

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of April 24, 2012  
Open session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building, on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 [present at 6:00 p.m.]

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent  
William Sangster, Assistant to the Superintendent  
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education  
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services  
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources  
E. Paul Jansson, Construction Coordinator  
David LaPlante, Interim Director of Buildings & Grounds

MOTION 2012-74: 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 (4-0)

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

Open session reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Healey presented a drafted resolution Opposing Contract Continuation Bill.

MOTION 2012-75: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to move this Resolution forward.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

**Resolution Opposing Contract Continuation Bill  
2012-H 7250 & S 2532**

WHEREAS; current state law does not provide for mandatory continuation of an existing teacher collective bargaining agreement and;  
WHEREAS; A Superior court justice recently ruled that state statute, defining when a contract ends, obviates any clause agreed to, allowing for a continuation of a public employee contract and;  
WHEREAS; School districts and cities and towns have seen a calamitous reduction of state aid and;  
WHEREAS; There exists a \$120 million dollar revenue/expenditure gap in the FY 2013 budget and cities and towns, from FY 2007-FY2012, have lost over \$185 million general revenue sharing and auto excise reimbursement and;  
WHEREAS; Taxpayers are already burdened by some of the highest property taxes nationally and;  
WHEREAS; School districts and cities and towns must comply with RIGL §44-5-2, that caps the property tax levy, for the FY 2012 at 4 ¼% 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 committees may require employee concessions to comply with the aforementioned state statute and;  
WHEREAS; 2012 – H 7250 & 2012 – S 2532 would mandate that an expired contract shall continue under the same terms and conditions and;  
WHEREAS; this would serve as a disincentive for unions to bargain in good faith and allow existing employee wages and benefits to continue unchanged indefinitely thus forcing districts to possibly violate RIGL §44-5-2 and §16-2-9(d) and  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
 Meeting of April 24, 2012  
 Open session

That the Warwick School Committee respectfully requests the Rhode Island General Assembly oppose 2012 – H 7250 & 2012 – S 2532, and any other legislative proposal that would mandate expired teacher contracts must continue at the existing terms and conditions; 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.

WHERETO: The following bear witness on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2012:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Bethany A. Furtado, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
 M. Terri Medeiros, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Christopher E. Friel, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patrick E. Maloney, Jr., Vice Chair

**FY13 Budget adoption:** Superintendent Horoschak said we have presented a budget which we believe meets some of the needs of the school department, certainly not all of them. You have been informed of the areas not being able to be included in this budget. We have taken a creative look at the matter of the fire code updates, and have funds this summer and next two summers. We have also taken into account that revenues are limited and we are anticipating and hopeful that the governor's budget will prevail and we get funding from the state.

Ms. Furtado asked if the School Committee members had any amendments to the budget. Mr. Friel suggested amending the budget by reducing the expenditures by \$3.3 million, remove the fire code from the operating budget and utilize ARAA bond. Mr. Maloney asked if we have access to the bond money and was told yes.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Friel, and seconded by Mr. Maloney for an amendment to the budget by reducing expenditures by \$3.3 million for the fire code from operating budget and utilize ARAA bond money.

[There was further discussion – a vote did not occur.]

Mr. Maloney suggested a letter be drafted to the Mayor that we are going to use the bond monies, and also saying we have continuing fire codes for next two years and will be looking at not having funds for the next two years. Mr. Nadeau said the eleven from Warwick have an obligation to speak up at the General Assembly and tell them to reduce restrictions. Mr. Friel commented that there is going to be a vote on fire code revisions this week. Mr. LaPlante said his biggest concern is not knowing what we have up against us in the next two years. No guarantee funding for this year – we need it to know where the funding is in October and November of this year. He said the Mayor has been made aware of other buildings in the city. We have to file quarterly reports, and we couldn't do that, as we can't go out to bid without secured money. If we are out of compliance, we will lose variances, and they will close schools down. Ms. Healey said we took the fire codes seriously, we got our variances, and they are extremely mindful of setting ground rules for other communities. The superintendent said there are fire code upgrades essential to protect our students and staff, some of those are stairwells. Discussion re timing, getting vendors on site, how much spent so far, waiting for the bond money to be released, and closure of some or all of our building that are not in compliance, we could be fined every day if not in compliance. Ms. Townsend reminded the Committee that if Drum Rock should be closed, parents will send their children to Meeting Street School at an expense of \$75,000 per child.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Friel to remove the expenditure of \$3.3 million representing payment of Phase 1 of the fire code, the revenue request, however, reduced by \$1.625 million, allowing the district to move forward to Phase 2.

[There was no second to this motion and discussion continued.]

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting of April 24, 2012  
Open session

MOTION 2012-76: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve reduction in expenditure of \$1.65, this represents payment of Phase 1 of the fire code with the ARAA bond money, and the inclusion of one-half of Phase 2 fire cost costs within this budget.

**MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)**

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

MOTION 2012-77: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to remove director of technology and reinstate Technology Applications Assessment Coordinator and remove the \$20,398 stipend.

**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. Maloney asked about #56401 (textbooks \$1,186,948) in the curriculum budget and wanted to know how much this line item could be reduced. Mr. Sangster responded we need geometry books, civics books, we cannot use introductory to math book. Secondary needs new textbooks for requirements and for books outdated. Mr. Friel commented that we will get this budget back, it just doesn't make sense to reduce a little here and a little there at this time. Ms. Furtado said we need to move forward with civics for secondary. The Superintendent said the strategy was to make certain we were able to present not only needs we have – but also show needs **not** included. Ms. Furtado said we amended last year's budget six times.

MOTION made by Mr. Maloney to reduce line item #56401 by \$500,000 to \$686,948 under the assistant director of curriculum

No second – motion fails

Ms. Furtado asked if there any more amendments

MOTION 2012-78: Moved by Mr. Maloney – Technology – line item #57309 level fund 2012 of \$411,544.69 – reduce from request of \$686,850 (reduction of \$275,000), seconded by Ms. Medeiros.

**MOTION FAILS (2 ayes – 3 nays)**

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

Mr. Maloney commented this budget keeps going up ever year. We rewrote the technology plan several times. The number one thing this year is getting the fire code done. My only reason for taking money out of technology, do not have money to do the basic fire code; and that's also the reason why I wanted to lower textbooks.

MOTION 2012-279: Moved by Mr. Nadeau to amend reduction total \$75,000 - #57309 – seconded by Mr. Friel.

**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

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
 Meeting of April 24, 2012  
 Open session

Mr. Maloney made a MOTION on line item #57311 to level fund to \$441,680  
 No second - Motion failed

Mr. Maloney said I have asked to look at other systems and have been told to go with another program there is no protection for our information. Why are we paying year in and year out for licensing when some computers are ten years old? We require licensing even though programs may not even run on these programs.

MOTION 2012-280: Moved by Mr. Maloney to add \$20,000 to the line #53000 items area for an outside agency to look at updating our website, seconded by Mr. Nadeau.

**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 2012-281: Moved by Ms. Furtado to pass the budget put forth and forward on to the Mayor and City counsel as amended, seconded by Ms. Medeiros.

**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 2012-282: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, 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: 7:55 p.m.**  
 Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk