

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of August 14, 2012
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met at Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, August 14, 2012. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:05 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
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
Dennis Mullen, Director of Secondary Education
Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2012-157: 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. – not present for vote
Christopher E. Friel - Aye Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye
M. Terri Medeiros – not present for vote

Meeting reconvened 7:00 p.m.

MOTION 2012-158: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of Open Session for July 10, 2012 and July 31, 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

MOTION 2012-159: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for July 10, 2012 and July 31, 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

MOTION 2012-160: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, 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

MOTION 2012-161: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, 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

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**Professional personnel items –
Appointments:**

MOTION 2012-162: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Andrea Ridlon-Jarmie**, school nurse teacher, step 5, be approved pending receipt of National and State BCI 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

MOTION 2012-163: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Amanda Camara**, elementary teacher, step 3, be approved pending approval of new position elementary teacher Park Elementary School.

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 2012-164: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Pamela Bernardi**, assistant principal at Pilgrim High School, step 2 of the administrative pay scale 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

Retirement(s)/resignation(s)

MOTION 2012-165: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the **resignation of Karen Contois**, Special Education Severe Profound Teacher Holliman Elementary School, be accepted effective July 26, 2012; that the **resignation of Nicolle Belesimo**, science teacher Winman Junior High School be accepted effective July 27, 2012; and the **resignation of Holly Lebejko**, business teacher Gorton Junior High School be accepted effective August 7, 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

Classified personnel items

Retirement(s)/resignation(s)

MOTION 2012-166: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of Elizabeth Masseur**, teacher assistant Gorton Junior High School be accepted effective August 3, 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

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2012-167: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Gary Gorman**, head coach girls' tennis at Toll Gate 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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Approval for Toll Gate High School Music Department trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls May 15 to 19, 2013.

MOTION 2012-168: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Toll Gate High School Music Department's trip to Toronto and Niagara Falls May 15 through May 19, 2013.

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 Esther Chester Art Donation - Dr. Siesel said that when we took on the initial artwork of Esther Chester, Sam Chester said upon the death of both Esther and Sam, that the entire collection of Esther's work would be donated to the Warwick Public School. An inventory was done with the Executor of the estate, and the figures are values based upon an art appraiser. The value of the collection is \$225,900, and we are requesting that you accept this donation. Ms. Furtado inquired about our liability insurance and Ms. Healey said we will need to speak to our insurance agent.

MOTION 2012-169: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to accept this donation.

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 Out of District Tuition Rates - Mr. Ferrucci reported that annually the School Committee tuition rates that may be charged for students who are outside our district that attend the Warwick Public Schools. The procedure established was to take the preceding year's approved tuition rate and increase them by the percentage increase of the Adopted Budget for the proposed school year. The original adopted budget for 2011-2012 was \$157,293,144 and the original adopted budget for 2012-2013 is \$156,092,537. Due to the slight reduction, it is our recommendation to sustain the current rates for the upcoming school year.

Chart of recommended tuition rates for 2012-2013:

	Annual	Semi-Annual	Daily
Kindergarten	6,177	3,089	34.32
Regular Education (1 through 12)	12,329	6,165	68.49
Special Education (1 through 12)	59,499	29,750	330.55
Career Center (3 skill periods)	8,898	4,449	49.43
Full Time Vocational [including 3 skill periods]	14,743	7,372	81.91
Special Ed (Secondary Resource FT)	2,246	1,123	12.48
Elementary Ed (Secondary Resource PT)	1,123	562	6.24

MOTION 2012-170: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the out of district tuition rates as outlined.

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 to Award Fuel Delivery Contract – Mr. Ferrucci reported an issue regarding the non-bidding of fuel delivery contract going back to June 2011. He said that due to the cost of bidding for this type of service and the previous results showing that Dennis Burke, Inc. is significantly less than what has been offered by other vendors, we are respectfully requesting that you approve the awarding of a one-year

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extension of the contract for the 2012-2013 school year. By mid-February 2013 we will address this issue before the extended contract expires in June 2013. After discussion, it was decided that this would be tabled while legal can review it. There is a special meeting coming up and we could have further information and further legal research regarding the bidding laws. **The Chair asked if all were in favor of tabling this until next week and the five School Committee Members agreed.**

Approval of elementary teaching position at Park Elementary School – Mr. Bushell requested an additional position to be approved for the 2012-2013 school year. Two additional ELL students have qualified for the ELL program there, and they are both second graders. The two second grade classrooms have 23 and 25 students, weighted at 28 for both classes. These additional students will bring the classes over the contract limit and 24 and 26 students are too many for this grade level.

MOTION 2012-171: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the elementary teaching position at Park Elementary School.

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

Adoption of FY 2013 Revised Budget – Mr. Ferrucci reported a portion of the potential local fund surplus of \$1.68 million for FY12 would be used as carryover dollars into the FY13 budget in order to offset various authorized expenditures, including projects that have begun but have not been completed, and therefore can't be counted as spent in the FY12 budget. The carryover funds totaled \$904,384. Of that \$600,000 will be used to increase professional development stipends to cover training sessions in August 2012 and March 2013. Other funds will be used to address an increase in salary and fringe benefits to fund projected staff costs. Projects started but not yet completed include implementation of the food service point of sale system in the junior and elementary schools, the school department's computer room relocation and costs associated with special education teaching strategies. Following approval of adding the carry over funds, the department is left with a revised balance FY 13 budget of \$156,996,741. Outlined below are notable items added to FY13 adopted budget.

REVENUE

Increase revenue by adding carryover funds to offset authorized expenditures noted below	\$904,384
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EXPENSES

Increase professional development stipends to cover August 2012 and March 2013 professional development activities supported by local fund	\$600,000
Increase salary to fund projected staff costs reviewed July 31 st	\$100,000
Increase fringe benefits (FICA/FED MED) associated with staff costs	\$52,850
Re-seed expenses that were authorized in FY2012, started, not completed by June 30, 2012. Will be completed and paid for during the summer of 2012 but need to be recorded as FY2013 expenses due to accounting rules	\$151,534
a) Food Service POS Jr. High and Elementary	56,179
b) Computer room relocation	81,300
c) Special Education – teaching strategies	14,055
Total expenses	\$904,384

We are requesting the re-seeding of expenses in the FY2013 budget by adding \$904,384. We originally anticipated the use of \$225,000 from prior year surplus. With the use of prior year surplus now standing at \$1,129,384 as compared to the projected \$1,681,032 surplus, we have the potential of \$551,648 being available for consideration at the October 2012 budget revision meeting. It is our

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recommendation to hold off on allocation any additional potential available funds until final results are completed, our audit has begun, and to provide a hedge against the aggressive assumptions made concerning breakage and staff cuts. This FY2013 recommended revised budget of \$156,996,741 remains balanced and request approval.

MOTION 2012-172: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve FY2013 Budget as revised and presented.

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 to extend Blackboard Connect contract: Mr. Ferrucci said that the vendor will not increase costs currently paying, extend the contract for three years, and requested that we extend the contract with Blackboard Connect for three years; they have committed to continue the service with no cost increase over the next three years.

MOTION 2012-173: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve extending 3-year option with no additional costs.

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

Exclusion of School Committee members from WSC Pension Plan Policy (First Reading) – Ms. Healey said at the suggestion of Mr. Nadeau, she has drafted a policy that any newly elected School Committee members in November 2012 will not be eligible to participate in the employee retirement plan. This policy will not affect the current or previous school committee members. The policy reads as follows:

“Effective with the results of the November 2012 general election, newly elected school committee members will not be eligible to participate in the WSC Employee Retirement Plan. This policy change will not affect the rights of current or previous school committee members as it relates to receiving benefits and participating in the plan in accordance with the plan documents.”

MOTION 2012-174: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the first reading of the policy (BHDA) (Committee Members Pension).

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. Nadeau commented that no elected official should be eligible for any pension and that goes for everybody. He said – I think we’ll be the first elected group in RI to not have pensions, so maybe it’ll catch on. If we don’t set the example, then we’re hypocrites; hopefully, this will be an incentive for others to follow.

Easement – National Grid (Samuel Gorton School) request for signature on a grant of easement for three poles to be located at the Samuel Gorton School, Draper Avenue, property.

MOTION 2012-175: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Friel, to approve the easement.

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 2012-176: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the bid for digital piano be awarded to Avery Piano, in the amount of \$12,988, per the bid tabulation.

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 2012-177: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the bid for electric service and generator be awarded to D&D Electric Company in the amount of \$31,497 as per the bid tabulation.

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:

Superintendent Horoschak commended Mr. Jansson and Mr. LaPlante regarding the fire code upgrade being completed and school opening on time. He said he felt if there had been any issues that the Committee had been kept informed.

Mr. Nadeau commented that he was still angry about schools being placed on warning status by RIDE. It's Gist who should be put on warning. When you have schools in Barrington and West Greenwich rated lower than schools in Providence there's something wrong with the rating system that they keep throwing at us.

Public comment:

Darlene Netcoh commented the school classification system is obviously rigged in favor of charter schools. She said the Met School had a 15% proficiency rating up from 4% in 2009. She compared the figures to Warwick's overall proficiency rating of 57% which she acknowledged could be higher. None of our schools should be on the warning status. We have a good school system and principals and teachers in the buildings are working hard to make sure students succeed and it's disheartening to be told we're typical and to be put on warning. She also commented on summer school, saying kids don't have to go to summer school, if they came to school every day and went to department night and asked for what they need and did their work.

MOTION 2012-178: 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: 8:10 p.m.

Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk