

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of November 9, 2010  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. 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  
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

**MOTION 2010-213:** Moved by Mr. Cannistra, 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 (3-0)**

Christopher Friel - Aye      Lucille Mota-Costa – not present for vote  
Paul Cannistra – Aye      Bethany Furtado – absent  
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye

Meeting reconvened at 7:17 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:** Paige Carmichael, grade 7 Winman Jr. High School  
Tim Madsen, grade 8 Winman Jr. High  
Samantha Smith, grade 8 Winman Jr. High  
Meghan Fitzgerald, grade 12 Toll Gate  
Savannah Lang, grade 12 Toll Gate

**Approval of Minutes of Open Session**

**MOTION 2010-214:** Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for October 5, 2010 and October 12, 2010.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Approval of Minutes of Executive Session**

**MOTION 2010-215:** Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for October 5, 2010 and October 12, 2010.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

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**Approval of transfers:**

MOTION 2010-216: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Approval of warrants:**

MOTION 2010-217: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Professional personnel items:**

**Leave of absence:**

MOTION 2010-218: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the request for parental leave by Ornella Fava, foreign language teacher at Pilgrim High School, be approved effective approximately January 23, 2011 through the end of the second semester; returning in September 2011.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Retirements/resignations:**

MOTION 2010-219: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the **retirement** of **Barbara Oliver**, family & consumer science teacher, laid off June 22, 2010, be accepted effective October 15, 2010 and that the **retirement** of **Barbara Dubois**, speech language therapist at Lippitt Elementary School, be accepted effective December 23, 2010.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Classified personnel items**

**Retirements/resignations:**

MOTION 2010-220: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the **retirement** of **Brenda Claeson**, sr. clerk typist, Buildings and Grounds Office, be accepted effective December 24, 2010; that the **retirement** of **Mary Lagasse**, sr. clerk typist, Business Office, be accepted effective December 23, 2010; that the **retirement** of **Barbara Holloway**, sr. clerk typist, Special Services, be accepted effective December 23, 2010 and that the **retirement** of **Louise Terreri**, Teacher Assistant, Randall Holden Elementary School, be accepted effective December 23, 2010.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Coaching appointments:**

MOTION 2010-221: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the appointment of **Thomas Conley**, assistant coach, boys' indoor track at Toll Gate High School be approved for one year only; that the appointment of **James Reynolds**, assistant coach, boys' basketball at Toll Gate High School be approved for one year only.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

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**Recognitions:** Jana DeSimone awarded Rhode Island Middle Level Art Teacher of the Year by the Rhode Island Art Educators Association.

**New Business:**

**Approval of Social Studies student trip to Costa Rica (February 2011)**

MOTION 2010-222: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Social Studies student trip to Costa Rica during the February 2011 school vacation.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Special Education Advisory Committee Appointment:**

MOTION 2010-223: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the recommendation of **Faith Bates** as a member of the Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Report of NECAP Science Scores  
Presentation by Ron Poirier**

**Scores Spring 2010**

**Analysis:** Grade 4 has shown no improvement from 2008-2010  
Grade 8 has improved from 2008-2010  
Grade 11 has shown no improvement from 2008-2010

**What have we been doing?:**

Grades 1-12 – aligned curriculum to GSEs  
Grades 4-6 – purchased science texts for the classroom teachers  
Grades 7-11 – purchased science texts for the science teachers  
Grades 9-12 – adopted essential expectations with common assessments

**What else have we been doing?**

Grades 7-12 – trained 60% of our secondary science teachers in using technology to enhance instruction (simulations, probes, etc.) last summer

Grades 1-12 – moving teachers from cookbook “labs” to Inquiry (25% of NECAP assessment)

**Lab vs. Inquiry – Lab** – the problem, procedure and methods to solutions are provided to the student. The student performs the experiment and verifies the results in the manual.

**Inquiry** – A “raw” phenomenon is provided to the student. The student chooses (or constructs) the problem to explore, develops a procedure for investigating the problem, decides what data to gather, and interprets the data in order to propose viable solutions.

**Yet to be accomplished:** Increase professional development on instructions strategies (inquiry). Increase professional development on scientific communication. Build a guaranteed and viable curriculum as is currently under way in mathematics.

**What does guaranteed and viable mean? Opportunity to Learn:** “This means that states and districts give clear guidance to teachers regarding the content to be addressed in specific courses and at specific grade levels. It also means that individual teachers do not have the option to disregard or replace assigned content.” **Time:** “The content that teachers are expected to address must be adequately covered in the instructional time teachers have available.”

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**What resources do we have?** Department heads; professional development (in house and outside); staff capable of using DANA center protocols to build a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

**Final thoughts:** We are running a marathon – not a sprint. Any change will not show results for several years. I am confident that with persistence and effort we can build a program that will provide our students with a strong foundation in science.

**Graduation by Proficiency Update:** Ms. Bilodeau reported that we are tracking 751 seniors at the three high schools and that 737 have approved senior projects; 569 students have their mentor paper work completed and 115 have completed their portfolios.

Chairman Friel acknowledged the newly elected committee members in the audience: Eugene Nadeau and Mary Medeiros.

MOTION 2010-224: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to adjourn.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

**Meeting adjourned: 9:13 p.m.**  
 Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary