

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, November 12, 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
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
John Gannon, Interim Director of Special Services

MOTION 2013-244: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, 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 – [note present for vote] Karen Bachus – [note present for vote]
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Student comments: Sophia Carter and Chloe Nanian – Grade 8 at Aldrich Junior High
Berit Olsson, Mathilde Cyr and Sara Cuddy – Grade 6 at Cedar Hill Elementary

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2013-245: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for October 8, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2013-246: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for October 8, 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 2013-247: Moved by Ms. Bachus, 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

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013 - Open Session

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2013-248: Moved by Ms. Bachus, 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 2013-249: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the appointment of **Allison Nascenzi**, acting principal at Aldrich Junior High School, step 1 of the administrative pay scale be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2013-250: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the following **retirements be accepted: Donna Murgó**, art teacher at Pilgrim High School be accepted effective January 22, 2014; **Marilyn Wright**, elementary teacher at Holden Elementary School effective November 8, 2013; **Kathryn Keenan**, early childhood coordinator/principal at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center effective December 30, 2013.

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:

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2013-251: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to accept the following **retirements: Richard D. Curci**, mechanic-maintenance department effective December 20, 2013; **Denise A. DiMeo**, clerk-Warwick Career Center effective December 13, 2013; **Donna M. Fondi**, teacher assistant, Holliman Elementary effective December 20, 2013; **Nancy Inman**, teacher assistant Drum Rock Early Childhood Center effective December 20, 2013; **Patricia Narcavage**, kindergarten teacher assistant Wickes Elementary effective December 20, 2013; **Nancy Perreault**, teacher assistant, Drum Rock Early Childhood Center effective December 20, 2013; and to accept the **resignations of: Marie F. Hytinen**, accounting technician, effective October 10, 2013 and **Nancy A. Ricci**, secretary Scott Elementary School effective October 20, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2013-252: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the following coaching appointments: **James Reynolds**, Freshman Coach boys' basketball Pilgrim High; **Stephen Henn**, assistant coach boys' ice hockey Pilgrim High; **Michael Champagne**, head coach boys' ice hockey Toll Gate High; **John Adamo**, assistant coach boys' ice hockey Toll Gate, **Jonathan Deming**, head coach boys' indoor track Toll Gate (one year only); **Thomas McCormick**, assistant coach, girls' ice hockey Toll Gate; **Rachel MacRae**, head coach girls'

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013 - Open Session

gymnastics Toll Gate (one year only pending receipt of RIDE Athletic Coach Permit; **Stacey Capone-Melino**, head coach girls' gymnastics Warwick Veterans; **Michael Boyajian**, head coach boys' ice hockey Warwick Veterans (one year only); **Daniel DeLuca**, assistant coach boys' ice hockey Warwick Veterans (one year only pending receipt of certifications); **Brendan Friel**, head coach wrestling, Warwick Veterans; **Alex Gregson**, assistant coach girls' basketball Warwick Veterans (one year only).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

GBP Update – Ms. Bilodeau reported 664 seniors have submitted proposal letters. February 10, 2014 is scheduled for early presentation.

Approval of foreign language student trip to Canada (April 2014 school vacation) - Ms. Jackson reported the trip will be to Quebec City and there are 27 students registered at this time. The chaperon ratio will be 1 to 10. The time frame is April 21st to April 24th. This is her eighth trip to Quebec with students.

MOTION 2013-253: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the foreign language student trip to Canada during the April 2014 school vacation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of secondary health curriculum and Sr. High physical education curriculum and elective courses: Presented by Dr. Siesel who reported that both the health and physical education curricula are aligned to Rhode Island health and physical education standards. Teachers and department chairs representing all secondary schools developed the curricula.

MOTION 2013-254: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, approval of secondary health curriculum.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2013-255: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the Sr. High physical education curriculum.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of contract award for cosmetology work stations at WACTC – It was recommended that 13 styling salon stationers for the Career and Tech Center be purchased from Burmax Company for a total of \$10,611. The funds are budgeted in the Perkins Grant as well as in the Career and Tech's general fund equipment budgets.

MOTION 2013-256: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to purchase 13 cosmetology work stations from Burmax Company for a total of \$10,611.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013 - Open Session

Approval to prepare Phase III Bond Resolution – With Phase II of the Fire Code Projects coming to completion, we are turning our attention to Phase III which will take place during the summer of 2014. There has been a significant savings comparing the budget for Phase II and what was actually spent from the authorized bond for this summer's projects. Phase III has a budget of \$3,395,541, and included are the two junior high schools, Aldrich and Gorton, which are budgeted at \$911,649 and \$1,143,750 respectively. Communications with the Fire Marshall has given both Aldrich and Gorton a one year reprieve from the requirements that the fire code work be completed. This reprieve is due to the consideration of possibly closing these two schools. We have adjusted our calculations of what should be considered for bonding for capital projects for the summer of 2014. It is recommended that a bond in the amount of \$3,374,600 be considered for doing final fire code work as well as some district capital projects. If approval is granted for authorization to prepare a Bond Resolution, it would be presented in December for Committee approval. If then approved, it would move forward with a City Council request.

MOTION 2013-257: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, approval to prepare Phase III Bond Resolution.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Motion to reconsider/new motion regarding junior high school librarians –

MOTION 2013-258: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the Warwick School Department have a full time librarian in the three junior high schools at the earliest possible time.

Ms. Ahearn remarked that she had emails and calls from teachers and has listened to parent concerns about the current 60% librarian staffing management decision that has impacted our Jr. High students for this year. Due to the timing of this request, I am not swaying from my current position, as I would not approve a permanent position at this time and support growing staff head count, when we as a district could be faced with the hard reality of consolidation. Consolidation could require staff reductions over and above current WTU contractual obligations. Just the interview and hiring process alone would take us into December or January before someone could be fit into this slot, then for us to have to turn around and lay-off this individual within 5 months, have the district sustain the position as a head count loss while also picking up unemployment costs, seems fiscally careless at this time. I do recognize the need and I am fully prepared today to approve and support the installation of a termed position, for the remainder of this school year. But because of contract restrictions we as a School Committee would need Union support and agreement to put someone into this position for only the remainder of the school year. If an agreement cannot be reach within a week, then I would like to see saving of this position applied to support library operations to reflect 21st century technology to positively affect our library resources long term; such as automated systems that check books in and out. This technology could reduce the clerical demands of the staff long term and promote advancements in all of our libraries at the secondary level. I understand how the current librarian media specialists feel overwhelmed with this change in management expectation for this year, and I fully applaud their professionalism to keep doing the best job for all our students at each location. I have seen their numbers that show a decrease in the number of books checked out, and I fully support and see no reason why we could not have other individuals perform this administrative/clerical function, to help support student needs and support the current librarian staff when they are not within a building.

Mr. Nadeau said he agreed with the comments made. We need approval for the next seven months of the school year to benefit the 1,500 students and teachers in our schools. It is important to staff the librarian position at all three junior high schools to benefit students.

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013 - Open Session

CALL FOR VOTE ON MOTION 2013-258 which stated: “Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the Warwick School Department have a full time librarian in the three junior high schools at the earliest possible time.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes 3 nays)
2 ayes: Mr. Nadeau and Ms. Bachus)
3 nays: Ms. Furtado, Ms. Medeiros, Ms. Ahearn

Approval of Blue Cross Cost Agreement - presented by Mr. Ferrucci. Blue Cross has historically required a separate agreement be signed by each member of WB Health. There are two documents that Blue Cross requires each member to sign. The first is a Cost Plus agreement for medical only, and the second is a cost-plus agreement for work related injuries. Both these contracts are consistent with contracts that have been used for the past twenty year. Warwick Public Schools has signed them in the past as required by membership agreements with WB Health. These agreements have been reviewed and it is recommended that they be signed and returned to WB Health.

MOTION 2013-259: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, for approval to sign the contracts as presented and recommended.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)
Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Approval of recording process of School Committee meetings – Ms. Ahearn had requested discussion regarding recording the meetings and had asked Dr. D’Agostino for IT information to see what the costs would be. Dr. D’Agostino said video cost \$11,000 with annual maintenance of \$13,000. Ms. Furtado commented that City Council meets at a permanent spot, whereby we sometimes have to change the places we meet. Discussion regarding audio only.

Policy JEA: Compulsory Attendance Ages (first reading)

MOTION 2013-260: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the first reading of Policy JEA compulsory attendance ages.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)
Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Policy JE: Student attendance (first reading)

MOTION 2013-261: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve the first reading of Policy JE Student attendance.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)
Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Policy IGAE/IGAF – Health Education/Physical Education (first reading)

MOTION 2013-262: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of Policy IGAE/IGAF – health education/physical education first reading.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)
Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Policy IGCA Summer School (first reading) –

MOTION 2013-263: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve Policy IGCA summer school first reading.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)
Bethany A. Furtado – Aye M. Terri Medeiros – Aye
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013 - Open Session

FY 2013 year end report – Mr. Ferrucci – At the School Committee meeting on July 10, 2013 we presented a preliminary financial report indicating a general fund surplus of \$2,551,164. Within this presentation we highlighted the fact that we had \$9,236,684 allocated to pay salary and fringe benefits during the summer for costs incurred before June 30th. Also noted was the fact that district budget managers had \$3,104,988 outstanding in open purchase orders. Of the \$9,236,684 set aside, we spent \$8,733,881 resulting in an additional \$502,803 being added to the surplus. Budget managers turned in their final invoices against open purchase orders. Of the \$3,104,988 in open purchase orders, we spent \$2,405,985, adding an additional \$699,003 to the surplus.

FY 2014 monthly fiscal report - Monthly Fiscal Report - For the period ending 10/31/2013

Total Revenue received	\$129,614,427
Total Expenditures	34,130,443
Total Encumbrances	10,919,589

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs

Approved Budget 7/16/13	Revised Approved Budget 7/16/13	Year to Date Revised Approved TBD	Percentage of Exp.&Encumber 10/31/13	Non Staff Costs
\$24,842,824	\$25,762,824		\$15,975,536	62.0%

Bids and change orders:

MOTION 2013-264: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that at the bid for digital pianos in the amount of \$7,010 be awarded to Musician Friends as per bid tabulation presented to Committee

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Adoption of Policies:

IKFA Policy – Warwick Diploma System-Waiver Amendment (second reading)

MOTION 2013-265: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the second reading of Policy IKFA – Warwick Diploma System – Waiver amendment.

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 Members, Superintendent and Staff:

Ms. Ahearn inquired about BCI checks for transportation employees. Mr. Nadeau commented it was wonderful to see that parents and students care about their schools. I'm sorry that I wasn't strong enough to convey the success of ALAP and the full-time librarian at Gorton; my sincere appreciation to all of you. Dr. D'Agostino noted that the long-term planning committee would meet Friday to finalize the 5-year plan and public meeting dates will be scheduled shortly. Ms. Sara Monaco gave an overview of the educator evaluation system, common core state standards, the STAR assessment system, RTI, professional development involved in this process.

Public Comment

Mary Tow thanked Mr. Nadeau and Ms. Bachus for putting kids before contracts and other issues. She commented that libraries with automated checkout have librarians on staff to assist patrons, saying I've assisted many students who didn't like to read until they found the right books. In general comments made regarding

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting November 12, 2013 - Open Session

General comments regarding RTI takes time away from subjects, there is a lack of proper training, there is a lack of technology, more time doing paperwork than instruction, time slot where other students have to be quiet because some students need more time; there are grouping concerns, planning issues, servicing students not on the roster, no time to enter data; more testing so missing instruction; takes time away from curriculum; 150 minutes per week; if test scores affecting teacher evaluation, then when is someone else teaching my students; IEPs not met;

Comments regarding the librarian position: Traci McDermott said she was frustrated and sad that three people can't vote for a full-time librarian for our students. Years ago libraries had full-time librarians and full-time library clerks. The clerk positions were eliminated six years ago. Darlene Netcoh thanked Mr. Nadeau and remarked it's disgraceful that the committee took \$120,000 and used it to create a district evaluation position instead of reinstating the librarian position. You said you would restore positions cut from the budget with surplus money in order of priority, but obviously that isn't true. A concerned parent asked if students would have to endure two years without a full-time library media specialist in the event all three junior highs remain open next school year. David Testa commented it's simply not fair to the students to give them two years without a librarian; if we don't value a librarian, I think that's an embarrassment as a district. Sandra Savella, library media specialist at Aldrich, said she spoke with professors at the University of Rhode Island about the availability of a librarian candidate should the position get reinstated.

Gary Costantino thanked Mr. Nadeau and Ms. Bachus for sticking up for what you believe in. He said the long term planning committee has too many conflicts of interest. They need to do away with this committee and hire an outside company with zero ties. As a taxpayer, I would feel a lot more comfortable with a professional committee with zero ties. A parent with children at Veterans, remarked that it is sad when numbers present out children. Gabrielle a student at Gorton said she didn't like losing all her friends and her teachers, and invited the Committee to come and follow her around to see what is going on. Donna Traverse said she came to listen about the librarian position and was very disappointed that the committee was saying no to something that is so needed. Commenting on the long-term committee, she said there are principals serving on the committee, and no one from either high school should be serving. She felt an outside agency should be hired.

MOTION 2013-268: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Bethany A. Furtado - Aye M. Terri Medeiros - [not present for vote]
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Meeting adjourned @ 9:55 p.m.