

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of October 11, 2011
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, October 11, 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 [absent]
M. Terri Medeiros

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer

MOTION 2011-167: 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 – absent 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

Moment of silence for Matt Ryan.

Student Comments:

Hoxsie Elementary School: Christian Tanguay, Daniel Tanguay, Jameson Tanguay (grade 4)
Greenwood Elementary School: Stephanie Kellerman (grade 6) and Kendra Silvia (grade 6)
Winman Jr. High School: Paige Carmichael (grade 8) and Jake Stachurski (grade 8)

Approval of Minutes of Public Session:

MOTION 2011-168: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the Minutes of the Public Session for September 7, 2011 and September 13, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

MOTION 2011-169: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for September 7, 2011 and September 13, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

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Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2011-170: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2011-171: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Professional personnel items

Appointments:

MOTION 2011-172: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Marie Cote**, Acting Principal, Pilgrim High School, Step 3 of the Administrative Pay Scale for Secondary Principals, for up to a maximum of two school years while the occupant of this position serves in a grant-funded fellowship, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2011-173: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the appointment of **Gary McCoombs**, Acting Principal, Hoxsie Elementary School, Step 1 of the Administrative Pay Scale for Secondary Principals, for up to a maximum of two school years while the occupant of this position serves in a grant-funded fellowship be approved subject to an agreement with the Warwick Teachers Union.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2011-174: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Donald Brown**, Attendance and Discipline Administrator, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2011-175: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Carol Marginson**, Transitional Advocate, part-time and funded entirely by a Grant from the Rhode Island Department of Education, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2011-176: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the appointment of **Brendan Friel**, 60% Social Studies Teacher, Step 3, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

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MOTION 2011-177: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **John Gannon**, Step 1 of the Administrative Pay Scale for Elementary Principals, be approved pending receipt of state and national BCI.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Leave of Absence:

MOTION 2011-178: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the request of **Nicolle Belesimo**, Science Teacher at Winman Junior High School, for parental leave, effective approximately December 29, 2011 through the end of the second semester, returning September 2012, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Retirement:

MOTION 2011-179: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the retirement of **Kathleen Adams**, principal Oakland Beach Elementary School be accepted effective September 30, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

[Mr. Maloney thanked Ms. Adams for all of her years of service and how she handled everything at her school.]

Classified personnel items:

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2011-180: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the **retirement of Gail Curci**, 52-week special education bus driver, be accepted effective December 16, 2011; and that the **resignation of Jason Ramsay**, 52-week custodian Winman, be accepted effective September 12, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2011-181: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney that the following coaching appointments be approved: **Michael Batalon**, head coach boys' basketball at Pilgrim; **Thomas Doyle**, assistant coach boys' indoor track at Toll Gate; **James Reynolds**, assistant coach boys' basketball at Toll Gate; and **Amanda Ricci**, assistant coach girls' basketball at Warwick Veterans, for one year only.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

New Business:

GBP Update: Ms. Bilodeau reported that 742 seniors are being tracked; 724 have approved proposals and 84 district wide have been completed. There are eleven students at CCRI full time. Thursday, May 17th will be presentation day and they are working on a day in February for early presentation.

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Policy CD – Management Team Policy (1st reading) – Ms. Healey noted that the change in the policy is the date of March 1st to May 1st upon which to notify administrators of their nonrenewal. This is referenced in three separate occasions. Ms. Netcoh questioned why the change was being made, and Mr. Maloney responded he didn't feel comfortable renewing an administrator so early in the year. He said when you renew someone in March, we have them through the entire year through June of the following year.

MOTION 2011-182: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the first reading of Policy CD (Management Team Policy) with date corrections as noted.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Sodexo Report – Present for Sodexo were Mark Roy and Cathy Rocco – Mr. Roy reported that Hurricane Irene had little or no impact on the budget, as it took place before school opened. He also commented on the Food Advisory Committee and said that there are on-line surveys for elementary parents, secondary students and staff and administration. The on-line surveys provide links on menus, district website, Sodexori.com and faculty e-mail.

Wellness Committee Report – Mr. Ferrucci – reported that we recently received a communication from RIDE which indicates that the Wellness Committee needs to develop procedures to self-monitor compliance. Since our Committee has been inactive for over a year, we need to re-establish it. Mark Roy, of Sodexo, has indicated he is willing to sit on the Committee. This Committee should be comprised of a member of the School Committee, a parent, teacher, administrator, student, school health professional, local community representative of a local or statewide non-profit health organization and a local business community representative. Attorney Healey said the School Committee should take a vote to reconvene the Wellness Committee. Mr. Maloney commented he was not happy about RIDE telling me how to do my job. Parents need to be educated about nutrition; we can give kids good food, but they won't necessarily eat it.

MOTION 2011-183: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to reinstate the Wellness Committee.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 abstain)

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

RIDE Statewide Contract-Cost Coverage Update – Mr. Ferrucci said we were advised that by joining the state wide transportation program, the district would save approximately \$253,000 for the elimination of four scheduled routes. In addition, for each additional ancillary route, Warwick could save \$66,272 per bus replaced using the contract. He said an analysis was done this summer. In the TransPar report, the cost was proposed to be \$542,426. We have taken this proposed cost and aligned it with the actual FY11 budgeted cost. Even with the cost reductions, Warwick's cost analysis indicates the state contract should have saved Warwick \$119,613. Warwick Schools were led to believe it would save \$66,271 per bus replaced for this service. Three buses would have been needed to cover these routes. It actually cost an additional \$15,056 using the state contract versus what could have been contracted with First Student. Additional ancillary trips were needed which Warwick would have been able to schedule around its existing capacity with only incremental increases needed for fuel and driver/aid time. He indicated that Warwick paid \$660,136 to RIDE and by deducting the proposed state contract costs in the first two sections (\$28,238 and \$216,929) that activity cost the district \$153,996. The District would have only paid \$88,884 by contracting with First student – thereby overpaying \$65,112 to the State. Ferrucci said

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district believes it overpaid a total of \$80,168 by going with statewide contract as opposed to First Student – requesting a refund.

FY 11 Year End Report – Mr. Ferrucci – reported that based on reconciliation of medical and dentals costs, our year-end costs for fringe benefits has gone down, and factoring in encumbrances that our directors didn't need, we have added close to \$1,000,000 to our previously reported surplus. After deducting carryover of state set aside restricted dollars, our current unaudited surplus for FY11 now stands at \$1,993,496. In regard to fluctuations in the reporting systems, we have put together a plan of action which should lead to a reduction in wide fluctuations for revenue and expenditure lines. Our new procedure for presenting year end projections in the fall and spring should provide us evidence as to the success of the plans we are undertaking.

FY 12 Balanced Budget Report – Mr. Ferrucci said in the spring of 2011, a recommended school budget was presented for the school year 2011-2012. The adopted budget was presented to the City Council in May 2011. We have presented a budget action plan that outlines a number of issues that were going to be addressed over the summer of 2011. He outlined the most significant factors that have impacted the 4/26/11 adopted budget.

Revenue:

- Restated local appropriations to City approved allocated of \$118,644,632 which is \$117,769,632, plus the additional \$875,000 for athletics (which we received confirmation that we will receive
- Add \$1,955,000 to re-appropriated fund to reflect recently announced surplus from FY2011 which we anticipate will be carried over to FY2012 upon completion of annual audit.
- Add \$153,000 to Medicaid Revenue based on FY2011 actuals and a 11% reduction based on recent e-mail communications from Department of Human Services

Expenses:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Reduce salary and fringe due to breakage savings | \$927,400 |
| • Reduce salary and fringe benefits based on contractual considerations: | |
| • a) WISE – net salary savings | \$300,000 |
| • net fringe benefits savings | \$1,073,375 |
| • b) WTU – net fringe benefits savings | \$2,098,466 |
| • Reduce stipends | \$00,000 |
| • Reduce overtime | 50,000 |
| • Medical cost reductions | \$300,000 |
| • Contracted nursing services | <\$125,000> |
| • Transportation cost reductions | \$119,800 |
| • District insurance cost reduced | \$84,200 |
| • Charter school tuitions | <\$60,000> |
| • Supplies and materials cost reduced | \$375,000 |
| • Electricity cost reduced | \$155,000 |
| • Capital costs reduced | \$414,000 |
| • Increase cost in transfer category | \$34,820 |

He said through anticipated cost savings associated with contractual negotiations and known cost reductions based on actions to date, we have been able to achieve a recommended balanced budget for FY2012, based on expectation of decreasing expenses by \$3,895,556, for a recommended budget of \$157,293,144

Mr. Nadeau said “I would like to move that the Warwick School Committee withdraw the law suit against the City of Warwick for \$6.2 million.” Ms. Healey indicated since that was not posted on the Open Meeting Agenda, it would something that could be part of the next meeting.

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Monthly Fiscal Report – For the period ending 9/30/11 the total revenue received was \$122,631,492; total expenditures were \$22,198,662 and total encumbrances were \$7,189,517. In order to cover cost to start school and the first month of school operations we spent \$2,544,328 and we encumbered \$7,189,517 for a total of \$9,733,845 which represents approximately 48.1% of the \$20,225,794 non-staff budget that was originally authorized in April 2011.

Bids and Change Orders:

MOTION 2011-184: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for 2011-12 printer, peripheral and accessory equipment be awarded to the various vendors as per the bid tabulations. The items are awarded on a per unit basis with funding from the RITTI Grant and the Information Systems budget.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye
Christopher E. Friel – Absent
M. Terri Medeiros – Aye

Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye

Information & Proposals

School Committee Members

Ms. Medeiros: Special Ed Advisory Meeting tomorrow [10/12/11] at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Maloney said there will be a workshop on October 19, 2011 at the Administration Building at 7:00 p.m. for Supplementary Needs Planning, also on Saturday, October 22nd there will be a Spooky Bowling party at Meadowbrook Lanes for children with special needs. He also thanks Sean Campbell, tennis coach at Pilgrim for going above and beyond painting the names of seniors on a bench. Mr. Nadeau commented on the liability that the teachers' pension is costing the State of Rhode Island and the City of Warwick. He said someone has to pay attention to what is happening; this is fiscal insanity. Mr. Maloney said that the Mayor had announced due to factors over in the school system and the teachers pension, I am forced to raise taxes to the maximum amount again. Mr. Maloney said he found that unbelievable. This school committee has done everything needed to get a balanced budget that Mr. Ferrucci presented. We made difficult decisions, letting go valuable employees that have done years of service for us. He challenged the Mayor and City Council to attempt to balance their budget.

Public Comment

Roger Castanian thanked Mr. Ferrucci for his in-depth analysis of the statewide transportation contract, and asked if the school department had the option if they ran their own bus service or opting in or not. Ms. Healey said going back two years, we were directed by RIDE to participate. Darlene Netcoh commented that she pays taxes and enjoys the services. She also said she thought the School Committee should keep their law suit in place, as the City under funded the school department, and the City needs to be held accountable. She thanked Mr. Ferrucci for pointing out the discrepancy of \$80,000, and asked him to check whether or not Charter Schools are overcharging Warwick, as they have other communities. She said regarding GBP, there were a number of choices, and Warwick picked the big ones. She said the digital portfolio is a far more valuable tool then the senior project. She also pointed out that the system is not currently up and running and we are not able to load assignments 2011-12 classes. Tony Grimly (librarian) said she felt the committee should move forward with the litigation. She commented that she had less than \$800 for books for a high school and the technology center was over six years old. Cindy Smith asked if the appointment of Don Brown, as attendance supervisor, is same individual reported as a retired employee. Superintendent Horoschak said he is retired and works on a reduced schedule as allowed by state. It is a much less costly position on part time basis, and he has been doing this for some time, but is reappointed every year. When Ms. Smith if any other retirees were appointment, Ms. Healey responded we can't publicly discuss personnel matters. She also wanted to no where it states what service provides cabs for students for transportation, and Mr. Ferrucci suggested she submit the question to him and he would get back to her. When she asked about policy on cabs, Ms. Healey responded unless posted matter on the agenda, we cannot answer questions.

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Special Meeting dates

Special meeting in the next two weeks – finalize 11-12 balance budget
Regular Meeting – November 8, 2011

MOTION 2011-185: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 p.m.
Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk