

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of June 7, 2011
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, June 7, 2011. Chairperson Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

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

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent
William Sangster, Assistant to the Superintendent
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer
David LaPlante, Buildings & Grounds

MOTION 2011-85: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, 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 (3-0)

Bethany A. Furtado - Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - [not present for vote]
Christopher E. Friel - Aye Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye
M. Terri Medeiros - [not present for vote]

Meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Also present to those listed above:

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

Vocal Performance by Michael Ryder, Junior at Veterans High School

Student comments:

Zachary Hogan (grade 6) Holliman Elementary School
Edeline Sjogren (grade 6) Norwood Elementary School
Madeline Axtmann (grade 6) Lippitt Elementary School
Mallory Leiberman (grade 6) Oakland Beach Elementary School

Student Recognitions:

Chess Club, K-3 Division – Greenwood Elementary School – Kate Barrett (grade 6), Elizabeth Barrett (grade 3), Olivia DeGaetano (grade 2) and Ezekiel Stahl (grade 2) – placed 10th in the K-3 section at the US Chess Federation K-6 National Tournament in Dallas, Texas.

Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest Winner: Elizabeth Barstow
AAA Poster Contest Winners – Emily Smith (1st place), Dayna Krahenbill (2nd place), Michael Valdes (3rd place), Ron Perry (honorable mention).

Duck Stamp Contest Winners: Margaret Ficarra and Dana Krahenbill

Veterans High School Unified Basketball Team: Becca Seamans, Steven Amalfitano, George Schmeider, Anthony Parisi, Kevin Laplume, Matt Walker, Jon Andrews, Devin Hurst and Tim Conway

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Toll Gate High School Unified Basketball Team: Katie Branca, Elizabeth Johnson, Kellen Moran, Destiny Murray, Danielle Roberts, katelynn Tomassi, Hannah Amato, Melanie Iadeluca, Greg Marble, Christian Pickering and William Pickering.

2011 High School All American Wrestling Team: Michael Meyers

National History Day – RI State Winners: Haley Kiernan, Arianna Rizzo, Hannah Ellis, John Hindinger, Alexis Duncan, Elizabeth Iadevaia, Shelby Mohoney, Ben Mulligan, Luke Huddon, Maggie Lento, Schuyler Teneyck, Gillian Tiley, Abby Gregory, Victoria Barrette, Audrey Cryan, Nicholas Kazandjian, Justine Pollard, Sarah Gold, Abbie Paul, Meline Thebarga, Taylor Venter, Kaitlyn Johnson, Caitlin Rice, Maryann Turnbull, Carolyn Smith, Lindsey Callahan, Dani Cayouette, Michael Manni

Award Winners: **Bank RI Award:** Kaitlyn Johnson & Caitlin Rice

RI Labor History Award: Anne Marie Martella, Jessica Russo, Abby Gregory

RI Social Studies Association Award: Anne Marie Martella, Jessica Russo, Nicholas Paolino, Nahrin Sangkagalo, Julie Penn

Approval of Minutes of Public Session:

MOTION 2011-86: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the Minutes of the Public Session for May 10, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

MOTION 2011-87: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for May 10, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2011-89: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2011-90: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Chairperson Furtado announced in executive session the vote was 5-0 to deny the grievance presented.

Announcements:

Professional appointments:

MOTION 2011-91: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Stephen Carter**, Department Head of Special Education at Pilgrim High School/Aldrich Junior High School, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

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MOTION 2011-92: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Patricia Cousineau**, Elementary Principal, Step 1 of the administrative salary scale, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Leave of absence:

MOTION 2011-93: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the request for unrestricted leave by **Heather Rigney**, art teacher at Aldrich Junior High be approved effective for the 2011-2012 school year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Retirements:

MOTION 2011-94: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the following **retirements** be approved: **Jane Mainella**, elementary teacher at Hoxsie Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school; **Linda Goolgasian**, elementary teacher at Hoxsie Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school; **Joanne Weaver**, elementary special education teacher-PK at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center be accepted effective the last day of school; **Stephen Andolfo**, Social Studies teacher at Gorton Jr. High School be accepted effective the last day of school; **Janice Tetreault**, elementary physical education/APE at Cedar Hill Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school; **Janice Place**, English department head at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective June 30, 2011; **Susan MacDonald**, elementary teacher at Cedar Hill Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school; **Robert Carosi**, art teacher at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective the last day of school; **Patricia Lamaree**, elementary teacher at Oakland Beach Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school; and **Kathleen Percival**, elementary guidance counselor at Hoxsie Elementary School be accepted effective the last day of school

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Classified Personnel items

Retirements:

MOTION 2011-95: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **retirement of Roland Barratt**, maintenance division/grounds be accepted effective July 8, 2011; that the **retirement of William Beaudry**, maintenance division/carpenter/mechanic, be accepted effective July 8, 2011 and that the **retirement of Salvatore Pisaturo**, custodian at Toll Gate High School be accepted effective August 19, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2011-96: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of **Matthew Mancuso**, head coach (football), Toll Gate High School, be approved for one year only; that the appointment of **Joel Cordeiro**, assistant coach (girls' soccer) Veterans High School, be approved for one year only; and that the appointment of **George Schneider**, assistant coach (football) Veterans High School be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

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Attendance Policy (tabled)

Approval of Arts Donation – Dr. Siesel said that received a phone call from Sam Chester wanting to donate some art work of his wife, Ester Chester, to the Warwick Schools. Sam is 98 years of age and Ester is 93 years of age. Ester has been recognized internationally and they selected Warwick, because Sam played violin in the Rhode Island Philharmonic and sat next to Carol Pellegrino. There will be no financial commitment; the Chesters will pay for framing, hanging, maintenance, and security. They will be giving us lithographs which are numbered and signed for us to sell at \$100 a piece; and those not signed will be sold for \$50 a piece. They asked one thing, that we name the area the *Ester Chester Art Gallery*. The money for the sale of the pieces will be dedicated to the “Art Program.” The pieces will be hung in the Robert J. Shapiro Cultural Art Center at Toll Gate High School.

MOTION 2011-97: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the very generous donation from the Chesters to the Warwick Schools to be hung in the *Robert J. Shapiro Cultrual Art Center at Toll Gate High School*.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Recognition Rhode Island Principal of the Year: Dennis Mullen

Rhode Island Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching: Beverly Powell (teacher at Oakland Beach Elementary School)

Teacher of the Year for Warwick: Roseanne Bessacini

Mary Chisholm was one of two teachers who were finalists for Teacher of the Year for Rhode Island

Food Service Program Review - Mr. Ferrucci recommended renewal of our food service contract with Sodexo for the 2011-12 school year. He said although we have a 5-year contract, there is an annual renewal process that needs to be completed for the upcoming school year. He said there is a potential deficit, but there is no other indication that the program should not be renewed. Discussion included the following: it was not unique to run a deficit in food service; tracking the pilot program; 22 minutes not enough time to get through a lunch period; the “evaluation system” and no paper work presented; improvements from students’ point of view; funding formula based on free and reduced lunch; point of sale system; children not happy with food selection; our number match with the Cranston schools; and Mr. Maloney questions the auto allowance charge of \$4,596 and the phone charges. It was decided to table this agenda item until more details were provided.

MOTION 2011-98: Moved by Mr. Maloney, to **table** this agenda item for this evening, return to us when work out some of these details, add on to our next special meeting, seconded by Ms. Medeiros.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

GBP Update: Ms. Bilodeau said we are tracking 719 students, 692 students have an approved graduation portfolio. There are 419 juniors who have submitted early approval for their portfolio.

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Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2011-99: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the bid for property and liability insurance be awarded in the amount of \$334,479 to Revens & Gates, and the Workers Compensation Insurance in the amount of \$868,648 to Rhode Island Inter Local Trust.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Christopher E. Friel - Aye Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye
M. Terri Medeiros – not present for vote

MOTION 2011-100: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the bid for custodial supplies to be awarded to the various vendors as outlined.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 nays)

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

Discussion regarding the bid for re-roofing of Toll Gate High School, Veterans Memorial High School and Warwick Neck Elementary being awarded to Commercial Roofing and Construction. The question was if this money be used toward complying with the fire code. There is great concern regarding the deadline set regarding fire codes. The discussion centered on the need to comply with the fire code deadline, daily fines per violation, and the threat our schools could be closed. Mr. LaPlante said we plan to hire architects and engineers to look at the buildings this summer; complete drawings and specs over the winter and begin actual work next summer. He also said that the money for roof repairs would come from a previously approved qualified school construction bond, of which there is approximately \$4 million available. Mr. Friel commented there's \$4 million available and we need \$3 million for fire code improvements and \$3million in roof repairs – so it becomes a \$1.8 million problem. It's an issue of priority. We can't draw from the general fund budget to make up the difference of getting this work done and all of it is needed. Discussion about \$3 million worth of fire code violation improvements to ensure all buildings are up to code by September 201, and whether the fire code improvement work should take precedence over the roof. Superintendent Horoschak said it would be unfortunate to let the roof repair work pass by and thought we should move forward to get this work done and use any left over funds toward the fire code violations. Mr. Friel asked that Paul Jansson follow up on whether or not the qualified school construction bond money is able to be utilized toward fire code improvements this summer. If not, the question becomes much easier.

MOTION 2011-101: Moved by Mr. Friel to table the bid for roofs while we look into issue what the bond money can be used for and what the priority can be used for.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Warwick Diploma Policy IKFA (2nd reading)

MOTION 2011-102: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the second reading of Policy IKFA.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Information and Proposals: From School Committee Members:

Ms. Furtado congratulated the LaCrosse teams from Toll Gate and Vets. Mr. Maloney commented that today my daughter, Brooke Lowney Maloney, turned seven years old and she wished for \$6.8 million dollars. He said this was not a joke. Mr. Maloney also commented on the VOWS volunteers and their hours. There are 281 active volunteers, which is 20 per cent more than they had 2010. Their hours of service totaled 6,500, and figuring a cost of \$19.10 per hour for 6,500 hours would be \$124,000. He thanked them for all their service. He also said that at the PCAC meeting they discussed the budget and said someone asked if it was possible to regularly update the budget at each meeting. They were also inquiring if the meetings could be rotated. Our budget was slashed \$6 million last night [at the City Council meeting]. We have consistently made tough decisions and cuts, but the same has not happened on the city side. Municipal spending has increased by approximately \$29 million since 2008; while schools have been largely level funded in that same time frame. We have made difficult decisions, closed schools, cut and ended programs and repaid the city \$3.2 million. I've worked hard to work with the city and the mayor and I was optimistic but I am not now. The schools have not raised taxes; increases in municipal spending of \$29 million over four short years has increased our taxes.

Mr. Nadeau commented that Warwick's share of state funding, based on the new funding formula, should be \$54 million. He said places like Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket are getting \$67.2 million, \$183 million and \$45 million, respectively, while Warwick gets \$33.7. He is planning to speak with Commission Gist at Pilgrim High School on June 8th, where she is holding a community forum on education. He suggested that the 1,000 employees of the Warwick school system attend also. He also commented there should be 15 people engaged in this fight; five School Committee members, nine City Council members and the Mayor.

Public Comment: John Kennedy commented on Sodexco, saying he couldn't pay his son to buy lunch. He also thanked Ann Siesel for her involvement in getting the "Chester" art work, and said whatever money we make keep it away from the Mayor. He asked how do we raise revenue for the schools; sell ads on the buses; business sponsor teams? Mr. Kennedy commented on the cleaning of schools, saying that Smithfield has a group that goes in and cleans all the schools with a crew of five. He also commented about taking legal action against the Mayor and get the bond money. Tom Flanders, parent/teacher/coach, commented as a teacher how he was proud of Mr. Mullen, saying he is a great man and the award confirms it; as a parent we have a \$97,000 deficit with Sodexco. If they were a restaurant they would be out of business. Commenting as a coach, the girls' lacrosse team of 40 girls had a very good season. The program is doing well. Ms. Netcoh said she will be at Pilgrim to meet Debra Gist and ask her to explain the evaluation system. She said she will be there for the teacher session and will be back for the community one, as sit is important for her to hear from everyone. Mary Townsend thanked the Committee for approving the supply budget and thanked the maintenance department for what they are doing. She said if you outsource the department you will not have the same response.

Special meeting scheduled for June 21, 2011.

MOTION 2011-103: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to go back into Executive Session.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

[10:40 p.m.]

MOTION 2011-104: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Eugene Nadeau, Clerk
Betsey Snipes, Secretary