

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of March 27, 2012
Open Meeting

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building, on Tuesday, March 27, 2012. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 5:40 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
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
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2012-46: Moved by Mr. Friel, 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 (5-0)

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

Reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Resolution regarding administration of school finances – Ms. Healey reviewed the resolution which reads as follows:

**Warwick School Committee Resolution
Resolution Regarding School Finances**

WHEREAS: Current state law and Warwick's local charter currently vests in the Warwick School Committee the power to determine and prioritize from its total appropriation all expenditures for public education purposes in the Warwick Public Schools; and

WHEREAS: Current state law and Warwick's local charter vests the power in the City of Warwick to establish the total local appropriation for the Warwick Public Schools subject to maintenance of effort and other statutory school funding requirements; and

WHEREAS: Public education is a constitutional right for all Rhode Island citizens; and

WHEREAS: Current state law places primary responsibility on the Warwick School Committee to provide an education program which comports with the basic education program of the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS: The voters of the City of Warwick have elected and entrusted the Warwick School Committee members with the responsibility for education in the City of Warwick including the responsibility to allocate scarce education resources in a manner which best serves the district's students; and

WHEREAS: Senate bill S 2239 and any similar proposed legislation propose to take control of school finances away from the Warwick School Committee and place it in the hands of the Warwick City Council; and

WHEREAS: That same Senate bill S 2239 and any similar proposed legislation propose to leave with the Warwick School Committee the power and duty over the content and curriculum to be provided, educational administration, and the pedagogy employed; and

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WHEREAS: Senate bill S 2239's assumption, and the assumption of any similar proposed legislation, is that all city and town governments have been fiscally responsible but that all school committees have not; and

WHEREAS: Historically, it is open to debate whether cities and towns have been more fiscally responsible than school committees; and

WHEREAS: The Warwick School Committee cannot effectively determine how to meet the requirements of the basic education program, appropriate educational content and curriculum, educational administration and pedagogy employed without having control over the educational expenditures associated with those decisions; and

WHEREAS: The proposed S 2239 and any other similar proposed legislation do not take into account student welfare and the elected School Committee's responsibility to act in the interest of students and protect their constitutional right to free public education; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Warwick School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly to oppose any and all legislation which removes from the School Committee the ability to make determinations as to how educational funds are allocated; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative and the Governor.

Signed: Bethany A. Furtado, Eugene A. Nadeau, Patrick E. Maloney, Jr., Christopher E. Friel,
M. Terri Medeiros

MOTION 2012-47: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Resolution regarding administration of school finances which was 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 Resolution regarding layoff notification – Ms. Healey reviewed this resolution which would change layoff notices from March 1st to June 1st, which reads as follows:

**Warwick School Committee Resolution
(Layoff Notification Date)**

WHEREAS: Chapter §16-13 of the Rhode Island General Laws entitled "Teacher Tenure" requires school districts to notify individual teachers by March 1st that their contract for the following year will not be renewed and;

WHEREAS: All school districts have not yet had their budget request ratified by their respective city or town councils and;

WHEREAS: This uncertainty requires school districts to issue more layoff notices than are necessary and;

WHEREAS: This creates unnecessary anxiety and stress for teachers receiving layoff notices and;

WHEREAS: Most, if not all, of the uncertainty, stress and anxiety resulting from the early layoff notice could be remediated by moving the date from March 1st to June 1st, therefore be it;

RESOLVED: That the Warwick Public Schools and the Warwick School Committee urge the General Assembly to pass 2012 – S 2158, H 7272 & H 7863 by Senator DiPalma and Representatives Jackson & Brien respectively, moving the teacher layoff notice deadline from March 1 to June 1, be further resolved;

RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to every Rhode Island Municipality, School Committee, State Senator, State Representative and the Governor.

WHEREBY: The following bear witness:

Signed: Bethany A. Furtado, Eugene A. Nadeau, Patrick E. Maloney, Jr., Christopher E. Friel,
M. Terri Medeiros

MOTION 2012-48: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Resolution regarding layoff notification date which was 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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Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2012-49: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the bid for a new sound system for the auditorium at Toll Gate High School, be awarded to Ambient Sound, Inc., in the amount of \$15,618.97, as per bid tabulations.

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

Discussion regarding the fire code improvements bid which included an explanation by Mr. Jansson of the liquidated damage clause, the two contractors, Maron Construction Co. and E. W. Burman, Inc., and the schools that each contractor will cover (Holliman, Oakland Beach, Park, Winman Jr. and Pilgrim). The recommended grand total for the bid is \$3,268,145.

MOTION 2012-50: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Friel, that the bid for Fire Code Improvements(Phase 1) be awarded to the various vendors as per bid tabulations.

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

Technology and MIS Update – The presentation by Mr. Ferrucci and Ms. Silvia was an analysis of all information relating to our technology plans. A 34-page document had been prepared covering this analysis and a power point presentation was made. Because of the length of the presentation, Superintendent Horoschak proposed that the School Committee hear the presentation by Holly Walsh from RIDE and reschedule this report at a later date.

April 2nd special meeting at 5:30 at the Administration Building
 Regular Meeting April 10th

MOTION 2012-51: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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: 9:00 p.m.
 Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk