

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of October 12, 2010
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. 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
William Sangster, Assistant to the Superintendent
Cheryl Bongivengo

MOTION 2010-194: 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) 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 7:10 p.m.

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
E. Paul Jansson and David LaPlante, Co-Directors Buildings & Grounds

Student comments: Pilgrim High School: Shane Allen (grade 12) and Kayla Quirk (grade 12)
Aldrich Jr. High: Michaela McNamara (grade 8) and Brianna Travassos (grade 8)

Recognitions: Lisa Scarpellino and Thomas Horstein, ALAP teachers – *Gifted and Talented State Advocacy Award*

Approval of Minutes of Open Session

MOTION 2010-195: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Open Minutes for August 12, 2010 and September 14, 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 Minutes of Executive Session

MOTION 2010-196: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Executive Minutes for August 12, 2010 and September 14, 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 transfers:

MOTION 2010-197: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. 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 2010-198: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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:

MOTION 2010-199: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **Jeffrey Taylor**, Assistant Principal @ Gorton Junior High School (Step 1) be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2010-200: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Ann Casey**, Math Coach (80 day work year), at a salary of \$50 per hour, be approved subject to the continuing availability of Title 1 ARRA funding; that the appointment of **Linda Martin**, Math Coach (80 day work year), at a salary of \$50 per hour, be approved subject to the continuing availability of Title 1 ARRA funding; that the appointment of **Joan MacPherson**, English Language Arts Literacy Coach (80 day work year), at a salary of \$50 per hour, be approved subject to the continuing availability of Title 1 ARRA funding; that the appointment of **Carol Beatrice**, English Language Arts Literacy Coach (80 day work year), at a salary of \$50 per hour, be approved subject to the continuing availability of Title 1 ARRA funding; and that the appointment of **Carol Marginson**, Transitional Advocate, be approved at a salary of \$45 per hour (position is funded entirely by the Warwick CARES grant from RIDOE).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Leave of absence:

MOTION 2010-201: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the request for parental leave by **Tosca Eckardt Sepe**, Special Educator at Aldrich Jr. High School, be approved effective approximately January 12, 2011 until the second semester of January 2012 school year; that the request for sabbatical leave by **Barbara Cummings**, Elementary Librarian at Scott School be approved effective for the second semester of the 2010/2011 school year.

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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Retirement:

MOTION 2010-202: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of Raymond Badger**, Technology Teacher at Veterans High School be accepted effective December 17, 2010.

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:

Retirements/resignation:

MOTION 2010-203: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of Christine Michaels**, bus aide, be accepted effective December 23, 2010; that the **retirement of Elaine Blais**, Secretary, be accepted effective December 23, 2010; and that the **resignation of Sabrina Venditto**, teacher assistant Special Services, be accepted effective September 13, 2010.

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 2010-204: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Michael Lalonde**, assistant coach boys cross country at Warwick Veterans High School, be approved; that the appointment of **David Tibbets**, head coach girls ice hockey at Toll Gate, be approved; and that the appointment of **James Reynolds**, assistant coach girls volleyball 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

New business:

Approval of foreign language student trip to Canada (April 2011 school vacation):

MOTION 2010-205: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the April 2011 foreign language student trip to Canada.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

The social studies student trip to Costa Rica in February 2011 was tabled – Mr. Sangster requested this be tabled until the next School Committee meeting.

Custodial services at Greene Administration Building – Mr. LaPlante requested an upgrade from the existing position at Greene to create a full time position.

MOTION 2010-206: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Friel, to approve the custodial service at Greene as a full time temporary position.

MOTION FAILS – (2 ayes 3 nays)

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

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Cedar Hill playground expansion – Mr. Jansson recommended the expansion and said that this is all paid by PTO/PTA and they will have \$2,000 in escrow for maintenance.

MOTION 2010-207: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the expansion of the Cedar Hill playground.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of additional elementary position at Cedar Hill Elementary:

MOTION 2010-208: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the additional elementary position at Cedar Hill Elementary school.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Bids/change orders:

MOTION 2010-209: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the change order to install a new metal scupper and conductor at the existing Pilgrim High School auditorium roof wall drain be approved as per tabulations (\$1,699.72).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Presentation of Revised District Technology Plan – Ms. Silvia/Ms. Bilodeau

Overview presentation by Ms. Silvia and Ms. Bilodeau. This plan must be in place and on file with RIDE to be eligible for ERATE, RITEAF and grant funds. The plans must cover a period no longer than three years in length; plan coverage dates begin July 1 of the year following submission to RIDE. Required elements: goals and a realistic strategy for using telecommunications and information technology; a professional development strategy; an assessment of telecom services, hardware, software and other services needed; sufficient budget and other resources needed to implement the plan (include services subsidized by ERATE and local match); an ongoing evaluation process. The following were reviewed: *WPS technology support*: technology applications, assessment coordinator; manager of information systems; assistant manager of information systems; systems analyst; 5 computer technicians and 3 data systems specialists. *New Federal and State technology report*: (1) technology capacity inventory October of each year; inventory of all computers, laptops with internet access; (2) 8th grade technology literacy assessment December and May window, on-line assessment *learning.com*; (3) personnel skilled in technology/integration of technology, teachers, library media specialists and administrators, self-reporting on line, and LoTi survey. *Technology goals*: Communication: employ technology for communication and collaboration among staff, parents, students, the larger community and the world; and Data management: provide data, information and reporting to the state, staff and parents to improve student achievement and support assessment. Teaching and learning – provide and support a learning community with appropriate technology tools and professional development to enhance instruction, improve student achievement and support assessment. Emerging Technologies: advance innovative technologies to enhance instruction, improve student achievement, support assessment and expand efficiency. *Communication Action Plan*: provide continued support and expansion for the ConnectEd notification system; provide continued support and expansion for the FirstClass Communication and Collaboration System. *Data Management Action Plan*: conversion and

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implementation from Star_Base to the Aspen Student Information System; provide continued support and expansion for the Student Information Systems and Student Assessment; provide continued support to all data management systems; conversion to Aspen X2 student information system; state and federal reporting; library media support; digital portfolio; transportation system; financial/human resource systems; professional development to support data management. *Teaching and Learning Action Plan:* continue to implement and support the integration and use of technology to support teaching, learning and assessment; ISTE-International Society for Technology in Education Standards for students, teachers and administrators (NETS); Richer Picture ePortfolio 9-12; EDU 20 K-8; enhancing education through technology-E2T2; 8th grade technology literacy assessment; LoTi survey; iSafe, Thinkfinity; software and *Emerging Technologies Action Plan:* expand and improve the district network and provide continued support, expansion and research for current technology resources.

MOTION 2010-210: Moved by Chairman Friel, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the revised district technology plan as presented.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Graduation by Proficiency

The second part of the presentation was discussion regarding proficiency graduation requirements. Proficiency is determined by a score of 3 on the rubric used for that assessment. There are three areas (1) classes (content standards) – Carnegie units and proficiency documents; (2) portfolio – academic expectations (score a 3 or 4) and NECAP – grade span expectations. Proficiency-based graduation requirements (graduating class of 2008) Carnegie units, senior project; Proficiency-based graduation requirements (graduating class of 2009) – Carnegie units, senior project, paper portfolio (just needed to participate in NECAP); Proficiency-based graduation requirements (graduating class of 2010) – Carnegie units, senior project, digital portfolio (just needed to participate in NECAP); Proficiency-based graduation requirements (graduating class of 2011) – Carnegie units, senior project, digital portfolio (just needed to participate in NECAP); Proficiency-based graduation requirements (graduating class of 2012) – Carnegie units, GBP (senior project and portfolio) and partially proficient on NECAP.

Public Comment – Chairman Friel announced because of the number of people who may wish to speak, we will have a two minute time with a 30 second reminder notice. The following is a summary of comments: Cheri Nickerson asked that she be put on the agenda for next month to speak. She said what will happen with the WISE union upon privatization. Many have been here many, many years. As far as transportation goes, it is a shame to make these people come to work every day not knowing if they have a job or not. Now we hear custodian service will be privatized. She said everyone else is trying to create jobs and you are taking them away. She said she has been waiting for a phone call in response to the proposal that the whole union voted to put forth and haven't heard anything from anyone. Robert McClaughlin (parent from Norwood School) ask that the custodians not be privatized, commenting on the custodian at Norwood who is dedicated, hard working, helpful and goes the extra mile for all the children. He said he didn't think an outside company would have that dedication. Fred Burke said we are in our fifth year with no contract and asked for a fair contract. Jean Bouchard, from the Treasurer's office, said she came to ask the Committee to reconsider thoughts about privatization, saying from experience, it does not save money.

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Tracy McDermott requested taking some of that \$6.2 million and hire an outside agency to come in and do a forensic audit. Don't believe \$8.5 for next year – no one trusts it. You laid off 71 WISE members, laid off a number of teachers based on numbers, and we don't know if they are correct or not. We have had months of no financial director. She said go back and look at people who have already been laid off and hire them back and have outside agency come in. Janice Daily (from transportation) said we need some of that money now, the buses are horrible, breaking down every day and the buses are not getting fixed as there is only one mechanic. Jim Ginolfi said there are a number of issues and he came before the Committee to support members of the WISE union. They are dedicated, hardworking employees, keeping the school system functioning well. The proposal to privatize services they provide is wrong. Few days ago we learned of a surplus. Those responsible must be held responsible. Those that have been harmed must be made whole. We must take a long hard look at this school system. Facts are clear. Much needs to be done to restore school system.

MOTION 2010-211: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to extend the time for Mr. Ginolfi to speak.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Mr. Ginolfi continued: (1) rescind cuts – (2) reject proposal regarding privatizing (3) do an audit so the entire community can have confidence that there are sound and accurate numbers.

Superintendent Horoschak said for the record that city officials announced at the same time that they had a \$2.6 million surplus, which was greeted with pleasure. Everyone worked to keep the costs down. He pointed out that a great deal occurred last year, the state left the School Department and the City hanging out and not knowing what we are going to have and what was going to be cut. I take responsibility for misinformation, lack of communication, work that had been done that was not done properly – that is my job, and I intend to see that we make corrections. The implication of deceit is rejected. There was no attempt to deceive anyone. We saved enough money to pay back the city; got some breaks at the end of the school year; special ed bringing students back; we also had some substantial savings in energy use; reduction in amount of funding that we had to pay into the retirement system. Taylor Manson (13 years old) Mom is a school bus driver. You sit up there and look like you don't care. Ms. O'Leary (bus driver) we should have settled the contract 5 years ago and started paying our health care like we wanted – those savings that would have gone to the children. We need answers. Michele Landri (Toll Gate) said she didn't know what she would do without the people that help her out. Our building is clean, these folks come to work, and they come to "their" school. The people would drive our kids to school; you cannot put a price on that. Ed Turner put the numbers on our website, share all the numbers.

Chair: we will resume to executive session and come back out to adjourn.

MOTION 2010-212: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to adjourn the Open Session.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Meeting adjourned: 10:45 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk
Betsey Snipes, Secretary