

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting June 27, 2013
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building on Thursday, June 27, 2013. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado, Chair
M. Terri Medeiros, Vice Chair [present later in the meeting]
Jennifer Ahearn, Clerk
Eugene A. Nadeau
Karen Bachus [present later in the meeting]

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

The Chair announced that there will be quite a bit to cover in executive session, and there will be no votes on the budget this evening. There will be no public comment in the open session this evening. This will be a workshop with the School Committee and Administration for discussion. The public was invited to stay and listen. Cuts will be taken at the July 16th regular meeting at Pilgrim High School. We will now go into Executive. The question was asked "why not stay into open now," and the Chair responded that there were issues to be taken care of in Executive before we go into open session; that is the way the meeting is posted and scheduled and is always the order of the meeting.

MOTION 2013-147: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, 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 – Aye Karen Bachus – [not present for vote]
Jennifer Ahearn – Aye

Open Meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m. The Chair announced that there were 52 seats available for the public within the room and all others would have to remain in the hallway. There will be no action taken on the budget this evening; the vote will be on July 16th at Pilgrim High School.

Appointment:

MOTION 2013-148: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the appointment of **Thomas Flanders**, head coach for girls' soccer at Pilgrim High School, is approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Adoption of Summer School Tuition Rates for FY 2014 - Mr. Ferrucci recommended that tuition for summer school of 2013 be increased by \$50.00 per enrollee. This recommendation is proposed due to the budget situation we face for FY2014 and comes with noted concerns for families that this may impact. With an estimated participation of 300 students, it is anticipated this would generate additional revenue of \$15,000 with no corresponding expense.

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	Current summer school tuition		Proposed summer school tuition	
	Resident	Non Resident	Resident	Non Resident
One subject	\$220	\$245	\$270	\$295
Two subjects	\$440	\$470	\$490	\$520
Three subjects	\$660	\$690	\$710	\$740
15 day subject	\$150	\$175	\$200	\$225
11 day subject	\$120	\$145	\$170	\$195

MOTION 2013-149: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the summer school tuition rates as presented be approved.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Bethany A. Furtado – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau – [absent for vote]
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Karen Bachus - Aye

BCI Policy Review: Attorney Healey commented on the mandates for a State BCI check for all volunteers who “may have direct or unmonitored” contact with students. Notices will be sent out to principals to make sure volunteers have a state BCI check as soon as possible. A policy will be prepared for the July and August meetings for passage. The Warwick Police do not charge Warwick residents for the State BCI. The reports are on file in the building where the person volunteers in a confidential location.

FY2014 Budget Workshop – Mr. Ferrucci presentation of the FY 2014 Administrator’s Recommended Budget Balancing Proposal: Based on the numerous meeting that our staff and Directors have undertaken these past few weeks, outlined below is a list of administration’s recommended budget adjustments for consideration by the School Committee in order to achieve an Original Recommended Balanced Budget for the 2013-2014 school year. These budget adjustments are necessary due to two facts; first the City’s partial funding of the school department’s request and secondarily the decision to maintain all school buildings within the district until a long term plan is presented to the School Committee.

A summary of the current status of the Fy2014 Budget is:

April 23, 2013 - The School Committee Adopted a Recommended Budget of \$160,625,627. Within this amount, the School’s had requested local support to be \$122,498,040, which represented an increase of \$3,853,408 from the Fy13 allocation.

May 28, 2013 - The School Committee presented its Adopted Recommended Budget to the City Council for their consideration.

June 03, 2013 - The City Council approved a Fy2014 City Budget that included an Allocation from the city to the schools of \$119,082,464. The City did not recognize the Carryover surplus as revenue and thus, their authorized School Budget for Fy2014 is \$157,125,051.

June 10, 2013 - The School Department received notice that the Mayor chose not to sign the City Council’s adopted budget thereby having the City Council’s Budget being affirmed.

June 27, 2013 - The School Department’s Administration Team will be presenting proposed cuts and additional revenue that, if adopted, would exceed the City’s Approved School Budget for Fy2014 by \$100,000. This \$100,000 is additional revenue the City has not acknowledged. Warwick Public School’s Original Budget will be \$157,225,051.

Outlined below is Warwick Public School’s Directors recommended budget balancing proposal. With regards to the proposed cuts, they are in priority order based on the recommendations of our Directors. Those items of the highest priority are listed last. It is our recommendation to re-seed the last items on the list, first in Fy2014 when/if funds become available. (These items would be re-seeded during our request to the School Committee for consideration of a revised budget, which we hope would be around the 16th of July, once the Fy13 year end is preliminarily closed.)

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Description of Proposal	Line Item Affected	Amount	Running Balance
Projected Shortfall-SC Recommended Adopted 4-26-13			\$3,853,408
Additional Revenue from City	Acct# 41210	\$ 437,832	\$3,415,576
Correction to Summer Sch. Principal	Salary & Fringe	<\$ 70,000>	\$3,345,576
Math Textbooks Proposal Under Budget	Acct# 56401	<\$ 135,000>	\$3,210,576
Deduct Math Textbooks-Purchased Fy13	Acct# 56401	<\$ 515,000>	\$2,695,576
Leave Vacant Special Education	Salary & Fringe	<\$ 150,000>	\$2,545,576
Director Position			
Fuel Cuts-Gas, Diesel, Heating Oil.	Accts# 56202,56203, 56209	<\$ 200,000>	\$2,345,576
(Current Price per gallon down from Projected budget costs as of 01-2013. Futures contract should be awarded to take advantage of this current pricing.)			
10% Across the Board Reduction in Purchase Services. Budget Managers to determine impact.	Accts# 54xxx	<\$ 110,000>	\$2,235,576
10% Across the Board Reduction in Supplies. All Budget Managers to determine impact.	Accts# 56xxx	<\$ 80,000>	\$2,155,576
10% Across the Board Reduction in Equipment. All Budget Managers to determine impact.	Accts # 57xxx	<\$ 100,000>	\$2,055,576
Food Service-Eliminate Operating Losses	Acct#59012	<\$ 255,576>	\$1,800,000
Cut Programs to achieve an additional 10 certified staff positions laid off.	Salary & Fringe	<\$ 1,000,000>	\$ 800,000
Cut Music/Arts Equipment Accts	Accts# 57xxx	<\$ 50,000>	\$ 750,000
Cut Technology Related Hardware 10%	Acct#57309	<\$ 50,000>	\$ 700,000
Transportation-Increase walking distances to state maximums and stop pickup /drop off at day care centers that are not on bus route.	Acct# 56401	<\$ 150,000>	\$ 550,000
Cut Interscholastic Sports by 10%	Salary and Fringe	<\$ 90,000>	\$ 460,000
Cut Extra Curricula Activities by 10% and supplies		<\$ 10,000>	\$ 450,000
Cut Contingencies-Charter School Tuitions	Acct# 55660	<\$ 50,000>	\$ 400,000
Cut Contingencies-Out of District Tuition	Acct# 55630	<\$ 150,000>	\$ 250,000
Additional Revenue Summer Sch. Tuitions	Acct# 41704	\$ 15,000	\$ 235,000
Limit Outside Groups Access to school property thereby reducing event overtime.	Acct# 51203 & Fringe	<\$ 45,000>	\$ 190,000
Cut Professional Development -Services	Acct# 53301	<\$ 40,000>	\$ 150,000
Cut Interscholastic Sports by an additional 10%.	Salary and Fringe and supplies	<\$ 90,000>	\$ 60,000
Cut Extra Curricula Activities by an additional 10%.		<\$ 10,000>	\$ 50,000
Cut New .5 Math Position	Salary & Fringe	<\$ 50,000>	Balanced

NOTE: First \$600,000 of Fy13 Surplus going to cover Professional Development, which needs to be added. Surplus above six hundred thousand dollars to be used to reseed expenses, starting at bottom and work up the list.

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Mr. Bushell commented that items that were not put into the budget that are needed and were cut well before this was set up.

Dr. D'Agostino said we are trying our best to keep the line and keep things transparent. We need to examine what we are doing and how we are doing it, and the long term facilities planning committee is important to that, with declining enrollment and finances, and we cannot rely on surplus. He thanked all the directors and administrators for preparing the information.

The chair commented there will be no decision made this evening. We have the next three weeks to ask our questions and do our investigation, and on July 16th we will take up a line by line discussion with the input of the public at that time.

Approval of Food Service Provider: Mr. Ferrucci reported that we have reviewed and considered the following options: (1) bring the program in house and have our staff run the program; (2) conduct an RFP on our own as has been done in the past; or (3) work with the state-recommended vendor that was selected by an RFP process administered by the RI Department of Education. The first two options were discussed and the recommendation was for the third option. Discussion regarding advising Aramark our district has been operating with a staff for many years; these folks live in our community and acknowledge our standards. If we get support, Aramark will set up a job recruitment opportunity, our staff will be identified by the middle of July, and medical coverage would start August 1st. We need a contract for the July 16th meeting.

MOTION 2013-150: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the recommendation.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 abstain)

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

MOTION 2013-151: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, 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: 9:50 p.m.