

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting of April 23, 2013
Open Budget Meeting

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School, on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, 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

MOTION 2013-92: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Ms. Ahearn, 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 – [not present for vote]
Eugene A. Nadeau – [not present for vote] Karen Bachus – [Aye]
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Open Meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

E. Paul Jansson, Construction Coordinator
David LaPlante, Director of Buildings & Grounds

Adoption of the FY14 Budget – Dr. D'Agostino presented the budget for the 2014 and asked if there were any questions regarding this budget.

Ms. Ahearn proposed adding centralized personnel supervisor. Dr. D'Agostino said we are looking at increasing hours to assist personnel that work three quarters of the year, and don't work during the summer. Mr. Ferrucci said the additional time had been included in the current budget.

Ms. Ahearn proposed adding \$45,000 to address the locker room situation, which is badly in need of repair in all three high schools. It was noted that refurbishing all locker rooms was listed at a \$45,000 cost, but the amendment to the budget was to add an additional \$45,000. David LaPlante commented that before the committee voted; he wanted to make it clear that \$45,000 is nowhere near enough what we would need to fully refurbish locker rooms at all three schools. He said his department started with general upgrades and painting of the locker rooms last year, but he said much more work needs to be done, as they are at least 40 to 50 years old. Dennis Mullen suggested refurbishing one locker room each year, adding that to do all three at once would involve at least a six-figure number in terms of cost. Ms. Bachus suggested tabling this while we look into and get a price and actually know what is needed before we take a vote on such matter.

MOTION 2013-93: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to table the increase for the locker rooms until more details are 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

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Mr. Nadeau proposed increasing the budget by \$69,000 (\$23,000 for each of the three high schools) for the express purpose of being used to tune and upgrade instruments. He said he wasn't sure what line item that would be under. He remarked that we have instruments in the orchestra and instruments in use that cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 that have never been tuned. Discussion included: Dr. Siesel, during her budget presentation, had increased her equipment non-technical line item by \$62,000, with the intention that money being used to tune and upgrade instruments as far as it would go. Over the past few years, that line item had been budgeted at \$7,000 to \$8,000 but was increased to \$69,000 in the current budget. Superintendent Dr. Richard D'Agostino added that the department has purchased five electronic pianos and has plans to move further in that direction to eliminate the need for tuning such instruments. He also said that instructors have also assisted students in tuning instruments.

MOTION 2013-94: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to increase the budget by \$69,000 (\$23,000 for each of the three high schools) for the express purpose of being used to tune and upgrade instruments.

MOTION FAILS (3-0)

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

Mr. Ahearn proposed adding a director of instructional technology. Ms. Healey said that legally you would not have to amend the budget, you would create a position, but not in this budget. Dr. D'Agostino commented that we are going in that direction.

Ms. Ahearn proposed adding a **math coach for the Voch Tech Center**. Ms. Healey said it would have to be a support teacher, because it would be teaching position. This position would be a one-half math teacher position, most likely at Step 5, at \$50,000 including fringe benefits. The reasoning for Step 5 is it is difficult to fill math teaching position.

MOTION 2013-95: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, to add a one-half time math teacher for Voch Tech students, seconded by Ms. Furtado.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Ms. Ahearn **proposed adding a K-12 science supervisor** into our current budget. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Nadeau. Discussion followed: presently Ryan Mullen, the math and science supervisor, handles those duties even though his background is rooted in mathematics. Ms. Ahearn commented that she felt it was an overwhelming task for the director [Mullen] to coordinate material for secondary and elementary for math and science. Ms. Medeiros said we have science kits in the elementary schools and department heads at the secondary level; I'm not sure we need another administrative position right now. Ms. Bachus remarked with all due respect, we should move to put department heads back into the junior highs before we put someone into science. She also said we have other issues to address, such as reading. Ms. Bachus called the question.

MOTION 2013-96: Moved by Ms. Ahearn seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to add a K-12 science administrator into the budget.

MOTION FAILS (3-0)

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

Mr. Ferrucci confirmed the **recommended changes**: The Budget before was \$160,575,627, adding a (one-half) math teacher at \$50,000, the **recommended budget would be \$160,625,627**. We will be sending the **recommended budget for support at \$3,853,408**, which was adjusted from \$3,803,408. These adjustments will be made and sent to the City.

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MOTION 2013-97: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the FY13-14 Budget as amended.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Chrome Books – Mr. Ferrucci requested adding Chrome Books and carts (specially made for housing these pieces of equipment) to our approved Peripheral Bid List.

MOTION 2013-98: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve adding Chrome Books and Carts to the Peripheral Bid Roster approved at School Committee Meeting on September 11, 2012.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Resolution – Same Sex marriage:

Ms. Bachus explained the intention of the Resolution was to join in support with the City Council, which passed the same resolution on April 8th, in letting people know this is a safe place, the city is a safe place, kids are safe here, and to prevent any bullying that goes on. Mr. Nadeau requested to strike language “and not to defer the decision to the general public through a referendum” which appears at the end of the Resolution. He said he wants this to go before the voters. Ms. Bachus commented that this is an *amicus* Resolution that the City Council voted for, and it is not for us to change, and said she believed it would be inappropriate to vote on such an amendment

MOTION 2013-99: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to amended the Resolution by removing the words “and not to defer the decision to the general public through a referendum.”

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

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

RESOLUTION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY JOINING WITH THE WARWICK CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 5056 AND SENAT BILL 38

Resolved that

WHEREAS, the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Warwick are matters of paramount importance to the Warwick School Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Charter establishing Rhode Island promised “to secure (her residents) in the free exercise and enjoyment of all civil and religious rights; and

WHEREAS, limiting gay and lesbian couples to civil unions while allowing heterosexual couples the institution of marriage creates a “separate but equal” discriminatory environment; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick School Committee desires to adopt the statement of the Human Rights Campaign: “Together we will show the nation that we believe all Americans deserve to be treated fairly and equally under the law – no matter who they love” and

WHEREAS, marriage provides couples with the tools and security to build a life together, to care for each other, to protect their families and provide what every child needs and deserves, namely the unique recognition that only marriage can impart; and

WHEREAS, children of same-sex couples are not currently afforded the same safeguards and respect as afforded to heterosexual couples; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick School Committee recognizes the diversity of its constituents and strongly supports the equal treatment of same-sex couples by supporting their right to enter into the lawful institution of marriage; and

WHEREAS, the Warwick City Council has adopted a virtually identical Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Warwick School Committee joins with the Warwick City Council and endorses passage of House Bill 5056 and Senate Bill 38; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Warwick School Committee joins with the Warwick City Council in urging Governor Lincoln Chafee and esteemed Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly to pass Marriage Equality legislation in the 2013 legislative session ~~and not to defer the decision to the general public through a referendum.~~

The Superintendent of Schools is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Senators and Representatives from the City of Warwick.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

MOTION 2013-100: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Resolution, as amended. [removing the words: ~~and not to defer the decision to the general public through a referendum.~~]

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2013-101: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for security improvements be awarded to Dane Tech, Inc., in the amount of \$256,482.53 as per bid tabulations.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2013-102: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for security hardware be awarded to Dane Tech, Inc., in the amount of \$36,635.20 as per bid tabulations.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Special Meeting dates: School Closure – at Veterans Memorial High School:

May 2, 2013 – 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 7, 2013 – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

May 9, 2013 – 6:00 p.m

Regular Meeting May 14th.

MOTION 2013-103: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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: 7:45 p.m.