

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

The Warwick School Committee met in Executive Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, December 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 A. Furtado, Clerk  
Paul Cannistra  
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

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

MOTION 2010-225: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, 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 (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:** Gillian Tiley, grade 8 Gorton Junior High School  
Joshua Greenwood, grade 8 Gorton Junior High School  
Shannon Flynn, grade 11 Warwick Veterans Memorial High School  
Brian Bouchard, grade 11 Warwick Veterans Memorial High School

Principal Habershaw commented on the success of the leadership academy at Warwick Veterans.

**Approval of Minutes of Open Session**

MOTION 2010-226: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for November 9, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

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

**Approval of Minutes of Executive Session**

MOTION 2010-227: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for November 9, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

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

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**Approval of transfers:**

MOTION 2010-228: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, 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 2010-229: Moved by Ms. 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: Appointments:**

MOTION 2010-230: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the following appointments be approved: **Kevin Delaney**, 40% English Language Arts Site-Based literacy teacher, Step 10, subject to the continuing availability of Perkins Grant funding; **Kraig Krusz**, Science Teacher, Step 2, pending receipt of certification in General Science prior to the end of the 2010-2011 school year; **Stephanie Hips**, Business Teacher, from Category 1 to Permanent, Step 10; and **Donald Brown**, Attendance and Discipline Administrator, part-time position.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Retirements:**

MOTION 2010-231: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the following retirements be accepted: **Maureen Barney**, Librarian at Aldrich Junior High School, effective December 23, 2010; **Michael Mushaty**, Business Teacher at Toll Gate, effective December 23, 2010; **Normand Dubois**, Science Department Head at Pilgrim High School, effective December 23, 2010; **Norma Casten**, Science Teacher at Veterans High School, effective December 23, 2010; and **Stephen Saunders**, Elementary Art Teacher at Holliman Elementary School effective December 23, 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:**

MOTION 2010-232: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the following retirements be accepted: **Clifford Dodd**, cleaner, effective November 29, 2010; **Kathleen E. Burnstingle**, bus aide, effective December 23, 2010; **Kathleen Drywa**, teacher assistant, effective December 31, 2010; **Joseph V. Tarpey**, head custodian, effective December 24, 2010; **Joan Goddard**, bus aide, effective December 23, 2010; **Robin Berardi**, teacher assistant, effective December 23, 2010; and **Carole Henriques**, senior clerk typist, effective December 24, 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 2010-233: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, that the appointment of **Jared DeAlmo**, assistant coach-girls' indoor track at Toll Gate be approved and that the appointment of **Brenda McLaughlin**, assistant coach-boys' ice hockey at Pilgrim High School 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

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**Approval of Computer Science Curriculum:**

MOTION 2010-234: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Computer Science Curriculum.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Approval of new course: Biotechnology 2** – Dr. Siesel recommended approval of the second part of the curriculum that was previously approved.

MOTION 2010-235: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the Biotechnology 2 course.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report** – presented by Rebecca Terzian

**Special Education Advisory Committee Appointment:**

MOTION 2010-236: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the recommendation of **Tarin Byrne** as a member of the Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Transfer of Potowomut Elementary School to the City of Warwick:** Chairman Friel recommended transferring back Potowomut Elementary School to the City of Warwick as per State law and City ordinance. He said we are not the owners, we are the lessees, and we do not have power to sell. He asked the School Committee to transfer it back to the City of Warwick at this time. It was noted by Mr. LaPlante, that there are currently in the building 500 to 600 boxes of books, old furniture and quite a few of things are stored there. We have given an opened invitation to principals, teachers, etc. to take things, but primarily what is left is not the best quality. Donating books has not been successful. Ms. Mota-Costa suggested posting an ad in the Beacon to see if there were any volunteers to sort through the books. Mr. LaPlante said presently there is no heat or running water in the building. Mr. Jansson said *Books on Wings and Reach Out Read RI* have been contacted, but they have not been responsive. Ms. Furtado asked that there be a stipulation that we have the opportunity to go through the building looking for any historical artifacts and that we would have the right of content.

MOTION 2010-237: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the transfer of Potowomut Elementary School to the City of Warwick April 1, 2010.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

Chairman Friel indicated that **Agenda Items #6** (CBG,AFB Policy) and **#7** (GCBD Policy) will be put on the January agenda, as any policy modification takes two votes, and we would like the same School Committee members voting on the policies. Agenda Item **#8** (Budget 2010-2011) and **#9** (WTU Contract) are scheduled for a Special Meeting on December 28, 2010.

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## **Approval to purchase reading materials from Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt - Presentation by Kathy Desrosiers**

### **Journeys – K-6 research-based Core Reading Program**

#### **Common Core standards:**

- K-12 grade specific standards define general, cross-disciplinary literacy expectations that must be met for students to be prepared to enter college and workforce training programs ready to succeed.
- Preparation for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
- PARCC will replace NECAP in 2014-2015.
- Journeys has been correlated with the newly adopted Common Core Standards

#### **Distribution of literary and informational passages by grade in the 2009 NAEP reading framework**

Grade 4	Literary 50%	Information 50%
Grade 8	Literary 45%	Information 55%
Grade 12	Literary 30%	Information 70%

#### **RIDE's Revised strategic plan**

	2008	2012	2015
% of elementary students proficient in reading	64	84	90
% of middle school students proficient in reading	68	83	90
% of high school students proficient in reading	69	84	90
[By 2015 achievement gaps across all socio-demographic groups will be reduced by 50%]			

#### **Warwick's NECAP Scores 2008-2009**

Students achieving proficiency or proficiency with distinction in reading:

% of elementary students	79%
% of middle school students	76%
% of high school students	69%

#### **Journeys 2010 vs. Collections 2001 in Reading**

- 55% of the texts in Journeys are informational
- Informational magazines are used in the sixth themes of the program
- An even greater emphasis on vocabulary instruction
- 120 trade books per grade level (K-6) for differentiated instruction

#### **Journeys 2010 vs. Collections 2001 in Writing**

- Writing and grammar instruction are integrated into the student anthology
- Graphic organizers are incorporated into all aspects of the instruction of writing and written responses

#### **Assessment in Journeys**

- Weekly assessments
- Benchmark assessments: three per year
- Write-in-readers for students reading more than a year below level
- Theme tests: two per theme (six themes)

#### **Technology**

- Student anthologies and teacher editions are available online
- Spelling and grammar practice books are also available online for selective printing of pages

#### **Staff Development**

- Complimentary staff development during the implementation year
- Authors of the program are available to provide staff development
- Building-level consultation will be available during the first year for follow-up staff development

#### **Teacher Involvement**

- Teachers who participated in aligning the curriculum with the GLEs received an overview of Journeys
- Teachers who agree to purchase without the pilot

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**Cost and a deferred payment plan**

- With pilot \$1,011,157.62
- Without pilot \$ 717,844.60
- Shipping charge 4%
- Total cost: \$ 746,558.38
- Per student: \$147.63 (5,057 K-6 students)
- Payment 1: July 31, 2011 (\$373,279.19)
- Payment 2: July 31, 2012 (\$373,279.19)

The district has enjoyed exceptional support and service from the Houghton-Mifflin/Harcourt Company for the last ten years.

Ms. Desrosiers said that the \$746,558.38 cost is only good through the end of the month, and if not acted upon before December 31<sup>st</sup>, the price will go up. She also said she had negotiated a deferred payment plan that would have \$373,279.19 due July 31, 2011 and the other \$373,279.19 due July 31, 2012. Ms. Desrosiers said we need to upgrade our reading program at the K-6 level. Our reading program is ten years old and publishers no longer have to produce materials for us. This program will get us ready for requirements for graduation. One of the reasons we like this program is because it offers a number of trade books. We have a student-central curriculum and teachers that make decisions based on what's best to meet student needs. The materials are simply tools that are used to motivate students. This is not a skill and drill program; the key is that it fits what we're doing and what we need to do going forward. The NECAP tests will be done away with and will be replaced by the PARCC (Preparation for Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) test. PARCC places a higher emphasis on informational reading as opposed to literary reading. Ms. Netcoh said that even though this seems a short amount of time, Kathy Desrosiers has been the ELA director for a number of years and has been looking over this program for a considerable amount of time. She said I think we should go on her recommendation, as we need to start early on informational text as opposed to literary. Ms. Mota-Costa asked if consideration was given to something else that could be eliminated from her budget to put this in. Superintendent Horoschak said we have contemplated bringing this to the School Committee to fund it and to go forward with before this. This is the type of cost that does not create an ongoing additional cost and is very much needed by our school district in terms of meeting expectations coming down from the State. I think that the company is doing very well by us. Chairman Friel said he felt Ms. Mota-Costa had a valid point of the \$373,000 impact. We need to see the total budgetary impact of this. He recommended a special meeting on December 28 to see what impact this will have on our budget. Mr. Maloney commented he knew a lot of work has gone into putting this together, but he was hesitant to make a decision on a purchase of over \$700,000 that has been presented to us tonight. Ms. Mota-Costa expressed concern about being held hostage by the publishing company and urged renegotiation on an extension on the current price deadline. She said she believed in the bidding process and it made her suspicious when we get locked into publishers. This program is relatively new and has been only implemented in a few schools around Boston a year ago; there isn't much of a track record of success or research to determine if it is successful. Superintendent Horoschak said the School Committee has approved our curriculum and our people have gone forward and found the best materials to make this happen. It is a real disservice that we keep getting cut at the state and municipal level, which prevents us from making these decisions. Mr. Cannistra commented he could not envision any school committee that would intentionally not want to move forward with a reading program that is in the best interests of the students. In this particular case, it is not approving the money to be taken out of this budget today. He said he would really like to see us pass this and approve these books; Kathy deserves our respect. On the four years I have been on the committee, she has never lead us astray. David Testa agreed with Chairman Friel and Mr. Cannistra. He said that paper and pulp skyrocketing and he thought that 4% cost of shipping was a little high. He asked the Committee to vote for it and get it going. Chairman Friel recommended going forward, but with a reduced shipping rate. Ms. Furtado said she would look into this as she felt this was far too much money for shipping.

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MOTION 2010-238: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the purchase of reading materials from Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt with the provision that shipping of said materials be looked into and further reduced by going with an individual shipper or negotiating with the publisher.

**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 Update – Ms. Bilodeau** – 743 approved senior projects – 632 mentors – 142 completed graduation portfolios – subjects: medical, health and fitness, education (teaching), coaching/sports, music, public safety, automotive and hair styling. Need mentors for acupuncture and neurology.

**Bids and Change Orders:**

MOTION 2010-239: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the bid for the printer, peripheral and accessories be awarded to the various vendors as per the bid tabulations.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

MOTION 2010-240: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the bid for computer memory chips be awarded to the various vendors as per the bid tabulations.

**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:**

Chairman Friel and the Superintendent thanked Ms. Mota-Costa and Mr. Cannistra for their service on the School Committee.

**Special meeting December 28, 2010**

Public Comment: Sharon Terzian said that the requirements for diplomas and/or certificates for special needs students should be looked at because there are those who just can't take the NECAP tests. Ms. Netcoh said the tier graduation requirements are ludicrous. She also said if you are putting computer science into place, we need the technology to support it as half of the computers at Toll Gate don't go on line and some don't go to the printers and the technology needs to be upgraded. Mr. Nadeau asked about the current status of Len Flood. Chairman Friel responded he is out on sick leave as we speak, but we cannot comment on personnel matters in a public forum. Mr. Nadeau then asked what day does his contract expire? Attorney Healey responded August 31, 2011 and all professionals are notified by March 1<sup>st</sup> if their contract is not extended.

MOTION 2010-241: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, 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 9:45 p.m.**

Bethany Furtado, Clerk  
Betsey Snipes, Secretary