

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of October 9, 2012
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, October 9, 2012. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado, Chair

Christopher E. Friel

M. Terri Medeiros

[Note Mr. Maloney and Mr. Nadeau present at approximately 6:30 p.m.)

ADMINISTRATION

Richard D'Agostino, Acting Superintendent

Dennis Mullen, Director of Secondary Education

Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer

Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2012-216: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Friel, 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. – absent for vote
Christopher E. Friel - Aye Eugene A. Nadeau - absent for vote
M. Terri Medeiros – Aye

Meeting reconvened 7:05 p.m. with the following present

Patrick E. Maloney, Jr., Vice Chair

Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

Student comments:

Codi Maynard (grade 6) Greenwood Elementary School

Recognitions:

New England Reading Association Special Recognition Award – Ms. Lynn Dambruch

Warwick Nominee for Teacher of the Year – Mr. Peter Kiley

Rhode Island Elementary art Educator of the Year 2012 – Kimberly Markarian

Dr. Richard D'Agostino recognized the efforts of Kathy Gage, a nurse at Pilgrim, for her role in the Vaccinate Before You Graduate program

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2012-217: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of Open Session for September 4, 2012, September 11, 2012 and September 20, 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 2012-218: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for September 4, 2012 and September 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

[Executive Minutes for September 20, 2012 will be tabled]

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Approval of transfers:

MOTION 2012-219: Moved by Mr. Maloney, 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 2012-220: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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 2012-221: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Amy Griffin**, Title I Parent Program Facilitator, part-time position, be approved pending continued availability of federal grant funds.

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 2012-222: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Allison Amaral**, Assistant Principal-Aldrich Junior High School, Step 1 of the Administrative Pay Scale, be approved pending receipt of State and National BCI.

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 2012-223: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the retirement of **Barbara Morrocco**, elementary teacher at Warwick Neck Elementary School, be accepted effective October 5, 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

Appointments:

MOTION 2012-224: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Donald Gregory**, budget and technology systems analyst, be approved effective upon School Committee approval and pending receipt of State and National BCI.

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 2012-225: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Maloney, that the appointment of **Kerry Thibault**, special education teacher assistant (therapeutic classroom) at Wickes Elementary School, be approved effective upon School Committee approval.

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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Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2012-226: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement** of **Sharon Cramer**, cleaner (Pilgrim High School) be accepted effective September 13, 2012; and that the **retirement** of **Frank Cardillio, Sr.**, area maintenance and custodian supervisor be accepted effective December 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

GBP Update:

Ms. Bilodeau provided an update on the status of senior projects: we are tracking 711 seniors, 450 of them have approved project proposals, and 169 have completed between one and 15 hours of required field work with their mentor.

Discussion regarding the recent decision to discontinue the mentor component of the senior project, as we know it, for the class of 2013. This decision was reached because a RI House Bill H7077 was passed in June that requires all mentors working with students to have both a federal and state background check. Depending on what a revised bill does in the next legislative session, this discontinuation of the mentor component could be for this year only. We are working on details for a suitable alternative for this year's senior class; i.e. expert interviews via e-mail, which will help complete their senior project graduation requirement and at the same time remain in compliance with the new law. Mr. Mullen commented we have devised system we thought was fair – 3 categories: (1) those who have finished – they are done; (2) those completed more than 1 through 14 hours, the hours completed will count, but the remainder will be done through the electronic interview process; and (3) those who have not started will do all mentoring through the electronic interview process. Comments and discussion included could a student working with a mentor that has a BCI check continue to work with that mentor? The answer was no, all mentoring has stopped, face to face cannot continue. Ms. Bilodeau advised that the revised document is on our website. Ms. Healey remarked that new BCI checks would occur every year as students pick mentors, and there would be clerical work involved, especially with tracking. It would be necessary to maintain records; as we could be liable if we don't have proper tracking documentation. Ms. Medeiros noted that RIDE did not know about it until we came forward. Mr. Maloney remarked that if the school department doesn't follow the law, the state can cut its funding. The Chair remarked – the General Assembly just interrupted the education of 711 students with this law – it's disgraceful.

**Approval of Toll Gate High School Cross Country
Invitational Trip to New York**

MOTION 2012-227: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the Toll Gate High School Cross Country trip to New York (10/12/12 to 10/13/12 – one night).

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

Update of district tuition payment obligations – Mr. Ferrucci updated costs of Warwick students attending non-special education programs out of district. Non-charter School programs: Number of students budgeted were 26 at a cost of \$291,000; the actual students are 30 and the tuition cost to be paid is \$217,770. Charter School programs students budgeted 35 at a cost of \$326,620; actual number of students 45 at a cost of \$449,685. We have a budget shortfall of <\$49,835>, which we address during the next round of preparing recommended revised budget.

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Title Change – Ms. Healey recommended a title change for Mr. Jansson officially from “construction coordinator” to “assistant director-construction.” His job duties and his compensation will remain the same as will benefit entitlements. Mr. Maloney commented he wished to thank Mr. Jansson for savings us millions of dollars and finding grant money.

MOTION 2012-228: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to accept the recommendation that Mr. Jansson’s title be “assistant director-construction.”

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

FY 2013 Monthly Fiscal Report – presented by Mr. Ferrucci:

For the Period ending 9/27/12

Total Revenue Received	\$122,647,500
Total Expenditures:	\$ 21,073,259
Total Encumbrances:	\$ 11,048,080

[excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs

Approved Budget 7/10/12	Revised Approved Budget 8/14/12	Year to Date Exp./Encumber 9/27/12	Percentage of non-staff costs
\$24,673,572	\$24,825,106	\$13,761,913	55.4%

Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2012-229: Moved by Mr. Friel, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for environmental lead re-inspections be awarded to Alpha Environmental, in the amount of \$12,380 as per bid summary.

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 2012-230: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for #2 fuel oil/diesel fuel be awarded to Superior Plus Energy Services for #2 fuel oil and Santa Buckley Energy for diesel fuel as per bid summary.

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 2012-231: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Furtado, that the change order for Fire code Project Contingency Fund 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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**Adoption of Policies:
 Exclusion of School Committee Members from
 Warwick School Committee Pension Plan – 2nd reading**

Ms. Healey said this is the same policy which was presented at the August regular meeting and comes before you for the second reading. Ms. Medeiros commented she was not comfortable making a decision for someone coming after her.

MOTION 2012-232: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Mr. Maloney, to approve the second reading as written.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

Information and proposals: Dr. D’Agostino, thanked the School Committee, for having confidence in him to lead the school department, as well as faculty, staff and other supporters for assisting him in a seamless transition. Dr. D’Agostino said when asked about the position, he said he had three goals for the school department: improve communication, trust people to do their jobs and establish teamwork, which he called an important ingredient in the education field. If we have these components, then we have the equipment to address any challenges in the future, such as declining enrollment, rising gas, fuel and technology costs and attending to special needs of students. Dr. D’Agostino said he would like to see the Long Range Planning Committee develop a five-year plan for the future of Warwick schools, and he wants input on the committee from the community as well as the city.

Public comment:

Student David Tibbetts, a senior at Pilgrim, said seniors are scared and feel unsure. We feel we have been cheated and wronged. No one came down to the schools to ask our opinions. He said it’s important for seniors to know where they stand, as they plan for the future after high school, to make sure they pass for graduation. We want reassurance that nothing else will change. Darlene Netcoh commented again that we don’t need the senior project. Senior year is hard enough. I know of students that are leaving the district to avoid senior project. David Testa, a parent, remarked that if the public wants to see changes, the way to do that is to send a letter to your representative asking that the law be changed. I think we should focus more on the portfolio. The portfolio, the senior project and NECAP is a lot to ask of a 17 or 18 year old kid to graduate. Amy Frank, parent, whose son graduated from Toll Gate, said the department needs to rethink the senior project. She said her son graduated in the top 10 of his class, and the project was a waste of his time, as it distracted from his AP classes and all other school work. She asked why Warwick was asking extra of its students when other districts aren’t doing the same.

Mary Townsend asked when First Student would return with an update on training and other issues that are arising. Chairperson Furtado said they will be here at our next monthly meeting in November.

MOTION 2012-233: Moved by Mr. Maloney, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, 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: 8:45 p.m.
 Eugene A. Nadeau, Clerk