

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of November 8, 2011
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Winman Junior High School, on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. Chairperson Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:40 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

MOTION 2011-191: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, 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), (a)(2) and (a)(9).

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

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

Student Comments:

Warwick Veterans High School: Shannon Flynn (grade 12) and Livia Stencil (grade 12)
Gorton Jr. High School: Jacob Madore (grade 8) and Lynandrea Mejia (grade 8)

Approval of Minutes of Public Session:

MOTION 2011-192: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of Open Session for October 11, 2011 and October 25, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - [abstain as to 10/25/11]
M. Terri Medeiros – Aye Christopher E. Friel – [abstain as to 10/11/11]

Approval of Executive Session Minutes:

MOTION 2011-193: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for October 11, 2011 and October 25, 2011.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. - Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - [abstain as to 10/25/11]
M. Terri Medeiros – Aye Christopher E. Friel – [abstain as to 10/11/11]

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Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2011-194: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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 2011-195: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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 items

Appointments:

MOTION 2011-196: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Alison Coccoli**, school nurse/teacher, Step 3, be approved pending receipt of Official Certification from RIDOE.

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 2011-197: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney that the **retirement of Nancy Dorsey**, occupational therapist, Lippitt Elementary School, be accepted effective November 18, 2011; and that the **retirement of Daryl Gilbert**, special educator, Pilgrim High School, be accepted effective November 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

Classified personnel items

Retirements/resignations

MOTION 2011-198: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the following **retirements be accepted: Viola Lannigan**, bus aide, transportation, effective December 23, 2011; **Wilfred Mayo**, bus aide, transportation, effective December 23, 2011; **Gertrude Nelson**, bus aide, transportation, effective December 23, 2011; **Claudia Colvin**, bus aide, transportation, effective December 23, 2011; **Linda Tarpey**, bus driver, transportation, effective December 23, 2011; **Gary Carpenter**, building/maintenance mechanic, Winman Junior High School, be effective December 9, 2011 and **Arthur Chapman**, heating/maintenance mechanic, be December 9, 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 2011-199: Mr. Friel, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the following appointments be approve: **Ian Smith**, head coach, girls' basketball, Pilgrim; **Chad Tvenstrup**, assistant coach, boys' ice hockey, Pilgrim; **Ryan Henderson**, assistant coach, girls' ice hockey co-op team, Toll Gate, be approved for one year only (subject to school committee approval of position) and **Scott Bayah**, freshman coach boys' basketball, Warwick Veterans 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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GBP update – Ms. Bilodeau – of the 736 seniors being tracked, 730 have approved proposals. February 13, 2012 has been scheduled for an early senior project presentation date.

Long term facilities planning committee update – Superintendent Horoschak said that the Long-Term Facilities Planning Committee met November 3 and there was a presentation by Mr. Sangster, Mr. Bushell and Dr. D’Agostino focusing on enrollment data and possible options for consolidation with focus on junior and senior highs were discussed. Options: closing a high school and dispersing students to the remaining two; moving two junior highs into that vacant building; adding junior high to senior high to create a campus setup with the understanding they would remain separate; moving 6th grade into three junior high schools; what would happen if John Wickes has to be closed. The big problem with moving buildings is installation of new technology and making sure it works. The next meeting will be November 22nd at 3:00 p.m. presenting data dealing with cost of any options undertaken, savings as well as costs that would be incurred making changes. Discussion about not mixing seventh and eighth grades with high school students; any discussion about taking the sixth grade into middle school; there are certification issues; further obstacles moving sixth grade as RIDE allows combination of classes at the middle school level with five through eight, without getting approval, but we don’t have middle schools and we could run into certification issues. Mr. Maloney said he wanted to make sure we were making decisions using data that is as accurate as possible and not five years old. He said he wanted accurate information and open discussions. Mr. Nadeau questioned if Charter Schools were discussed. He said he was not in favor of them. Ms. Medeiros said she did research and the first charter school open ten years ago and 25% are below proficiency. They are not performing where they thought they would be originally.

Approval of Nashville, TN trip for Chess Club Greenwood Elementary School – May 10 through May 14, 2012.

MOTION 2011-200: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Maloney, to approve the Greenwood Chess Club Trip to Nashville, Tennessee May 10 through May 14, 2012.

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 Washington, DC trip (Aldrich, Gorton, Winman Jr. High Schools - Trip Gorton May 24th-26th and Aldrich and Winman, Jr. High May 3, 4 and 5th)

MOTION 2011-201: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Washington, DC trips for May 3rd through May 5th, 2012 and May 24th through May 26th, 2012.

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

[Mr. Oscar Martinez commented he thought these trips were wonderful and asked if a grade is assigned to this field trip. A grade is not assigned to the trips.]

Approval of Quebec City trip (Gorton Jr. High April 17-20, 2012)

MOTION 2011-202: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the trip to Quebec City April 17th through April 20th, 2012.

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

[It was again noted that no grade is assigned.]

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Discussion regarding being penalized if you are doing a sport and want to go on a trip between Mr. Martinez and Mr. Chrabaszcz. Mr. Chrabaszcz commented you make a decision if you are playing a sport you are committed to that sport. Mr. Maloney offered to discuss this after the meeting.

Approval of Washington, DC trip (Holocaust Museum – Toll Gate High School March 9-11, 2012)

MOTION 2011-203: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the Toll Gate high School Washington DC trip March 9th through March 11, 2012.

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 Resolution (Pension Reform) – Ms. Healey introduced the following Resolution re Pension Reform and requested adoption.

Warwick School Committee Resolution
(Pension Reform)

WHEREAS; Rhode Island's state employee and teacher retirement system is underfunded by over \$6 billion; and
WHEREAS; the employer share of retirement costs will increase to 23% of payroll in FY 2013, a 60% increase over the FY 2012 contribution;
WHEREAS; the total cost to school districts and cities and towns for Rhode Island's teacher retirement and municipal employee retirement systems will exceed \$92 million in FY2013;
WHEREAS; FY 2013 employer retirement costs will force over half of Rhode Island's communities to exceed the property tax cap in § 44-5-2 **maximum levy**, leaving cities and towns with no revenue for other commitments; and
WHEREAS; taxpayers are already burdened by some of the highest property taxes nationally, and
WHEREAS; according to § 16-2-9(d) "The school committee of each school district shall be responsible for maintaining a school budget which does not result in a debt." and
WHEREAS; school districts must comply with Rhode Island Department of Education Regulation Title G – The Basic Education Program and comply with federal and state law and must begin to align their curriculums with the Common Core Standards by the 2013-14 school year; and
WHEREAS; the FY2013 employer contribution for teacher retirement costs will consume all available local revenue and cause districts to cut programs that promote student learning and enrich a student's educational experience;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Warwick School Committee respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly enact reforms to the teacher and municipal employees systems that mitigate the cost to school districts and cities and towns; and be it further
RESOLVED; that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative, the Rhode Island General Treasurer and Rhode Island Governor.
WHERETO: the following bear witness on the 8th day of November, 2011:
Bethany A. Furtado, Chair Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk Patrick E. Maloney, Jr. Vice Chair
Christopher Friel Member M. Terri Medeiros Member

This would be sending a message from school committees that pension reform is essential to the operation of the school district. Mr. Nadeau said this resolution is a small part to let the state know – please do something to prevent a financial tsunami. Mr. Maloney supported the resolution and said he believed the legislature needs to make a decision to support the taxpayers. He said this did not occur over night, this problem is not created by teachers' union; changes need to be made; actuarial reports not looked at properly. Mr. Ginolfi commented you should consider amending it whereby teachers should not be required to teach to 67 years of age (that's 45 years in a classroom.). Mr. Flanders commented that you will be paying teachers at the top step all the way until 67; they could have retired, and then you would have a first-step teacher in. John Kennedy commented his retirement age was raised and he did not have a say in it.

MOTION 2011-204: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that we are in favor of the retirement system being overhauled by the General Assembly, and move forward with the resolution as stated.

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 Resolution (Career and Technical Education Regulations)

Warwick School Committee Resolution
(Draft Career and Technical Education Regulations)

WHEREAS, Rhode Island currently has a regional delivery system for career and technical preparation programs of studies
WHEREAS; over the past forty-eight (48) years, over 100 million dollars have been spent to establish an infrastructure for regional career and technical education;

WHEREAS; under the present regional structure, all career and technical education students are entitled to access to any career and technical offering in any of the regional career and technical centers in the state of Rhode Island;

WHEREAS; the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education (the "Regents") has issued for public hearing and comment a set of draft Regulations Governing Career and Technical Education dated September 30, 2011

WHEREAS; said draft Regulations, both expressly and as applied, substantially change the delivery system for career and technical programs in the following ways:

- In lieu of providing students their program of choice within a specific set of competencies, local education agencies may now offer alternative, materially similar RIDE approved career preparation if the alternative falls within the same career cluster or provides the student the opportunity to earn an industry credential in the same career cluster or occupational area even if the competencies of the program as different;
- As a result, individual school districts are likely to deny student access to the regional career and technical centers in favor of offering less comprehensive courses or less variety of course offerings for career and technical education;
- Students will be denied access to programs outside of their region due to the lack of available transportation from the sending district and due to the regulations that take away the right that students had to automatically participate in unique programs in other regions; and

WHEREAS; the maintenance of a proven, viable and successful career and technical education program is vital to the economy of the State of Rhode Island;

RESOLVED: that the Warwick School Committee respectfully requests that the Regents vote to reject the draft Regulations in favor of the present delivery system. Alternatively, the Warwick School Committee requests that the Regents hold final approval of these regulations to further study the impact that these regulations will have on the current regional centers;

RESOLVED: that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Regent, the Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, each of the Regional Career and Technical Centers in the State of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee.

WHEREBY: the following bear witness on the 8th day of November, 2011:

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

MOTION 2011-205: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the resolution for Career and Technical Education Regulations.

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	

Special Education Advisory Committee Appointments – Dr. D’Agostino recommended the appointment of **Katherine Fielder** and **Cindy Roberts** to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

MOTION 2011-206: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the recommendation of **Katherine Fielder** and **Cindy Roberts** to the Special Education Advisory 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 Girls’ Ice Hockey Co-Op Team Assistant Coach Position

MOTION 2011-207: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the establishment of assistant coach position for the Girls’ Ice Hockey Co-Op Team.

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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Transportation Update on Transition to First Student – Mr. Ferrucci said the process is moving forward. We are currently in communication with First Student as to how many drivers and aides available and coordinating layoff notifications. They are transitioning the drivers and aides and putting them on their records and we are working with those displaced. First Student will be buying new buses in the next two months and get them registered in January. Mr. Maloney had a concern from the Special Ed Advisory Committee regarding the tie-down system and making sure students in wheelchairs are safe. Another concern was communication and radios working properly. There had been delays getting to school and parents were not notified. He also commented about ramps not functioning properly and people having to carry students off the bus, saying we cannot have this as it is a liability issue. Mr. Maloney said he knew it was not mandated to have air conditioning on the buses, and during the summer temperature can be high. If the issue of air conditioning is in a child's IEP, that can be addressed.

School Lunch Update and approval to proceed with Point of Sale System – Mr. Ferrucci said that recently a meeting was held to review the practicality and feasibility of utilizing an electronic point of sales system. If this was installed it would benefit the food program. We would target the high schools first, then roll forward to the junior high schools. The cost of equipment, software and installation would be approximately \$107,000. Mr. Kennedy commented he remembered Sodexo saying they would take over the point of sale system. Mr. Ferrucci said if we purchase our own, and something should happen with Sodexo, we have our own. Mr. Maloney said he recalled discussing that Sodexo would put this point of sale in place and they would absorb the cost. He suggested tabling this agenda item until next week's meeting, so there could be some further research done.

MOTION 2011-208: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to table approval to proceed with Point of Sale System until next week's meeting [November 16, 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

Bids & Changes Orders (none)

Adoption of Policies (Management Team Policy, 2nd reading) – Ms. Healey said the non-renewal date has been changed from March 1st to May 1st. Mr. Friel commented there were some inconsistencies in some of the language. The policy will be revisited looking at the language, but the second reading approval would cover the date changes at this time.

MOTION 2011-209: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the second reading of Policy CD (Management Team Policy).

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 – Ms. Medeiros said she attended the PCAC meeting. Mr. Nadeau commented that he had reviewed the evaluation document and said it is very complex. Mr. Maloney commented that there was no internet service this evening and wanted to make sure this is up and running. He also commented on the schedule for flu shots, our website having a calendar instead of e-mail, and recognized that Veterans Day was Friday and thanked all our Veterans. Peter Horoschak said he attended the RIPAC Annual dinner and Tracey Morgan (special ed teacher at Oakland Beach) had been named teacher of the year.

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Public Comments: Michele Landri asked how much control there would be with the transition to First Student regarding responsibilities of bus monitors. She said every year she has to push to get an aide to come and get her daughter to bring her to the bus. Mr. Ferrucci said we have the right to tell First Student we have authority to mandate coverage as described. Ms. Landri also commented on her attempt to take the self-evaluation (74-page) document and how challenging it was. Ms. Netcoh said there would be a Veterans Day assembly on Thursday and she thanked Ms. Medeiros and Mr. Nadeau on their comments about Charter schools. She said Warwick does not need them, we need our funds for our schools. She noted that with any building consolidation to take into consideration we need many rooms for technology and computer labs, and we need to increase the amount of technology and can't do that if we close schools and combine student bodies.

Special Meeting: November 16, at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION 2011-209: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to adjourn.

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: 10:15 p.m.

Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk