carlin**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 4; **Stephanie Librandi**, 50% Elementary Special Educator, Step 2; **Lindsey Savage**, Secondary

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Special Educator, Step 3; **Dana Scolaro**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 4; **Marissa Miller**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 3; **Ashley Gannon**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 4, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Frank Notarianni**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Kristin Costello**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 6, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Jillian Roberts**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **David McCaffrey**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 1; **Lisa Salisbury**, Secondary Special Educator, Category 1, Step2, pending appointment of Special Education Department Chair.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Retirement(s)Resignation(s)

MOTION 2009-145: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the following **retirements**: **Richard Mathewson**, Physical Education Department Head at Toll Gate effective June 30, 2009; **Kevin Delaney**, Social Studies Teacher at Toll Gate effective last day of school and **Evelyn Sherry**, Family & Consumer Science Department Head at Pilgrim High effective June 30, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2009-146: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Michael Martin**, assistant coach football at Pilgrim High School be approved for one year only.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Smart Bus presentation:

Mr. Al Cardi of Smart Bus Live made a presentation to the Committee. He said that nearly a year ago, his company made a presentation to the committee detailing their product and the benefits of using such a system to improve bus safety as well as provide a revenue stream to the state and municipality using the technology. Cameras are mounted on the stop arm that extends from the bus (with a small hole in the side of the bus for wires to go through to attach to a box under one of the seats). The camera feeds are monitored by Smart Bus staff. If a violation occurs, police are notified and a ticket is issued. There is an option of adding an internal camera (at no extra cost) to monitor behavior on the bus. The internal camera is not monitored, but is used as archived video footage. Johnston and Providence are using the technology. Municipalities that opt to use the technology will receive 12.5% of the ticket revenue, with another 12.5% going to the state and the remaining 75% going to Smart Bus. Chairman Friel commented that we must first gain approval from First Student and asked if this equipment passes DMV inspection. Mr. Cardi responded they have met with the DMV and there are no problems. They also have worked with First Student. The question was asked what would happen if we changed school bus vendors. The equipment would have to be removed. Mr. Flood said we are going into the last year of our current contract with First Student. Mr. Bushell asked if there was any guarantee we would get part of the revenue stream? Mr. Cannistra said an agreement will need to be worked out with the city to ensure the school department receives a portion of the 12.5% ticket profit. The Chair recommended that we sit down with Smart Bus representatives and work out any language that needs to be put together, and to speak to the Mayor and City Council relative to revenue.

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Chairman Friel: Motion for the School Committee to approve the administration, legal counsel, and Smart Bus representatives to negotiate a “contract” for installing external monitoring systems as well as internal monitoring systems.

MOTION 2009-147: Moved by Chairman Friel, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)

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

Senior Exhibition Project Calendar 2009-2010 – Ms. Bilodeau presented the Senior Exhibition Project Calendar which allowed only one early release day in November. The previous calendar had four early release days scheduled. Ms. Netcoh commented she was glad the request was for one instead of four. She also said that students still have other course work to do. Mr. Cannistra asked about any busing problems, and Mr. Flood said the students have to find their own transportation. Ms. Massey said we need the early release day for those working with an elementary teacher and/or shift workers (police and firemen). Mr. Cannistra said since students’ topics are approved in September, you would know the topic, and that student could have an early release day. The Superintendent suggested approving the calendar and then report back.

MOTION 2009-148: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Senior Exhibition Project Calendar 2009-2010.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)

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

Elementary ELA Curriculum presentation: Presented by Mrs. Desrosiers.

MOTION 2009-149: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Elementary ELA Curriculum.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of Revised Elementary Social Studies Curriculum: The Superintendent said it was his understanding that an explanation of some of the things brought up as a concern or criticism had been provided. Dr. Siesel presented the revised Social Studies Curriculum. Mr. Cannistra commented he felt it was inappropriate and could not support the curriculum.

MOTION 2009-150: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Revised Elementary Social Studies Curriculum.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)

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

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Administrative transfers, recalls, reassignments: Dr. D'Agostino said it was originally believed that central administration would pick up Mr. Mattis case load, but they do not have credentials. He said that the stimulus money has helped us, and we would like to recall Robert Mattis.

MOTION 2009-151: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Chairman Friel, to recall Robert Mattis.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes/2 nays) **

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

[**Please note that later in the evening there was a “reconsideration vote” wherein Ms. Furtado voted aye and Mr. Mattis was recalled.]

Administrative Raises/steps:

Peter Horoschak recommended administrative and middle management pay raises of 1.5% effective September 1, 2009, subject to a satisfactory year-end evaluation as determined by the Superintendent. This will also apply to the Superintendent and to non-union secretaries. The School Committee policy provides that administrators and middle managers receive a recommendation from the Superintendent, and approval by the School Committee, to move from Step 3 to Step 4 or from Step 4 to Step 5. He recommended the following for step increases: Denise Bilodeau 4 to 5; Susan Rooney 3 to 4; John Livsey 3 to 4; Nancy Sinotte 3 to 4; John Driscoll 3 to 4; Leonard Flood 3 to 4; Nicholas Spera 3 to 4; Timothy Kane 3 to 4; Michelle Paton 3 to 4; Marilyn Feeney 3 to 4; Joanne Pelletier 3 to 4; William McCaffrey 4 to 5; and Joseph Bleczinski 4 to 5.

Discussion: Mr. Cannistra asked if this had been taken into account in the budget which was approved a few weeks ago, and Mr. Flood answered yes it was. Mr. Cannistra suggested that the motion be taken in two separate votes.

MOTION 2009-152: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the 1.5% pay raise for administrative and middle management effective September 1, 2009 and as previously approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2009-153: Moved by Chairman Friel and seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the step increases of those employees who require School Committee approval for step increases as outlined by the Superintendent.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes 2 nays)

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

[Denise Bilodeau 4 to 5; Susan Rooney 3 to 4; John Livsey 3 to 4; Nancy Sinotte 3 to 4; John Driscoll 3 to 4; Leonard Flood 3 to 4; Nicholas Spera 3 to 4; Timothy Kane 3 to 4; Michelle Paton 3 to 4; Marilyn Feeney 3 to 4; Joanne Pelletier 3 to 4; William McCaffrey 4 to 5; and Joseph Bleczinski 4 to 5]

Ms. Furtado said she would like to reconsider her vote on Agenda item #5 [Administrative transfers, recalls, reassignments]. She said after reviewing my notes from executive session, I have reconsidered my vote.

MOTION 2009-154: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Chairman Friel, to reconsider the vote previously made on Agenda Item #5.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)

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

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MOTION 2009-155: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Chairman Friel, to approve the transfer, recall, reassignment as outlined. (Robert Mattis)

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)

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

Bids/change orders:

MOTION 2009-156: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, the bid for the Connect-Ed Service, in the amount of \$27,500 be approved as the lowest qualified bidder meeting specifications as per the bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2009-157: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bids for high school yearbook photography are approved for Melino Photo for Pilgrim and Veterans High Schools and Ferraro Photography for Toll Gate High School as per the memorandums provided.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2009-158: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for web-based special education management system be awarded to Maximus at the bid prices stated in the memorandums provided.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Superintendent Peter Horoschak said he would like to recognize Denise Bilodeau work she did to send in a proposal and receive part of the grant from Verizon – *Thinkfinity*. He also commented that this evening Dr. Mercurio is in East Greenwich, where they are voting on his contract to take over as superintendent. He said that today he had been asked if he would refill the position. He said he had not made any determinations what options we might be following. He said he would be coming before the Committee at a future date to look at this position and the entire central administration.

Public comment: Darlene Netcoh commented on the GBP release day, asking how many seniors will show up for the entire day? Because the day after their presentation day, there was low senior attendance. Think there should be a separate form just for that day and mentors sign and date it.

MOTION 2009-159: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:55 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk
Betsey Snipes, Secretary