

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of August 9, 2011  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, August 9, 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  
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

MOTION 2011-121: 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 (4-0)**

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

Meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

Also present to those listed above:

David LaPlante, Buildings & Grounds  
E. Paul Jansson, Construction Coordinator

Chairperson Furtado announced that there was one matter before the executive session with a vote of 4-1 to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation.

**Approval of Minutes of Public Session:**

MOTION 2011-123: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Public Session for July 5, 2011 and July 12, 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 2011-124: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for June 21, 2011, July 5, 2011 and July 12, 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 2011-125: 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 2011-126: 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 2011-127: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the following appointments be approved: **Amy Sattel**, 50% school psychologist, step 3, pending receipt of State BCI; **Melissa Plumb Kelly**, physical therapist, step 4, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Tanya Gorriaran-Goodwin**, physical therapist, step 4, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Meredith Garrity**, elementary special educator, step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Holly Mignanelli**, preschool special educator, category 1, step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Sarah Amato**, secondary special education, step 1; **Kerry Leamy**, category 1, secondary special education, step 4, pending the granting of unrestricted leave; **Julie Mixner**, math department chair at Veterans High School; **Patricia McChrystal**, elementary librarian, step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Matthew Kampper**, elementary physical education/APE teacher, step 2; **Susan Guerard**, visual arts teacher, step 2, pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Joseph Belanger**, visual arts teacher, step 1, be changed from category 1 to permanent pending receipt of State and National BCI; **Alison Toronczak**, visual arts teacher, category 1, step 2; **Lauren Scotto**, visual arts teacher, step 1, pending receipt of State and National BCI and pending additional vacancies and/or declination of appointments; **Cheryl Aucoin**, reading specialist/consultant, step 10, pending receipt of State and National BCI; and **Michelle Barrett**, reading special/consultant, step 1, pending receipt of Emergency Certification and pending approval of position.

**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

MOTION 2011-128: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Friel, that the appointment of **Jeffrey Taylor**, principal, Gorton Junior High School, step 1, 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 2011-129: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the request for unrestricted leave by **Traci Jamieson**, special educator at Gorton Junior High School 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 2011-130: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of James Ginolfi**, Social Studies Teacher at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective June 27, 2011 and that the **retirement of Peter Miga**, Career Counselor and Recruiter at the Career Center be accepted August 5, 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

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**Classified personnel items:**

**Retirements/resignations**

MOTION 2011-131: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **retirement of Antonio Greco**, 52-week bus aide, be accepted effective August 19, 2011 and that the **resignation of Laura Scuncio**, teacher assistant at Winman Junior High School be accepted 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

**New Business**

**Proposal-Warwick City Departments coordinate purchasing tasks** – Mr. Ferrucci said with respect to coordinating purchasing with the city, we are waiting for formal written documents, and we will pass them on. Councilwoman Wilkinson said she had met with Mr. Ferrucci about working together.

**RI Model Educator Evaluation** – presentation by Mary Ann Snider from RIDE. Ms. Snider said that RIDE has adopted a new educator evaluation model. All districts will be required to begin a gradual implementation this fall, with full implementation to follow in the 2012-13 school year. RIDE is encouraging some districts to become early adopters and fully implement it this year. Those that become early adopters, additional support will be provided. Ms. Snider said teachers will be evaluated through observation; teaching artifacts and planning materials; examining the responsibilities of teachers; and looking at whether or not they are a good colleague and participant in the school community. They will be evaluated in four categories: highly effective; effective; developing and ineffective. An ineffective evaluation two years in a row would be grounds for termination. There will be at least three training ‘modules’ conducted though the year. Mr. Maloney commented he wanted to be sure that our teachers have a voice in the system.

Mr. Maloney commented the evaluation model will be doomed to fail if it becomes a mandate without funding from RIDE to support it. No program will survive by that method. I don’t want the Department of Education to tell us how to do things. There are a number of implementations from RIDE that I’ve not been happy with in the past. Mr. Nadeau said he was not against evaluations, but there are other things that need to be in place first. Roger Durand asked if highly effective teachers in Warwick currently awarded more pay, and the Superintendent responded it was not the case because it is not part of the current policy. Tom Daniels asked if RIDE will provide assistance to teachers deemed ineffective. His fear is not being able to give a teacher the right support that the teacher needs once RIDE goes away. Ms. Snider responded there is professional development. The Superintendent said there are very few, if any, ineffective teachers in Warwick. Mr. Friel asked if Warwick has the resources and staff necessary to facilitate the training. Ms. Healey responded we’re receiving \$150,000 to hire at least one additional staff person and a potential second person with Race to the Top funding.

Chair Furtado requested quarterly updates on implementation for the Committee and the public.

**Administrative Policy Revision** – The Chair said this item will be tabled for a future meeting.

**Monthly Fiscal Report** – Mr. Ferrucci – (As of July 31, 2011)

For the period ending 7/31/11

<b>Received revenue of:</b>	\$869,177
(to date no community support from taxes recognized)	
<b>Had expenditures of:</b>	\$3,021,547
<b>Has encumbrances of:</b>	\$31,067,998

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In previous communications the Warwick Public Schools authorized 25% of non-staff costs for starting up schools. The 25% of the \$20,225,794 authorized on April 25, 2011 is \$5,194,870. Of this \$5.1 million, to date the School Department has spent \$1,241,313 and encumbered \$550,460 for a total of \$1,791,773, which represents approximately 8.86% of non-staff costs.

**Bids and change orders:**

MOTION 2011-132: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Friel, that the bid for furniture and AV equipment be awarded to WB Mason and School Specialty at the bid prices submitted on the bid tabulation and as outlined.

**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

**Revised Recommended Budget FY2012** – Mr. Ferrucci summarized the updated recommended budget for FY2012. The School Committee adopted a budget on April 26, 2011 totaling \$161,188,700. The following are the most significant factors that impacted the adopted budget, which allows us to be able to present a balanced budget tonight:

**REVENUE**

Add \$153,000 to Medicaid revenue based on FY2011 actuals and a 11% reduction based on recent email communications received from the Department of Human Services.

Move \$6,198,436 from local appropriations to a new revenue line titled, local support-pending litigation. This amount represents the maintenance of effort amount in dispute with the City.

Add \$800,000 to reappropriated fund to conservatively reflect the recently announced surplus from FY2011 which we anticipate will be carried over to FY2012 upon completion of annual audit

Reduce revenue from City by \$680,120 which was the increase requested to support a new expense to the schools debt service.

**EXPENSES**

Reduce stipends by \$400,000 (both professional development and other that are anticipated to be paid from either Race to the Top or other non-local sources

Reduce overtime by \$50,000 based on analysis of FY11 year-end actual

Medical cost reductions of \$300,000 due to stop loss insurance negotiations and a subsequent elevation of coverage consistent with other communities, WB health insurance has informed us that premium costs will go down 2% effective 9/1/11 through 6/30/12

Transportation cost reduced by \$119,800 due to analysis of actual costs for FY2011; contractual cost increases against actual and potential savings from negotiations with State

District insurance total cost reduced by \$84,200 based on actual bid awards authorized July 2011

Supplies and materials reduced by \$375,000 due to recognition of expenses upon receipt of materials in FY2011. Cash payments due July 2011 and July 2012 but expense is in FY2011 based on when material was received

Electricity cost reduced by \$155,000 due to year end analysis and recognition of transfer of surplus buildings to City

Based on decisions not to move computers from Warwick Lake building to Greene building and to move engineering costs for fire code issues from local budget to bond issue, total costs reduced \$460,000.

Only increase in cost is 'transfer category' – upon review of year end actual and based on Sodexo Food Program budget, it became clear that original budget was not accurate. An additional \$34,820 is projected to be needed.

In summary, other than the Maintenance of Effort issue, we have been able to achieve a recommended balanced budget for FY2012. This recommendation is based on an expectation of increases in revenue totaling \$272,800 and decreases in expenses of \$1,909,180. Total recommended revised budget is \$161,461,580.

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Discussion regarding the pending litigation; action plan to address potential liability; health plan co-share; the cost of \$161,461,580 to run the school; when we have to adopt a budget and right now working with recommended budget; the City took our tax money and since 2009 no additional money received even with taxes going up.

**Public comment:**

Roger Durand commented if instead of suing the city, has weighting and longevity been addressed? There should be a co-pay on health care. Ms. Netoch commented on being under funded last year and suing was the right thing to do. She also commented on the longevity and said talk to special ed teachers and regular teachers about weighting. Mr. Daniels asked if the monthly (financial) memo could be put on line. He also commented about the problem of no air conditioning in the summer buses. John Kennedy thanked Mr. Ferrucci for a great job and said we need to do something about the \$6 million in the hole. Mr. Ginolfi commented on weighting and why it provides a service and is important for special ed students.

**Next scheduled meeting:**

September 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting  
 Another special meeting will be announced

MOTION 2011-133: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to suspend the Open Session and resume the 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

[9:15 p.m.]

[Reconvened at 9:45 p.m.]

MOTION 2011-134: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to close the Open 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

**Meeting adjourned: 9:45 p.m.**

Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk