

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of September 13, 2011  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, September 13, 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  
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 2011-150: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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 – [not present for vote]      Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye  
M. Terri Medeiros – [not present for vote]

Meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Also present to those listed above:

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

Moment of silence for Elanna Zuller, Gabriella DiPalma and Angelica Hawlett

**Approval of Minutes of Public Session:**

MOTION 2011-151: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Public Session for August 9, 2011, August 17, 2011 and September 1, 2011.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

**Approval of Executive Session Minutes:**

MOTION 2011-152: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for August 9, 2011, August 17, 2011 and September 1, 2011.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

**Approval of Transfers:**

MOTION 2011-153 Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

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**Approval of Warrants:**

MOTION 2011-154: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

**Professional Personnel Appointments:**

MOTION 2011-155: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that **Colleen Mercurio** be released from her duties as Principal of Hoxsie Elementary School for a maximum of two years to serve as the RIDE Elementary Evaluation Administrator as long as grant funds are available.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

MOTION 2011-156: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that **Dennis Mullen** be released from his duties as Principal of Pilgrim High School for a maximum of two years to serve as the RIDE Secondary Evaluation Administrator as long as grant funds are available.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

MOTION 2011-157: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Christine Ray**, elementary teacher, step 2, be approved, and that the appointment of **Regina Wilkinson**, Guidance Department Head Toll Gate/Winman area be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

MOTION 2011-158: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Joseph Coffey**, assistant principal at Gorton Junior High, Step #3 of the administrative salary scale be approved.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

**Classified personnel items:**

**Retirements/resignations:**

MOTION 2011-159: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **retirement of Karen Joyal**, 36-week bus aide, be accepted effective August 8, 2011; **retirement of Edward Hansen**, 52-week custodian, Wickes Elementary be accepted effective August 12, 2011; **retirement of Joyce Reilly**, 38-week clerk, Winman Junior High, be accepted effective August 19, 2011; **retirement of Jean Theroux**, 36-week bus aide, be accepted effective August 19, 2011; and **retirement of Anna Quirk**, 52-week special education bus driver, be accepted effective August 19, 2011.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

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**Coaching appointments:**

MOTION 2011-160: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Kelly Harrington**, head coach, girls' volleyball, Toll Gate High School and that the appointment of **Jason Metivier**, assistant coach, girls' volleyball, be approved for one year only.

**MOTION PASSES (3-0)**

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

Ms. Medeiros present at the meeting.

**Approval of Senior Project Calendar:** Ms. Bilodeau presented the senior project calendar for approval. Ms. Bilodeau commented that of the 749 seniors, there were 365 early proposals approved and we have 407 approved senior projects. Ms. Furtado asked if we have a date set for seniors to get field work done during the school day, and Ms. Bilodeau responded we are not asking for that. Darlene Netcoh commented she objected to the senior project as we are already doing more than the state requires.

MOTION 2011-161: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the senior project calendar.

**MOTION PASSES (4-0)**

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

Christopher Friel present at 7:35 p.m.

**WTU Agreement:** Superintendent Horoschak said he was very pleased to have come to an agreement with the Warwick Teachers Union and to have the agreement voted by both the School Committee and the membership of the Teachers Union. This took place over a series of meetings and negotiations. Miss Healey commented that this is not a contract extension, but an agreement to balance the 2011-12 budget while we are in the process of negotiating a successor agreement. This is unprecedented and thanks go to the WTU President and executive board for recommending this agreement. WTU members will operate within the terms of last year's contract, and will pay 20 per cent co-share on health and dental insurance. The Union acknowledges the district's decision to pilot the full implementation of the new state education evaluation model this year and will not grieve it. with an increase in the annual co-share on health care and dental.

MOTION 2011-162: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to authorize the Superintendent to sign the Agreement between the Warwick Teachers Union and the Warwick School 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 New City Auditor Firm –**

Mr. Ferrucci reported that the audit firm that conducted the annual audit, Parlmalee, Poirer and Associates has been disbanded. The City went out to bid for a new auditing firm, for a 3-year contract to audit the City and the School Department for fiscal years ending June 2011, 2012 and 2013. The recommended new audit firm is Braver Accountants and Advisors. Their proposed fee of \$30,000 is \$5,000 less than our FY12 proposed budget.

MOTION 2011-163: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the new City auditor firm.

**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 to return Rhodes School to City of Warwick**

Superintendent Horoschak proposed a resolution returning Rhodes Elementary School facility back to the City of Warwick. He said Rhodes had been used by the Rhode Island School for the Deaf while their new facility being built. We have explored leasing the facility out, but it became clear that the cost effectiveness would not work out for the school district. He recommended that it [Rhodes] be turned back to the City no later than April 1, 2012. We must make provisions to store equipment and look into reallocating auditorium seating to another school. Chairperson Furtado read the following resolution:

Resolution Relative to Rhodes Elementary School

RESOLVED, that

WHEREAS, the School Committee has concluded that it no longer needs the former Rhodes Elementary School for use as a school building; and

WHEREAS, the School Committee desires that the property on which the former Rhodes Elementary School is located be dedicated to another useful purpose and, hopefully, will realize revenue to the City of Warwick; and

WHEREAS, this issue is a matter of importance to the citizens of the City of Warwick.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the School Committee hereby directs that the following actions occur:

That the Rhodes Elementary School be returned to the City of Warwick as soon as practicable, however, no later than April 1, 2012.

The Superintendent is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to all school department directors, the Honorable Scott Avedisian and all members of the Warwick City Counsel.

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

/s/ by: Bethany A. Furtado, Chair; Patrick E. Maloney, Jr.; Christopher E. Friel; Eugene Nadeau and M. Terri Medeiros.

MOTION 2011-164: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Resolution Relative to Rhodes Elementary 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

**Monthly Fiscal Report:**

Mr. Ferrucci reported that as previously stated the Warwick public Schools would authorize up to 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 dollars, to date the school department has spent \$1,134,130 and encumbered \$2,026,830 for a total of \$3,160,960 which represents approximately 15.6% of non-staff costs.

**Bids/change orders:**

MOTION 2011-165: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for video surveillance systems (Phase II) be awarded to Dane Tech, Inc. in the amount of \$40,008.00 as per the bid tabulation.

**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:**

**School Committee Members:**

Mr. Malone – thank you to WTU for working with us, and also thank you to WISE Union and support staff getting the schools up and running after the storm.

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Superintendent Horoschak commented on the how Pilgrim High pulled together after the tragedy of the deaths of Elanna Zuller and Gabriella DiPalma. Also commented on how Hurricane Irene affected the scheduled opening of schools, but that the opening day did go smoothly. There are still some issues relating to transportation and the conditions of vehicles. There are two use requests that we have received – Toll Gate for the Impossible Dream Fund Raising on October 1<sup>st</sup> and LaSalle playing one football game at Pilgrim field.

**Public comment:** Jill, mother of 4-year old who was on the bus for 1 hour and 40 minutes said there was no communication and she would have picked him up. She wanted to know how this could be addressed. The Superintendent said we will be transferring our bus operation to a contractor, and we will look into any issues that are affecting us now. Roger Castanian asked in regard to the transportation department, why the technical position not identified to be eliminated in that department, as the aides, senior clerk typist, and drivers were identified. The Superintendent responded that final determinations are still to be made. Miss Healey said this has not been eliminated at this time. Mr. John Kennedy commented that he hoped there will be a reimbursement from the Federal government for any overtime or removal of trees after the storm. Mr. Ferrucci said we will be receiving information and will follow up. John Kennedy also remarked that we should keep an eye on Sodexo as no one is buying the food. Chairperson Furtado said that Sodexo will be making a report at the October meeting. Darlene Netcoh said she hoped we were charging LaSalle for the use of Pilgrim field, but not charging the Impossible Dream. She said if you had not consolidated the department heads, you would not have the need for the special ed supervisor position. What will happen when the Federal funds run out?

Next meeting: October 11, 2011

MOTION 2011-166: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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 8:35 p.m.