

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of October 13, 2009
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:40 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 2009-222: 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 7:30 p.m. - Present in addition to those listed above:

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

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2009-223: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Minutes of Open Session for September 8, 2009 and September 29, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2009-224: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for September 8, 2009 and September 29, 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 2009-225: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. 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 2009-226: 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

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Professional personnel items

Retirement:

MOTION 2009-227: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the retirement of **Susan Brassard**, elementary teacher at Lippitt, be accepted effective September 21, 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:

Appointments:

MOTION 2009-228: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the following appointments be approved: **Cheryl Greco**, senior clerk typist-physical education/health/athletics; **Kara Cravins**, special education teacher assistant; **Christopher Dempsey**, behavior specialist (pending approval of Behavior Specialist position); **Craig Dottor**, special education teacher assistant, **Timothy Geremia**, special education teacher assistant; **John Fitz-Simon**, special education teacher assistant; **Joann Spremulli**, special education teacher assistant.

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 2009-229: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **retirement of Judith S. Turbitt**, teacher assistant-special services-K be accepted effective October 16, 2009; and that the **resignation of Helene Zaidman**, teacher assistant-special services, be accepted effective September 30, 2009.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2009-230: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Michael Nappa**, head coach wrestling at Veterans be approved; that the appointment of **Brendon Friel**, assistant coach wrestling at Veterans be approved; that the appointment of **Carolyn Yates**, assistant coach boys' cross country at Toll Gate be approved for one year only; and that the appointment of **Jonathan Deming**, head coach boys' indoor track at Toll Gate 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

Pilgrim High School Chorus/Band

Trip to Toronto Canada:

MOTION 2009-231: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the trip to Toronto Canada from April 29 through May 2, 2010.

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 full-time behavioral specialist position

MOTION 2009-232: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the full time behavioral specialist position.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of contracts for network support

Mr. Flood recommended the award of two contracts for network maintenance and support contract for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. The total cost is \$48,863. The contract with RINET (RI Network for Educational Technology) supports school equipment only and Atrio provides maintenance and support for the remaining network equipment that does not come under the E-Rate umbrella.

MOTION 2009-233: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the contracts for network support.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of continuation and amendment to Creative Environment Corp. proposal for engineering services for new fire alarm systems at Lippitt and Wyman Elementary Schools

Mr. Flood said that the cost of the project for Lippitt and Wyman Elementary Schools is in the amount of \$10,400. This is a continuation and amendment of this firm's previous authorization. Under the proposal they will review the plans and specifications for changes required by State Fire Code revisions, rebid the projects and provide construction observations and administration.

MOTION 2009-234: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the continuation and amendment proposal for engineering services by Creative Environment Corporation for new fire alarm systems at Lippitt and Wyman.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of continuation and amendment to Saccoccio & Associates proposal for architectural services for re-roofing Pilgrim High School

It is recommended that a contract be awarded to Saccoccio & Associates in the amount of \$135,450. This recommendation is based upon their proposed fees, background investigations, their ability to perform the services in a timely manner and our previous successful projects with this firm. The proposal is in conformance with their bid proposal for BOND 2006.

MOTION 2009-235: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the continuation and amendment to Saccoccio & Associates proposal for architectural services for re-roofing Pilgrim High School.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Report on Commissioner's visit to Pilgrim, Toll Gate and Warwick Veterans: Mr. Sangster made the following report to the Committee: The visits were two days in length and conducted from September 15 through the 30th, 2009. Each visit focused on (1) how well are students learning to read and write and use reading and writing as tools to become better learners? How well are students prepared to meet

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graduation requirements? (2) How effectively are teachers assisting students to become better readers and writers who use reading and writing as tools to learn? How well do teachers prepare students to meet graduation requirements? (3) How well are school and district leadership efforts supporting the improvement of reading and writing and PBGRs? The pursuit of answers to these questions led the teams to consider the full range of programs at all three high schools, including instruction available for all students across all content areas. These visits took place within the first four weeks of 2009-2010 school year. The visiting teams had 20 members. All members signed and followed a code of professional conduct during the visit. In order to gather the evidence upon which all three final reports were based, team members: a) followed a student for half a day; b) observed classrooms for 52 to 87 hours and interviewed teachers and administrators for 9 to 15 hours. Almost all teachers were observed. Team members held meetings with parents, students, department chairs/leadership team, school administration, GBP coordinator/appeals committee/teacher leaders, ELA and literacy teachers, union representatives, guidance, school committee members and had a voluntary meeting for teachers. The teams consulted documents supplied by the schools. In order to write the reports, the team debriefed its findings and deliberated its conclusions for approximately six hours. They drafted and edited conclusions and then met with the School Improvements Teams to share their findings and develop next steps for each school. Every conclusion that is in the reports is agreed upon by the teams.

Title I after school extended learning programs

Mr. Lowery reported that Warwick's Title I ARRA application for an after school extended learning opportunity program at each Title I School has been approved. The program serves students in grades 1-4. First priority is given to students in grade 4 who scored a 1 or 2 on the NECAP in grade 3. There will be 24 slots at each Title I school. The program will begin on October 13, 2009 at: Holden, Holliman, Hoxsie, Lippitt, Norwood, Oakland Beach, Park and Wickes. Three teachers from each of the schools will provide the extended learning opportunities for the students. Mr. Lowery reported there are 172 student enrolled out of 184 slots. The program is held immediately after school, for one hour a day, three times a week.

Graduation by proficiency update – Ms. Bilodeau reported there are 586 approved topics. There were 243 early approved topics and students worked on their projects over the summer. There are 26 students who have not submitted anything. This is a dramatic improvement.

Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2009-236: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the bid for wrestling mats at Warwick Veterans High School in the amount of \$10,850 be awarded to Billings Sport as per 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 2009-237: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for 2009-2010 printer, peripheral and accessory equipment be awarded to various vendors, based on pricing, as per bid tabulation.

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 2009-238: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for school bus maintenance, 3-year contract, be awarded to Complete Auto Repair & Fleet Maintenance, as per 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

Superintendent Horoschak reported that ARRA provided new bonding authority to state and local governments through the QSCB Program. Under the program, the federal government expected to provide bondholders with a tax credit in lieu of cash interest payment. The school district is only responsible for repaying the amount borrowed and the associated insurance costs. Rhode Island was allocated \$44.4 million of which \$22.3 million was allocated by the federal government to Providence and \$22.1 million allocated to other school districts in the state regardless of size or poverty levels. The Warwick School Department submitted an application supplying information on \$25 million in school construction projects that are currently pending. We were notified by Commissioner Gist that the School Department was awarded \$3,909,842 in bonding authority. The funding will be used for the replacement of the roof at Pilgrim (\$2,234,550) and address fire code deficiencies in all elementary and secondary schools (\$1,674,292).

Public Comment:

Five people presented themselves as the “lunch ladies” and said they have quite a few concerns with new company Sodexo. The spokesperson said we are coming before you to say we are meeting with Sodexo tomorrow.

MOTION 2009-239: 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 adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary