

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of July 12, 2011  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Chairperson Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:15 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  
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

**MOTION 2011-109:** 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 (3-0)**

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

Meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Also present to those listed above:

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education  
David LaPlante, Buildings & Grounds  
E. Paul Jansson, Construction Coordinator

**Approval of Minutes of Public Session:**

**MOTION 2011-110:** Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Public Session for June 7, 2011 and June 21, 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 2011-111:** Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for June 7, 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 2011-112:** Moved by Mr. Nadeau, 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

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**Approval of Warrants:**

MOTION 2011-113: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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

**Professional Personnel Appointments:**

MOTION 2011-114: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the appointments of the following: **Darlene Netcoh**, English Department Chairperson at Toll Gate High School and Winman Junior High School; **Margaret Pouliot**, English Department Chairperson at Pilgrim High School and Aldrich Junior; **Marlaina Mancini**, Foreign Language teacher, Step 2, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Amanda McGurrian**, Foreign Language teacher, Step 2 pending receipt of State and National BCI and receipt of Rhode Island certification; **Marlena DeLuca**, 3/5 Foreign Language teacher, Step 3 Professional Service Corporation Act; **Celina Ospina**, Foreign Language teacher, Step 3 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Vanessa Bonilla**, Foreign Language teacher, Step 2, pending additional vacancies and/or declination of appointment and receipt of State and National BCI; **Steven Shelton**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 4; **Adrian Phillips**, Secondary Special Educator, Step 2 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Allyson Cascione**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 1; **Robert Slaughter**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 1; **Stacey D’Uva**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 1; **Justin Montoya**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 1; **Lisa Salisbury**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 4; **Lindsay Schwab**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 3 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Amy Palmer**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 3; **Stephanie Pitassi**, Elementary Special Educator, Step 1; **Jana LaPlante**, Elementary Special Educator-Severe/Profound, Step 1; **Karen Contois**, Elementary Special Educator-Severe/Profound, Step 1; **Melissa Irons**, Elementary Education teacher, Step 7; **Jody Medeiros**, Elementary Education teacher, Step 3 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Gail Pecchia**, Elementary Education teacher, Category 1, Step 4; **Valery Thurber**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 5 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Melissa Cardillo**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 6 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Jocelyn DeSisto**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 1 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Deanna Agresti**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 3 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Hayley, Feber**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 5 pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Joseph Belanger**, Visual Arts Teacher, Step 1 pending receipt of State and National BCI and **Lee Ann Wells**, English Teacher, Step 2

**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 2011-115: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the following **retirements be accepted**: **Jean McCombs**, Librarian, Gorton Jr. High School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Nancy Lovett**, Foreign Language Teacher, Aldrich Jr. High School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Cynthia Giblin**, Special Educator, Winman Jr. High School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Kathleen O’Palenick**, Elementary Teacher, Lippitt Elementary, effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Jean Ann Sherry**, Science Teacher, Gorton Jr. High, effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Laurie Donovan**, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, Warwick Area

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Career & Technical Center, effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Christine Richardson**, Elementary Science Teacher, Holliman Elementary School, effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Paula Clark**, Elementary Teacher, Norwood Elementary School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Maureen Delano**, Elementary Teacher, Lippitt Elementary School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Michael Gaffney**, Vocational Evaluator, Warwick Area Career & Technical Center, effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Joanne McInerney**, Principal, Winman Jr. High School effective July 14, 2011; **Patricia Hart**, Math Teacher, Winman Jr. High School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Vicki Winter**, Physical Therapist, Lippitt Elementary School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Patricia Thompson**, Guidance Counselor, Toll Gate High School effective the last day of the 2010-2011 school year; **Barbara Penza**, Elementary Teacher, Lippitt Elementary School, effective June 28, 2011; **Alice Freeman**, Psychologist, Drum Rock Early Childhood Center, effective August 26, 2011; **Nancy Esau**, Physical Therapist, Lippitt Elementary School effective June 30, 2011; **Linda Cournoyer**, Elementary Teacher, Greenwood Elementary School effective June 30, 2011; **Nancy Radcliffe**, Foreign Language Teacher, Pilgrim High School effective June 30, 2011; and **Eric Simonian**, Department Head at Warwick Veterans High School effective June 30, 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

**Classified – resignation**

MOTION 2011-116: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to accept the resignation of **Robert St. Jacques**, a 52-week Custodian, effective July 1, 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 2011-117: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the following coaching appointments be approved: **Brian Palazzo**, head coach boys' tennis at Warwick Veterans High School; **Kevin Silva**, assistant coach football at Warwick Veterans High School (one year only); **Brian Nappa**, assistant coach football at Warwick Veterans High School (one year only); **Sherry Silven**, assistant coach girls' volleyball at Warwick Veterans High School; **Leila Connolly**, assistant coach girls' field hockey at Toll Gate; **Patrick McAteer**, assistant coach football at Toll Gate (one year only); **Nicholas Durance**, assistant coach girls' soccer at Toll Gate (one year only); **James Stringfellow**, assistant coach football at Pilgrim High School; **Isabelle Nielson**, head coach girls' cross country at Pilgrim High; **Jim Hovey**, assistant coach football at Pilgrim High.

**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

**Food Service Contract Renewal:** Mark Roy of Sodexo said after reviewing the phone charges line item, they were going to eliminate it for a \$1,400.00 savings. He said they came up with a plan to improve communication between students, parents, faculty and Sodexo, which included Food Advisory Committee, Student Surveys and on-line access to the General Manager. The Food Advisory Committee would include students, faculty, parents and Sodexo staff. There will be a review of nutrition

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requirements, menu selection, and quality and service issues. The survey will include students in each school and there will be an action plan that addresses the areas of opportunity identified in the survey results. There will be on-line access to the General Manager, with monthly menus, nutrition links.

MOTION 2011-118: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the food service contract with Sodexo.

**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

**Student Assistance Contract**

MOTION 2011-119: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Student Assistance Contract for the 2011-12 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

**Principal transfer (Winman Junior High School):** Superintendent Horoschak recommended the voluntary transfer of Joanne Pelletier to principal at Winman Jr. High School due to the retirement of Joanne McInerney.

MOTION 2011-120: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for principal transfer.

**MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)**

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

**FY 2011 Preliminary Year-end report – Mr. Ferrucci** – On April 12<sup>th</sup> we presented a year-end projection that indicated we might deficit spend <\$660,000>. The action plan was implemented and the bolded comments are current comments.

- Maintain the spending freeze on non-essential general fund purchases through the end of the school year. **Needed to use an additional \$2,236,000 above what was encumbered but were able to come in under projected budget.**
- Investigate the feasibility of releasing more of the uncommitted funds reserved for out of district student tuitions. Reserved \$315,000 for potential unknown cost. **Funds released based on actual commitments**
- Determine feasibility of releasing more of the uncommitted funds designated as projected additional salary. **This is the most significant contribution to the projected surplus \$1,447,820 of salaries.**
- Explore use of existing grants that may not have been fully utilized throughout the school year. Potential use of the Jobs Fund Grant (current targeted for use in FY12. If the use of these funds is necessary in FY11 there will be an impact to be reconciled with FY12) **The Jobs Fund Grant was not utilized to achieve the surplus but analysis, re-allocation of grant positions and mid-year retirements have contributed to the salary savings noted above.**

Through these actions and daily actions taken by all District's Budget Managers, WPS were able to manage its resources and achieve not only a balanced budget but surplus \$988,471. This amount represents about a 1% positive variance from our reported position on April 12, 2011.

Revenue:	FY11 Budget: \$157,964,536	FY11 Projected year end: \$157,887,772
	FY11 Preliminary: \$158,184,665	Variance to Projected: \$296,893.

Medicaid reimbursements achieved budget.

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Expenses:	FY11 Budget: \$157,964,536	FY11 Projected year end" \$158,549,303
	FY11 Preliminary: \$157,196,192	Variance to Projected: \$1,353,112

Salaries (positive variance of \$1,447,820) – between mid-year retirements and ARRA grant paid positions and use of grant funds for professional development stipends, we project salary costs will come in under budget. Fringe benefits we project coming in over budget but the cost will be covered by other cost savings. Textbooks – in order to take advantage of savings, we committed \$750,000 of unbudgeted textbooks funds to secure books and supplies. Other non-staff costs: while trying to maintain a freeze on these accounts, we needed to spend an additional \$2,236,000 above what was encumbered. Even so, we were able to save \$948,519 from the projected budget. The expenditure category “other items” represents Food Service Program deficit and assigned costs that the district pays above the contractual costs to Sodexo. The food service net deficit for FY11 was <\$194,000> and district paid assigned costs was <\$461,000>.

Mr. Ferrucci reported on the FY 2012 budget action plan implementation. There is a need to reconcile over \$2.1 million dollars of additional costs to the district for FY2012. These additional costs, plus potential loss of funds surrounding the maintenance of effort issue, are going to be addressed. The following is the recommendation for administering the FY2012 budget:

- Authorize up to 25% of all non-staff cost lines for use July and August 2011. This represents \$5,000,000 of \$20,000,000 that the SC approved. This will allow us the opportunity to move forward with what is most pressing while projecting our options for cost reductions over the course of the school year.
- By July 15<sup>th</sup> determine the practicality of moving the computer center from Warwick Avenue location to the Greene Building location (\$250,000 question)
- By July 15<sup>th</sup> determine the need to use general funds for architectural services concerning fire code issues given the change in use of bonding dollars (\$190,000 question)
- By July 15<sup>th</sup> determine the impact of FY2011 year end. Deficit will require FY2012 to make up difference, balanced will reduce FY2012 budget request by \$375,000 or surplus which we would then request to move forward to be used in FY2012
- By August 1<sup>st</sup> determine the impact of the state transportation contract costs
- By August 1<sup>st</sup> determine the impact of cost of fuel and electric regarding negotiated purchase contracts
- By August 26<sup>th</sup> determine in impact of negotiations on both the labor contracts and the maintenance of effort issue.

Mr. Ferrucci recommended that the School Department implement a procedure to prepare year end projected budgets that are reviewed and adopted by the SC at pre-determined periods throughout the school year. The first presentation would be scheduled for the first School Committee meeting in October of each school year. The October request will be based on actual data through September and will factor in all known revenue projection issues as well as all known staffing issues.

He also recommended that a second formal review and adoption be presented at the March meeting of each school year. The March request will be based on actual data through February and will reflect on the accuracy of the revenue projections previously presented, the accuracy of the staffing issues previously presented and all known non-staff cost issues based on eight months actual data. This report will be available as base line for comparability purposes for the following school year’s budget request.

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Ms. Healey said that the General Assembly has approved school committee meetings being allowed without publishing in newspapers. We will no longer be publishing the agenda in the newspaper beginning with the August meeting. The agendas will be posted at the Administration Building, School Department website, posted at the Secretary of State website and notices will be posted at City Hall. This will save money.

**Public Comment:** Darlene Netcoh commented that she thought the School Committee should take any legal action that it can against the City, also commenting that you are entitled to do so, and I wish you would. It is time to tell the City to fund schools. David Testa complimented Mr. Ferrucci on his presentation and said he liked the action plan. He had concerns about the debt service and said the city owns the school buildings so encumber the City to pay the debt service.

**School Committee Meetings:** August 9, 2011 - next school committee meeting.

MOTION 2011-121: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to close 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: 9:00 p.m.  
Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk