

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of June 8, 2010  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, June 8, 2010. Vice-Chair Mota-Costa called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson [present at 6:25 p.m.]  
Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice Chair  
Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
Paul Cannistra [present at 6:25 p.m.]  
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent  
William Sangster, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2010-120: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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 (3-0)

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

**Professional Personnel Items:**

**Appointments:**

MOTION 2010-121: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **appointment of Terri Dubis**, Business Teacher, Step 1, be approved pending vacancy after the June 24, 2010 job fair.

[Agenda item: Marilyn Feeney appointment put on hold]

**Retirements/resignations:**

MOTION 2010-122: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **retirement of Janet Bowab**, librarian at Pilgrim High School, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the **retirement of Timothy Valk**, Special Education Department Head at Pilgrim High School, be accepted June 30, 2010; that the **retirement of Eleanor McSally**, reading teacher at Scott Elementary School, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the **retirement of Donna Wnuk**, math teacher at Warwick Veterans High School, be accepted effective the last day of school; that the **retirement of Edith Kubica**, Science Department Head at Gorton Junior High School be accepted effective June 30, 2010; and that the **retirement of Justine Sherburne**, Elementary Teacher at Scott Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school.

**Student Comments:**

Rebecca Stock and Heather Allstrom, Grade 6 at Greenwood Elementary School  
Micaela Supski and Atalia Rodrigues, Grade 6 at Oakland Beach Elementary School

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**Student Recognitions:** Presentation by the School Committee Members of the Scholastic Art Awards, RI DECA Competition awards, RI National History Day Competition awards and Lindsay Ann Burke Poster Contest Awards.

**Approval of Minutes:**

MOTION 2010-123: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for May 11, 2010 and May 18, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2010-124: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for May 11, 2010 and May 18, 2010.

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 2010-125: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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 2010-126: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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

**Unfinished Business:**

**Reconsideration of custodial services at Greene** - Mr. LaPlante said that as requested by the Committee at the last meeting, additional information about the job duties has been provided.

MOTION 2010-127: Moved by Chairman Friel that because of budgetary difficulties to table this item, seconded by Ms. Furtado.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

**Student Assistance Counselor Programs (tabled)**

**Graduation by Proficiency Update:** Ms. Bilodeau: Of the 779 seniors, 715 have completed their senior project; 38 seniors will be the end of next week; 86 not completed but the number changes by the minutes. There are 43 students who are not graduating but some may withdraw and some might return.

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**Bids/Change Orders:**

MOTION 2010-128: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, that the bid for bus service, for base bid services, be awarded to First Student, at the bid prices as per 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 2010-129: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for security alarm monitoring contract, in the amount of \$6,379, be awarded to Electronic Alarm Systems.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

MOTION 2010-130: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the bid for medical supplies, on a unit price basis, three year contract, be awarded to Moore Medical LLC, as per 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 2010-131: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, that the bid for athletic supplies and equipment be awarded to Elmwood Sports and Grogan-Marciano, at the bid prices per the memorandum and bid tabulations.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Adoption of Policies:**

**Policy GCAB – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

MOTION 2010-132: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the second reading for Policy GCAB – English Language Learners.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Policy IGD – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

MOTION 2010-133: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the second reading for Policy IGD – Co-Curricular & Extra Curricular Activities.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Policy IKC Class Ranking – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading -** Discussion regarding changing the word “promulgate” to “determine” – Ms. Netoch said she didn’t think that the Superintendent alone should be “determining” class ranking and the original language was better.

MOTION 2010-134: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the second reading of Policy IKC.

**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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**Policy IGCCA – Honor Society – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading**

MOTION 2010-135: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the second reading of Policy IGCCA

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Policy IKAA – Final Examinations** - During last month’s committee meeting the final exam policy was up for a second reading and a suggestion was made to exempt seniors from final exams as long as they maintained an A average throughout the year. Dr. Siesel said she brought the concerns voiced at last month’s meeting before the policy committee, but the majority was not in favor of such a change. A number of years ago the exemption for seniors was removed. Chairman Friel commented that several years ago students didn’t have to deal with the added pressures of new the requirements such as senior exhibition project and GBP portfolio. Ms. Mota-Costa said she thought it was a great incentive, and Mr. Maloney said it gives students, who worked hard all year long, an opportunity to not take examinations. A number of people commented on the issue. Donna Tobin said one of the reasons created several years ago we felt we would be giving a poor message to students going into college because there are very few professors that exempt their students from final exams at that level. Students should have the experience of increasing requirements each year at the high school level to prepare them for college. Mr. Cannistra said it is one nugget to strive for, an award for a job well done. Mr. Mullen said he was a minority on the committee and he had been in favor of senior exemption saying it was an incentive for those who are marginal, but should be for seniors only. Mr. Flanders thought it should be expanded for grades nine through twelve. Dr. Siesel said there is a problem with exempting students in lower grades from final exams because the act of maintaining an A average doesn’t guarantee that the grade span expectations (GSE’s) have been tested, which is a requirement for receiving a diploma. We spent a lot of time on common assessment, common tasks, labs, and particular assignments to address the GSE’s. The Superintendent commented that the School Dept. has spent a lot of time with the RI Dept. of Ed discussing requirements that will be needed in order to present Regents diplomas in 2012. It is my understanding those requirements are tied to final exams, unless we change that. Ms. Netcoh commented There are a number of ways for students to demonstrate proficiency and meet GSE’s such as NE Common Assessment Program testing, the GBP portfolio and class assignments. By the time the students reach senior year, if they’ve maintained an A and have taken mid-year exams, then they’ve done everything they are supposed to do. Michele Landri said she remembered six or seven years ago when it was voted to be abolished. She said students worked harder to get out of exam and it should strictly be a senior thing. Benjamin Hodge, said he works hard to keep A’s and getting A’s should prove we are proficient and we should be exempt. Matt, a senior at Pilgrim, said he had a difficult time this year with regard to finding time to complete field work for the senior project and knowing he could be exempt from the final would have been a big weight off his shoulders. Tracey McDermott said five years ago she argued against it and felt it was a huge incentive. She said the final exam is meaningless if the students have already been accepted to college by that point. Ms. Tobin commented that she was wedded to underclass exams, but not wedded to senior exams.

MOTION 2010-136: Chairman Friel moved to send this policy back to subcommittee and direct them to amend the policy, allowing seniors exempt from final exams as long as they maintain an A average throughout a full year course, seconded by Ms. Furtado.

**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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**Sports:** Chairman Friel said that school sports was not an agenda item, and as such the School Committee cannot get into a discussion, but that the Committee was open for anyone who wishes to speak during the public comment session. The following is a summary of comments made by the public: Benjamin Hodge had 1,000 signatures of students/parents, coaches, teachers and gave the petition to the committee. He recommended a student advisory committee be created. Another student said she always wanted to be captain of the tennis team and said that sports are something to look forward to, and asked the Committee not to take sports away. Devin, a sophomore and a wrestler, said we spend time together; we are a family and support each other. Steve, a sophomore said sports has always been part of his life ever since he could remember, saying he always went to the Thanksgiving Day game ever since he was five years old. Two girls on the volleyball team said we bond together and wondered how college scholarships would be affected. Mrs. Lowe said the kids would be heartbroken if they lost sports and asked who is advocating for the kids. Matt Russo, a senior, said he never gave up and never quit. Mr. Emerson (a 1996 Pilgrim graduate) received a full scholarship to Syracuse and that was an opportunity that he would never have had if not for wrestling and football. He is now an assistant principal in Providence. Steve, a student from Veterans, said that sports taught him life lessons. All asked that sports not be cut.

MOTION 2010-137: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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: 9:25 p.m.**

Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary