

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of February 12, 2013
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado, Chair
M. Terri Medeiros, Vice Chair
Jennifer Ahearn, Clerk
Eugene A. Nadeau
Karen Bachus

ADMINISTRATION

Richard D'Agostino, Acting Superintendent
Dennis Mullen, Director of Secondary Education
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer

Chair Furtado announced that all individuals to be discussed in executive session have been notified of their right to have the hearing in open session, but have opted to have it in executive session.

MOTION 2013-28: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, 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 M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus – [not present for vote]
Jennifer Ahearn – [not present for vote]

Open Meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.

The Chair announced that during executive session, a vote was taken by the School Committee on three personnel matters to accept the Superintendent's recommendation with a vote of 5-0 on two and 4-1 on the third.

Dr. D'Agostino: Madam Chair, I recommend the non-renewal of the 40 teaching positions and individuals discussed in executive session for the reasons discussed at that time.

MOTION 2013-29: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Nay
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Dr. D'Agostino: Madam Chair, I recommend the non-renewal of the two Administrators identified in your meeting packet and discussed in Executive Session for the reasons discussed at that time.

MOTION 2013-30: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

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Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2013-31: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for January 15, 2013 and January 29, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Ms. Ahearn had a correction to the January 29, 2013 Executive Minutes and Ms. Healey suggested that she e-mail that correction to her and the January 29, 2013 Executive Minutes would be tabled this evening.

MOTION 2013-32: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for January 15, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Approval of transfers:

MOTION 2013-33: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Approval of warrants:

MOTION 2013-34: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Professional personnel items: Appointments:

MOTION 2013-35: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the appointment of **Jenna Labush**, elementary teacher, step 1 be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Resignations:

MOTION 2013-36: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the **resignation of William Jutras**, assistant principal at Toll Gate High School, be accepted effective the end of the 2012-2013 school year and that the **resignation of Pauline Jutras**, science teacher at Toll Gate High School be accepted effective the last day of school.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Classified personnel items - Appointments:

MOTION 2013-37: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the appointment of **Patricia Carter**, teacher assistant at Oakland Beach elementary school be approved effective upon School Committee approval and that the appointment of **Elizabeth LeJeune**, teacher assistant at Greenwood elementary school be approved effective upon School Committee approval.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

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GBP Update: Mr. Mullen said that senior project early presentation was not held because of the weather and had to be postponed – but has been rescheduled for February 13, 2013. There is still a need for judges.

Approval to purchase a maintenance vehicle - Mr. LaPlante requested purchasing an additional truck with plow based on bids received previously. [Paul Masse Chevrolet, ¾ Ton pickup truck with plow, @ \$32,270.00]

MOTION 2013-38: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the bid for the additional maintenance vehicle be accepted.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Annual Report Warwick Special Education Advisory committee: Ms. Townsend commented that the members have a copy of the 3-page report. She invited all parents and special education students, as well as other students, to come to meetings which are held the second Wednesday of every month in the administration building.

Approval of Junior High School Business Curriculum and Technology Ed Curriculum: Dr. Anne Siesel reported that these two curriculums were the only ones that hadn't been updated, so teachers and department heads from all three junior highs got together this fall and worked on coming up with a uniform curriculum that would be common at junior highs across the district. Dr. Siesel said the Junior High Business Curriculum consists of one semester in grade 7, split between two quarters, one each of Keyboarding and Introduction to Digital Tools, which exposes students to Word, Excel and PowerPoint-type software. The Junior High Technology Education Curriculum consists of one quarter in grade 7 and two quarters in grade 8, starting with Graphic Communication in grade 7 and continuing with Pre-Engineering Robotics and Introduction to CAD in grade 8. School Committee members were impressed with the level of detail and praised Dr. Siesel for her work.

MOTION 2013-39: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the Junior High School Business Curriculum and Technology Ed Curriculum.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Report from First Student: Bill Roche, regional director for First Student, said he was provided with a list of specific questions to answer and areas to address, which mostly dealt with the amount of experience and training First Student staff undergo. He reported that there are four certified trainers on staff that conduct training sessions after undergoing their own certification. He commented that our staff has 170 years of experience in Warwick, and 50-plus years specifically of safety and special needs training. He introduced Sue Barbour (location manager) and Ann Wilson (safety coordinator and training manager) The certified trainers are currently under Ann, who has 25 years of experience 18 years of safety. The staff is trained in CPR, as well as monitors, aides and drivers. The question was asked if a monitor has the ability to suspend students, and the answer is no. If there is a problem it should be submitted to school administration for resolution. If there's an incident on the bus, the driver will document it and submit it to the administration for review. Another question was the professionalism of drivers and aides, and Mr. Roche said if there are any questions regarding professionalism they should be addressed to Sue. He said for the past 13 months, First Student relationships have now grown and we recognized that the 20 to 30 employees who worked with the same children would not be replaced in 13

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months. Mr. Roche said the First Student staff is courteous and caring and only has the best interests of the students at heart. Ms. Furtado thanked First Student for coming back at our request and answering questions. Transporting our kids is an important responsibility and we need to work together to make sure any concerns or problems are addressed immediately. She said she looked forward to continuing this ongoing dialogue. Mary Townsend said she was grateful that Mr. Roche and First Student answered the questions that were asked of them but asked if First Student provided a CPI [Crisis Prevention Intervention] instruction. She felt it was the responsibility of First Student to provide that, as Warwick Schools had to do it for our staff. She said she couldn't get over the fact that there were some poorly trained individuals when it came to dealing with medically fragile students. She had prepared a letter which she gave to Mr. Roche. Ms. Medeiros commented it's good to know about training DVDs and manuals, but it's another thing to actually put the training skills into practice. Ms. Ahearn asked if she could address a situation that happened recently, and Ms. Furtado said it was not an agenda item. Ms. Healey responded that she was not aware of any situation you are referring to, and it would be a highly confidential matter. You should communicate with Mr. Ferrucci who will communicate with First Student if a response is appropriate.

Approval of District Safety and Security Committee: - Dr. D'Agostino recommended Members of the District Safety and Security Committee who have agreed to participate. They are Mayor Scott Avedisian, Colonel Stephen McCartney, Fire chief Edmund Armstrong, Chair Bethany Furtado, Dr. Richard D'Agostino, Dennis Mullen, Robert Bushell, Frank Ricci, Marie Cote, Mary Townsend, Amie Galipeau, Jennifer Ahearn, Jim Ginolfi (or designee) and a student to be named.

MOTION 2013-40: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Committee as outlined.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Approval for Washington DC trip: Gorton, Aldrich, Winman Junior High Schools (grade 8)

Aldrich: May 1st through 4th, 2013;

Winman: May 2nd through the 4th, 2013

Gorton: May 23rd through 25th, 2013

This trip is directly related to the eighth grade and ninth grade curriculum.

MOTION 2013-41: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Aldrich, Winman and Gorton Jr. High Schools trip to Washington DC as outlined and presented.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Approval of Resolution authorizing RIHEBC bonding for fire code improvements. - Ms. Healey asked for approval of a resolution as follow up to resolution previously approved. This would authorize the execution and delivery of documents and agreements in connection with the issuance of bonds and notes of the city for the repair and renovation of school facilities, specifically those repairs and renovations needed to bring school buildings in line with fire code regulations. The Resolution presented needs to be amended as it was prepared in anticipation that the City Council would take action last evening (2/11/13) but will not be taking action until next Wednesday. Where it says "City Council has adopted" should be changed to "City Council is scheduled to adopt."

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**Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents
and Agreements in Connection with the Issuance of Bonds and
Notes of the City for the Repair and Renovation of School Facilities**

WHEREAS, the City Council is scheduled to adopt a Resolution authorizing the issuance of \$4,295,000 bonds and notes pursuant to Chapter 386/516 of the Public Laws of Rhode Island of 2006 and a vote of the electors of the city on November 7, 2006, to finance the repair and renovation of school facilities (the "Project");

WHEREAS, in order to obtain reimbursement from the state for the cost of interest payments on the bonds, the bonds must be issued through the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation ("RIHEBC"); and

WHEREAS, the School Committee also desires to take the steps to arrange for the financing of the Project through RIHEBC;

WHEREAS, the financing agreements (the "Financing Agreements") with RIHEBC include representations and covenants regarding the use of bond-financed school facilities in order to (a) confirm eligibility for state school construction aid and (b) maintain the tax-exempt status of the bonds; and

WHEREAS, the School Committee intends to allocate funds from the School Department Budget to pay debt service on the bonds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Superintendent and the Chairperson of the School Committee, acting singly, are hereby authorized and instructed to take all actions, and to execute and deliver the Financing Agreements in such form as they may deem necessary or desirable. Such officers are also authorized covenant to take all action, on behalf of the School Committee, necessary to insure that the Projects be and remain eligible for state housing aid reimbursement and to insure that interest on the bonds and notes will be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

SECTION 2. The School Committee and the School Department will cooperate with the City in record-keeping and actions required to be in compliance with all bond financing documents and required to maintain the tax-exempt status of the bonds and notes, including any post-issuance tax compliance procedures adopted by the City.

SECTION 3. From amounts appropriated by the City to fund the School Department's budget, the School Committee will annually allocate and pay sums sufficient to meet gross debt service on the bonds until the bonds are paid in full.

SECTION 4. The Superintendent and the Chairperson of the School Committee, acting singly, are hereby authorized and to do and perform all things necessary, desirable or advisable with respect to any matters contemplated by this resolution in order to effectuate the borrowing and the intent hereof.

SECTION 5. All acts which are in conformity with the purposes and intents of this resolution and in furtherance of the Project shall be, and the same hereby are, in all respects ratified, approved and confirmed.

SECTION 6. This Resolution will take effect upon its passage.

MOTION 2013-42: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Documents and Agreements in Connection with the Issuance of Bonds and Notes of the City for the Repair and Renovation of School Facilities, with change as noted.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado - Aye M. Terri Medeiros - Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

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FY 2013 Monthly Fiscal Budget – Presented by Mr. Ferrucci:
For the period ending 2/1/2013:

Total Revenue received	\$138,970,174
Total Expenditures	\$ 74,461,676
Total Encumbrances	\$ 8,774.284

[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	Revised Approved 12/11/12	Year to Date Exp.&Encumber 2/1/13	Percentage of Non Staff Costs
\$24,673,572	\$24,825,106	\$25,254,127	\$19,485,856	78.5%

Bids/Change Order:

MOTION 2013-43: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for automotive equipment for the Career Center, in the amount of \$11,593.08 be awarded to Snap-On Industrial as per bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

MOTION 2013-44: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the bid for exercise/workout equipment for Winman Junior High School in the amount of \$64,199.46 be awarded to Gym Source as per bid tabulation

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Ms. Furtado commented that this was a grant written by Matt Acciaioli and others

Mr. LaPlante explained that the Department of Labor does not allow the school department to do anything new, even though we have electricians on our staff. We are allowed to maintain current fixtures and electricity and anything that is new we must hire an electrician. This bid allows us to hire a contractor.

MOTION 2013-45: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for licensed electrician services be awarded to Dayco Electric as per bid tabulation

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Information and proposals

School Committee

Ms. Furtado mentioned that the VOWS Festivities scheduled for last Friday has been rescheduled to March 8th. She also reminded everyone that there are judges still needed for early senior projects.

Ms. Medeiros said the breakfast for VOWS benefit will be held at Dave's on March 3 (8:30 to 11:00 a.m.)

Ms. Ahearn proposed at the next meeting we discuss adding a student representative to this Committee.

Ms. Healey said the City Charter is very specific and she would have to research this. Mr. Nadeau said that in the school committee monthly magazine it was recommended that seniors be allowed to make recommendations to the School Committee about what they think. Ms. Healey said there is student comment on the agenda. Ms. Medeiros said they could comment in their student newspaper and they were welcomed any month to attend the meetings to comment, they don't need to be elected.

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Dr. D'Agostino said that after the Friday/Saturday snow storm, clean up took place on Sunday and Monday. Mr. LaPlante said maintenance and custodians put in 40 to 50 hours in 2-day period doing tremendous job and he publicly thanked them for how hard they worked.

Public comment: David Testa commented he thought Ms. Ahearn's proposal of a student sitting on the committee was a good idea. Other districts do it and hopefully there would be enough students excited enough to be involved. He cautioned about past practice of having the school department foot the bill for interest on bonds. When you have major upgrades to a school, the city will say the school department should pay the interest on the bonds. We have old buildings that are in need of repair and we will have to approve more bonds before we pay off the current ones. Pretty soon, we'll be looking at \$800,000 or \$900,000 and that money can buy a lot of technology and programs for schools.

Darlene Netcoh: commented on the evaluation system, Ms. Gist, and the Race to the Top money not helping students but going to charter schools and leadership academies. She said we do not have enough technology for our students, and with STAR being approved, we don't have technology in the school to run it. If the junior highs are combined, we will have no computer labs and no libraries.

Tracy McDermott said she wanted to make the distinction between CPR training and CPI training because it seems like whenever we bring up CPI, First Student's response always deals with CPR. CPI training deals with de-escalating behavior problems. She said she believed that First Student aides are not trained in that and they need that training. Our staff receives that training. There is a clear difference between CPR and CPI.

MOTION 2013-46: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Bethany A. Furtado - Aye M. Terri Medeiros - Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.