

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of January 11, 2011
Open Meeting

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. Mr. Friel called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado
Patrick E. Maloney, Jr.
Eugene A. Nadeau
Christopher E. Friel
M. Terri Medeiros

ADMINISTRATION

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

Election of Officers:

MOTION 2011-1: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the nomination of Bethany A. Furtado as Chair of the Warwick School Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado - Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros - Aye

MOTION 2011-2: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the nomination of Patrick Maloney, Vice Chair of the Warwick School Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado - Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros - Aye

MOTION 2011-3: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the nomination of Eugene Nadeau as Clerk of the Warwick School Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado - Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros - Aye

MOTION 2011-4: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Friel, 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)

Bethany Furtado - Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros - Aye

Open meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

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Announcement made of the election of officers: Bethany A. Furtado, Chair, Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. Vice Chair, Eugene Nadeau Clerk.

Student comments:

John Wickes Elementary School: Alex Werner - Kyle Vita (grade 5)

Greenwood Elementary School: Sarah Coutu and Lauren Kellerman (grade 6)

Robertson Elementary School: Karla Walstenholme (grade 6) and Matthew Modeen (grade 2)

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2011-5: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for December 14, 2010 and December 28, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - abstain
Terri Medeiros – abstain

MOTION 2011-6: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for December 14, 2010 and December 28, 2010.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 abstain)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - abstain
Terri Medeiros – abstain

Approval of transfers:

MOTION 2011-7: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

Approval of warrants:

MOTION 2011-8: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye

Professional Personnel items:

Appointments

MOTION 2011-9: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of Katie Dailey, health teacher, step 3 be approved; that the appointment of Melissa Lamothe, speech/language pathologist, step 6 be approved and that the appointment of Cara McKenney, elementary art teacher, step 1 be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

Leave of absence

MOTION 2011-10: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Friel, that a sabbatical leave for Laura Falvey, elementary teacher at Cedar Hill Elementary School be accepted effective for the first semester of 2011-12 school year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

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Retirement/resignation

MOTION 2011-12: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the retirement of Cecile Davidowicz, health and family life teacher at Toll Gate be accepted effective January 26, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

Approval for two Pilgrim students, selected for the Music Educators’ National Conference All Eastern Honors Choir, to attend March 31 – April 3, 2011 in Baltimore, Maryland

– Mr. Sangster reported that two students from Pilgrim have been chosen to attend the Music Educators’ National conference in Baltimore, Maryland. There will be another student who will be seeking approval at the next meeting. Nancy Kennedy will be attending as chaperone. Mr. Nadeau asked what the cost would be, and Dr. Siesel responded \$1,225 for the two students. Ms. Netcoh commented that was a lot of money for two students, and that last year for the mock trial they had to raise their own money.

MOTION 2011-13: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the two Pilgrim students, selected for the Music Educators’ National Conference All Eastern Honors Choir, to attend March 31 – April 3, 2011 in Baltimore, Maryland.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

Graduation by proficiency update – Ms. Bernardi reviewed the proposed graduation requirements. She said that Students take NECAP test as juniors, but if a student fails to achieve partial proficiency on the test, that student would then have an opportunity to retake the NECAP in the fall of their senior year. If the student demonstrates growth, then student will receive a diploma, if no growth no diploma will be received. If a student is not partially proficient, shows insufficient evidence of growth, and/or fails to complete course work or performance assessments, the student will receive a locally issued certificate. If the student shows partial proficiency or demonstrates growth and meets local requirements on course work and performance assessments, a RI diploma will be issued. If the student demonstrates proficiency on state assessments and meets local requirements on course work and performance assessments, the student will receive a Regents diploma. If a student shows proficiency with distinction on state assessments and meets local honors requirements on course work and performance assessments, student receives Honors diploma. Michelle Landri commented that NECAP score was never designed to assess individual achievement and now that’s exactly what it’s being used for. There are all kinds of issues. Mr. Nadeau said he found it so out of character what the four diplomas are calling for – what are we doing to the teachers and students? This is outrageous; a diploma is a diploma. Not only students in Warwick will be affected by these changes, but approximately 140,000 students throughout the state. These are proposed changes and there will be hearings and public comment on 1/18/11 @ 5:00 p.m. CCRI (Flanagan Campus) 1/19/11 @ 5:00 p.m. South Kingstown High School and 1/25/11 @ 5:00 p.m. Providence Career & Technical Academy.

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Superintendent Horoschak said this is not a plan being received very well among educators. Many feel this is not the right direction to go. The Board of Regents may see change in membership. Mr. Maloney commented that Warwick decided on the digital portfolio and senior project, and we have raised the bar. Will colleges and employers start asking “what did you get?”

Graduation by Proficiency update: Ms. Bilodeau reported that they are tracking 735 seniors; 537 have their research paper done and 171 have their portfolio.

Bids/change orders: The maintenance vehicle bid from Tasca Automotive Group was presented and discussed. Mr. LaPlante said these vehicles would be replacing vehicles that are 13 to 18 years old, that are becoming more and more difficult to repair. They are used for maintenance and food service transportation. These were budgeted for \$175,000 and the bid is \$151,000. Discussion followed including the following topics: looking at the City taking over some of the responsibility of plowing; these vehicles are used all year round; the cost of maintaining; expected delivery of vehicle to be in 10 weeks; getting through the school year and purchase in the summer when the cost might be better; and the replaced vehicles would go out to auction. Mr. Kennedy, a public member, commented we have the city council meeting with Cranston to consolidate; and we can't get them to consolidate with the school department? Mr. Coutu suggested combining bids with the City and purchasing more vehicles. Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson said she would take on the responsibility of reporting to the city council the discussion that just took place. Mr. Duran asked why this wasn't done in September of last year. The Superintendent said it was due to timing, the problem we had was to try and predict if we would have funding. Ms. Medeiros said that maybe before we approve this bid, we should talk to the City to see if we could get a combined package. Mr. Place cautioned that these vehicles are need for other purposes then plowing.

MOTION 2011-14: Mr. Maloney moved that this item [the bid for vehicles for maintenance being awarded to Tasca Automotive Group as per bid tabulations] be **tabled** for further study and bring it up at our next monthly meeting, seconded by Mr. Friel.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

MOTION 2011-15: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the change order for Urban Area Security Initiative Grant 2009 and 2010 be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
Terri Medeiros – Aye

Public comment:

Sharon Terzian said she has a daughter with an IEP, and because of this diploma system, she will not graduate. She can stay in school until she is 21. She has killed herself to get through school, she's on the honor roll and even has a job, but there is no way she will be able to complete the NECAP, even if she retakes it. She will not be able to graduate, why should I even send her to school? Darlene Netcoh commented that all the members of the Board of Regents need to be replaced; they are not educators. She said the school committees have an organization and if all the school committees in the state just said no, what would the Board and Commissioner Gist do. NECAP was not designed for high stake testing.

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She also suggested that the senior project component be eliminated as a graduation requirement. In her opinion, the portfolio was more valuable. Mr. Durand thanked Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson for coming to the meeting. He commented on not getting a 20% co-pay yet. He said that the Warwick teachers do a good job, but their benefits program and retirement program have to change. Mr. Turner suggested calling the state house and letting them know your feelings and hopefully other school committees will do the same. George Landri said he would like to two to three minute time to speak reinstated.

Special meeting dates: January 13th: 6:00 p.m. negotiations

MOTION 2011-15: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to suspend Open Session and return to Executive Session.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
 Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
 Terri Medeiros – Aye

[9:35 p.m.]

MOTION 2011-16: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Friel, to adjourn the Open Session.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
 Christopher Friel - Aye Eugene Nadeau - Aye
 Terri Medeiros – Aye

Meeting adjourned: 10:50 p.m.
 Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk
 Betsey Snipes, Secretary