

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of September 8, 2009
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Winman Jr. High School on Tuesday, September 8, 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
William Sangster, Assistant to the Superintendent

MOTION 2009-200: 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 7:00 p.m. - Present in addition to those listed above:

Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

Chairman Friel announced that in Executive Session three WISE grievances were heard and with a vote of 5-0 the Committee voted to deny the grievances and upheld the Superintendent's recommendation. [#08-323, #08-324 and #08-330]

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2009-201: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Minutes of Open Session for June 16, 2009, August 11, 2009 and August 25, 2009

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2009-202: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for June 16, 2009, August 11, 2009 and August 25, 2009

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2009-203: 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
Paul Cannistra - Aye Bethany Furtado - Aye
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

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Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2009-204: Moved by Ms. 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

Declinations:

MOTION 2009-205: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to rescind the appointment of **Kimberly Morgan**, category 1, secondary special educator (declined).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Appointments:

MOTION 2009-206: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the appointment of **Patricia Starnes**, Elementary Literacy Coach, Step 2, pending the availability of Title I and ARRA funding and pending authorization from RIDE.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Retirements/Resignations:

MOTION 2009-207: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the resignation of **Nicholas Spera**, Assistant Principal at Gorton Junior High School, is accepted effective August 14, 2009; and that the resignation of **Marilyn Massey**, School Base Graduation by Proficiency Coordinator at Pilgrim High School, is accepted effective August 18, 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:

MOTION 2009-208: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of **Kerrie Lefebvre**, teacher assistant, Special Services, be approved, effective upon approval; that the appointment of **Catherine Swiderski**, teacher assistant, Special Services, be approved effective upon approval; and that the appointment of **Laura Wiggins**, teacher assistant, Special Services, be approved effective upon approval.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

New Business:

Approval for upgrade to full-time custodian at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center:

Dr. D'Agostino reported that there is a need to increase the custodial coverage from part time to full time, as the program is growing very quickly, and the school is open in the evening for parent workshops. The funds were placed in the budget under general funds.

MOTION 2009-209: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the upgrade to a full-time custodian at Drum Rock.

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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Approval for part-time custodian at Greene Elementary School - Dr. D'Agostino requested a part-time custodian at Greene Elementary School (less than twenty (20) hours per week). A special education program, developed with the Special Education Office and the West Bay Collaborative, will utilize three classrooms and the all purpose room to support approximately eighteen Warwick students. The funds would come out of the general funds and from the savings in the reduction of out of district tuition costs, as well as savings in transportation costs. The Superintendent commented that we plan to move certain sections out of the facility at Warwick Lake Avenue over to Greene some time during the course of this year. Mr. Maloney asked if the part-time custodian position included benefits, and the answer was no. Attorney Healey said that part time is 17.5 hours (non-Union, non-benefit position).

MOTION 2009-210: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the part-time custodian position, not to exceed 17 hours, at Greene School.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval for upgrade to full time special education teaching assistant – Dr. D'Agostino said for the past four years a Warwick special needs student has been assisted with a teaching assistant due to the nature of his disability. The student, whose health is terminal, needs have increased and he requires full time attention. The IDEA funding for this position is included in this year's budget.

MOTION 2009-211: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the upgrade for the special education teaching assistant to full time.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval for extension of security alarm monitoring contract – Mr. Flood recommended an extension of our existing security alarm monitoring contract with Electronic Alarm for a period of one year. They are offering a reduction of 25% in cost per alarm for next year for an annual savings of \$5,400.

MOTION 2009-212: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the one-year extension for security alarm monitoring contract with Electronic Alarm.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval for lumber purchase from Coventry Lumber – Mr. Flood explained that the Career Center had made a purchase of instructional materials from Coventry Lumber for the six-week summer program that was funded by a \$543,000 grant. The total amount was \$24,000 and was made without a formal bid or approval. When Mr. Flood spoke to Mr. McCaffrey about the matter, he was told the grant award was made on May 28, 2009, the program was to start on July 7, 2009, staff was not hired until June 28th and there was no time to go out for bid. Coventry Lumber had been an approved vendor for the last fourteen years and an approved vendor for the State. With that information Mr. McCaffrey ordered the necessary materials. Mr. Flood said that in order to pay this vendor, he requested the School Committee officially approve the purchase in an amount not to exceed \$24,000.

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MOTION 2009-213: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the lumber purchase.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Repayment of FY2007 deficit – Chairman Friel

MOTION 2009-214: Moved by Chairman Friel to repay the City the 2007 deficit of \$672,946.69 from the surplus funds from this past fiscal year, seconded by Mrs. Furtado.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Resolution concerning FY2008 deficit – Chairman Friel presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S OPERATING DEFICIT FOR THE 2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR

RESOLVED, that

WHEREAS, the Warwick School Committee recognizes that it sustained a deficit in the School Department's General Fund for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 in the amount of two million two hundred thirty-six thousand fifty-four dollars (\$2,236,054), and

WHEREAS, the Warwick School Committee desires to reimburse the City for the operating deficit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Warwick School Committee, along with Superintendent Peter P. Horoschak, Ed.D, agree that should the Warwick School Committee sustain an operating surplus for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year, they shall make payment to the City to cover in whole or in part that operating deficit. The Warwick School Committee further agrees that they will place this matter on the agenda each fiscal year hereafter for further consideration until such time as the City is reimbursed the full amount of the 2007-2008 deficit.

The School Committee clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor and members of the Warwick City Council.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

SUBMITTED BY: Christopher Friel

Warwick School Committee Chair

MOTION 2009-215: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Resolution concerning the FY2008 deficit.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Facility Usage Advisory Committee – Chairman Friel: Proposed forming a Facility Usage Advisory Committee which would be chaired by the Superintendent and consist of the President of WTU, President of WISE, President of PTA, 2 parents, assistant to the superintendent, elementary principal, secondary principal, director of elementary, and director of special ed. A school committee member would not sit on this committee as it would be a conflict.

MOTION 2009-216: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve forming a Facility Usage Advisory Committee.

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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Bids and Change Orders:

MOTION 2009-217: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the bid for fire extinguisher maintenance contract be awarded to Fire Extinguisher Service Company, Inc. at the unit prices listed in the bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2009-218: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for network switches contract be awarded to Computopia at the unit prices outlined in the bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Information and Proposals

From School Committee Members:

Mr. Maloney said a PAC meeting will be held on October 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the administration building. There is a new website which can be found through the Warwick Schools website.

Superintendent Horoschak thanked the administration and staff for all the work done during the course of the summer and said that the opening of school went off very smoothly. There were some issues with transportation, but they are being taken care of. Mr. Bushell, Mr. Sangster, Mr. Mullen, and Dr. D'Agostino reported on the opening of school reporting on the average class sizes, number of students, the Commissioner of Education visiting Oakland Beach School, two middle school interim principals, 7-period day, and some decline in school population. It was reported that for the first time the State will be charging us for the students attending the School for the Deaf.

Mr. Cannistra said he would like to see again this year student comments starting with elementary 6th graders on up.

Public comment: Ms. Ascoli commented that she had been told that this will be the last year for FCS at the Junior High level and said this is a disservice for the students; and asked where the high school students have been placed. Mr. Kennedy asked if the decline in enrollment comes from the airport expansion or the economy. He also commented on the Greene custodian, saying it's not just three rooms, there are the rest rooms and common areas, shoveling, etc.

MOTION 2009-219: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, 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: 9:00 p.m.
Bethany Furtado, Clerk
Betsey Snipes, Secretary