

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of April 16, 2012
Open Session (Budget)

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building, on Monday, April 16, 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 [present at 5:40 p.m.]
M. Terri Medeiros

Bids/change orders:

MOTION 2011-72: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for the purchase of vehicle and plow for the maintenance department be awarded to Paul Masse Chevrolet, Inc. in the amount of \$26,572 as per the bid tabulation.

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

FY 2013 Budget Questions and Answers – The budget was reviewed and questions were asked on certain line items. Some of the line items discussed are summarized as follows: Under the technology budget, Mr. Maloney asked about #56101 (supplies & materials - \$24,098) and #56501 (technology related supplies \$53,500). He commented on #57309 (technology-related hardware \$686,850) and #57311 (technology software costs \$594,810), saying they have more than doubled from two years ago, and said he couldn't see putting money into an area that doesn't show an improvement for the students. He asked if there were grants we could apply for and if we could ask RIDE to change their decision. Mr. Friel requested that the fire code project be explained one more time. He said that this budget is pretty much a straight budget from last year. The salary and benefits portion make up 85% and is \$400,000 less. It was noted that fire codes might be relaxed by the legislature. He said he didn't think we should be asking for \$3.3 million when we have bond money available this year. Ms. Medeiros asked about #54402 (water \$90,000) under the buildings and grounds and #56202 (gasoline \$100,000) and #56209 (fuel oil \$885,625). Ms. Furtado since we did not go with the recommendation for director of technology, will this be off the budget before we see it once again. Mr. Ferrucci responded the new document will show the stipend removed. Mr. Maloney remarked that we need the fire code upgrade and it cannot be put off any longer. Mr. Nadeau stated there are no representatives from the City of Warwick present and said he would think they would like to know what is in all the figures that were presented this evening. He said it is our responsibility to reduce the budget, and we have to spend millions that we should not have to spend and are not getting money we should be getting. Mr. Maloney asked when the IT department is moved to Draper Avenue, at what point will we be able to get everything out of this building [administration building] and return it to the City of Warwick? The Superintendent responded there is an expense to moving the entire administration into Greene, and we have cost figures for that. I believe we should look at an option based on the long term committee outcome. That will be before you when we reconvene the committee. Mr. Maloney remarked there are major savings in salaries with teachers retiring or laid off, but closing something like the administration building what cost/savings are there if we are to close this facility?

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Public comment:

Darlene Netcoh said we desperately need textbooks and said she has actually taped up some books. She noted that not included in the budget were six co-op special education teachers. She also asked where the money will come from when the funding for Race to the Top is gone. She asked about the \$295,000 projected for purchase services, and Mr. Sangster said this is money paid for substitutes. Ms. Netcoh also said the teacher evaluation system was overwhelming. Mr. Castanian inquired about gasoline purchasing.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th. Ms. Furtado stated if there are any line item changes from the Committee, they should be forwarded to her and she would forward them to Mr. Ferrucci. If we do not have an approved budget on Tuesday, we will schedule another meeting.

MOTION 2012-73: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, 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: 7:00 p.m.

Eugene A. Nadeau, clerk