

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of September 14, 2010  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Winman Junior High School, on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:05 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. [absent]

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2010-183: Moved by Ms. 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 - Aye  
Paul Cannistra - Aye      Bethany Furtado - Aye  
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - [absent]

Meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes of Open Session**

MOTION 2010-184: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Open Minutes for August 17, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

**Approval of Minutes of Executive Session**

MOTION 2010-185: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Executive Minutes for August 17, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

**Professional Personnel Items**

**Appointments**

MOTION 2010-186: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **Dennis Winn**, Elementary Principal, Step 4, be approved pending receipt of National and State BCI and pending receipt of official certification from RIDOE and that the appointment of **Stephanie Hips**, business teacher, category 1, step 10, be approved pending receipt of National and State BCI.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

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**Leave of Absence**

MOTION 2010-187: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the request for parental leave by **Bethany Hogan-Zawislak**, English teacher at Gorton Junior High School, be approved, effective for the 2010-2011 school year.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Classified personnel items**

**Retirement**

MOTION 2010-188: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the retirement of **David Hart**, Custodian, be accepted effective September 3, 2010.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Coaching appointments:**

MOTION 2010-189: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **Shannon Diko**, assistant coach, field hockey, Toll Gate High School, be approved for one year only and that the appointment of **Melissa Heywood**, assistant coach, girls' cross country, Toll Gate High School, be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Approval of Career Counselor and Recruiter position**

MOTION 2010-190: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the career counselor and recruiter position.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**No transfer presented**

**Approval of Warrants:**

MOTION 2010-191: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Information and Proposals:**

Superintendent Horoschak submitted a report to the School Committee on the opening of schools. He reported there are 5,262 students at the elementary level PK-6 grade (59 students less than at the end of last school year). There are split classes at Park and Scott schools. At the secondary level there are 5,052 students (14 students less than last year). Pilgrim has 1,252 students, Veterans 1,080 and Toll Gate 1,044. The Junior High schools are down by a total of 44 students, Winman, however, is up by 6 students. Gorton Junior High is moving to fill the Assistant Principal vacancy and an appointment recommendation will be before the Committee in October. New programs implemented in the district include an alternative learning program for 10 to 15 students at Toll Gate, as well as a similar program at Lippitt for six students and a behavior/emotional program through the West Bay collaborative for two

students. Special Services were able to add the following programs: ALP at Toll Gate (10-15 students) grant funded; medical involved classroom at Lippitt Elementary (6 students); behavioral/emotional intensive classroom at West Bay (10 students) funded by tuition savings. He said we have undergone several projects in an effort to improve schools. We received grant money from the state through the Dana Center to improve our mathematics programs that will assist in meeting the core standards. Assessments will be used in an appropriate way at all schools to improve math performance. A couple capital projects started in the summer are now nearing completion. The Superintendent praised the work of the buildings and grounds staff. He said we have qualified for school construction bond money in the amount of \$3.9 million which has been used to repair the roofs at Wyman and Pilgrim. The Wyman roof is done and the Pilgrim roof is near completion. We have used some of the bond money to install new fire alarms at Lippitt and Wyman, as well as to paint the gym at Warwick Vets and the cafeteria at Gorton. The School Department has been approved for an additional \$4,212,470 in construction bond funds. We will use that funding to do many projects waiting to be taken care of much dealing with fire code specifications. Student immunization will be conducted at the three high schools for all students K-12 starting date October 25<sup>th</sup> at Veterans.

**Public comment:** Ed Turner commented that his son was not allowed to take books out of the library. The Superintendent suggested he talk with the principal. Mr. Turner also said that he asked at a PTO meeting if someone from the PTO could update the website, as it has not been updated in three years. He was told that parents can't do that. Superintendent Horoschak said that the district website has been redesigned and will have more information on it, it will be updated, all individual schools will be redesigned, and we are in the process of making those changes. Mr. Turner said that parents want to know what kids are working on in school and asked that homework information be put on the website. He was told the only mechanism is the journal the students have. Tom Daniels asked why the city finance officer didn't take over for Mr. Flood instead of calling Mr. Dooley back. He said the PTA/PTO go out buying paper and they try to raise money so the art classes have enough supplies, now we are spending \$54,000 for a salary. Roger Castanian asked why someone in the business office could not step in to fill the void. He also commented on a September 1<sup>st</sup> posting for special needs transportation.

MOTION 2010-192: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 p.m.  
Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
Betsey Snipes, Secretary