

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting December 10, 2013
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, December 10, 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
John Gannon, Interim Director of Special Services

MOTION 2013-269: 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 – [not present for vote]
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye Karen Bachus – [not present for vote]
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

Meeting reconvened at 7:00p.m. also present:
Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education
E. Paul Jansson, Construction Coordinator
David LaPlante, Director of Buildings & Grounds

Chair announced that in Executive Session a vote of 5-0 was taken to accept the Superintendent's recommendation.

Chair announced we will now go to Miss Bachus who will present a motion. Ms. Bachus said she requested a motion following the last committee hearing that the vote be tabled and a "long-term facilities planning consolidation of schools company" be hired to look at the district, and present a plan for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years out. What should we do? How should we consolidate? Should we look to build a new building? What are the needs of our district from a bigger, wider perspective and what should we be looking to do down the line? She thanked the superintendent and the long-term committee for their hard work, due diligence and tireless efforts to bring this plan to us for review and decision. They did a wonderful job. This is not to slight you in any way shape or form. We only get one chance at this – life is not a dress rehearsal. If we mess this up, we can mess up countless futures for countless youth and children. We could also destroy this school system because there is a great possibility that a lot of people would leave Warwick, people would chose private schools, that we would be overrun with requests for youths to go to charter schools, which could bankrupt our system. We only get once change at this. Something came to my attention late last evening. I received a call from Councilwoman Vella-Wilkinson

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that Council President Donna Travis, Edward Ladouceur and she had been approached by a member of the long-term facility after meeting. He said that the report had actually been written in January and the committee had been flushing out the plan to make sure it would work. When asked what have you been doing – if you had it written? The committee wanted to work it out, working on the plan, tweaking – they wanted to make it work. When asked if this plan was created in January, why did you not use the extra time to plan another plan that was requested? He answered you have to understand something here – we are a group of volunteers – we had limited time. Ms. Bachus said she was forever grateful to this individual for being honest. She said she would not recommend that we vote for this plan to go forward tonight. Ms. Bachus then made the following Motion:

MOTION 2013-270: Moved by Ms. Bachus to take the plan off the table, and we hire a long-term facility planning Consultant Company to come in to look at the system we have in place and to make long term recommendations from 5/10/20 years out. (Looking at our system – what should we do; how should we consolidate; should we build a new building; and what should we be looking at to do.) I don’t want just a consolidation committee. Join me in supporting that motion – SECONDED BY Ms. Ahearn

Ms. Furtado moved to amend the motion: “that the Warwick School Department will go out to bid with specific recommendations that those issues that have been brought to light are addressed and that said company/entity come back with a viable plan to move forward with the necessary consolidation of the secondary and elementary schools in these Warwick Public Schools.”– Ms. Bachus SECONDED the amendment

Ms. Bachus moved to amend Ms. Furtado’s amendment to “request the consultant examine the entire system as to what needs to be closed or not closed.” SECONDED by Ms. Furtado.

CALL FOR VOTE

MOTION TO AMEND PASS (5-0)

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

The Chair announced the vote to re-purpose Warwick Veterans as a junior high school and 2015 closure of Gorton and Aldrich Junior High Schools is to be tabled until report comes back from the outside committee.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2013-271: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, approve the Minutes of the Open Session for November 12, 2013.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2013-272: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for November 12, 2013.

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 Transfers:

MOTION 2013-273: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, 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 2013-274: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, 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

Coaching appointment:

MOTION 2013-275: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, that the appointment of **Aaron Meredith**, assistant coach (wrestling) at Warwick Veterans High School be approved for 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

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s):

MOTION 2013-276: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the following **retirements be approved: Cindy Alexander**, teacher assistant Drum Rock Early Childhood Center accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Sandra Cook**, teacher assistant Kindergarten Hoxsie Elementary School accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Cheryl Diggle**, teacher assistant Winman Junior High School accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Sheryl Hutchinson**, data system specialist information services accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Arthur Ouillette, Sr.**, electrician-maintenance accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Rebecca Sprague**, teacher assistant Toll Date High School accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Frances Szydlo**, secretary Greenwood Elementary School accepted effective December 20, 2013; **Diane Waterman-Perreault**, Wickes Elementary School, accepted effective December 20, 2013; and **Sarah Enos**, teacher assistant Kindergarten Greenwood Elementary School accepted effective December 20, 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 Boys' Basketball Holiday Tournament in Weston, MA (December 27th – 28th, 2013)

MOTION 2013-277: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve Warwick Veterans boys' basketball team attending the holiday tournament in Weston, MA on December 27th through 28th, 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 Wrestling Tournament in Marshfield MA - (December 27th-28th, 2013)

MOTION 2013-278: Moved by Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve.

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: Ms. Bilodeau – reported 664 seniors finishing up research papers working with mentors.

Approval of contract award for annual Microsoft licensing to CDWG:

MOTION 2013-279: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the contract award for annual Microsoft licensing to CDWG.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of pre-school special education teacher position – Mr. Gannon – at Holliman – grant funded

MOTION 2013-280: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the pre-school special education teacher position.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Policy JED – Student Absences and Excuses (1st reading) – Dr. Siesel presented

MOTION 2013-281: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of Policy JED – Student Absences and Excuses.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Policy IKFA – Warwick Diploma System (1st reading) – Dr. Siesel – changes needed to be made – small changes – minor made to IKFA – already did the major changes with approval.

MOTION 2013-282: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of Policy IKFA – Warwick Diploma System.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Policy IKB – Homework (1st reading) – Dr. Siesel – minor changes, deleting sentences

MOTION 2013-283: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of Policy IKB – Homework.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Policy JGB – Detention of Students (1st reading)

MOTION 2013-284: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of Policy JGB – Detention of Students.

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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Policy ICAA – final examinations (1st reading) – Dr. Siesel

MOTION 2013-285: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of **Policy ICAA – final examinations.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Policy IGBE – Academic Supports and Interventions (1st reading) – not reviewed since 1998 – language not change – updated –

MOTION 2013-286: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the first reading of **Policy IGBE – Academic Supports and Interventions.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval to participate with RIDE in state purchasing of office supplies – Mr. Ferrucci – currently we ride the state’s Master Price Agreement award to WB Mason for our school and office supplies, which is expiring later this Spring 2014. The State in conjunction with RIDE is going out to bid, and those who wish to participate in the future MPA will have to sign an agreement so the State can include very specific details to potential bidders. Mr. Ferrucci was seeking authorization to sign the State’s Participation Agreement for school and office supplies.

MOTION 2013-287: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval to participate with RIDE.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Junior High School Physical Education Curriculum – Dr. Siesel presented

MOTION 2013-288: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval of the Junior High School 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

FY2014 Monthly Fiscal Report – for the period ending: 12/2/13 – Mr. Ferrucci presented

Total Revenue received	\$129,595,127
Total Expenditures	46,119,007
Total Encumbrances	11,313,079

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs

Approved Budget	Revised Approved Budget	Year to Date Revised Approved	Percentage of Exp.&Encumber	Non Staff Costs
7/16/13	7/16/13	TBD	12/2/13	
\$24,842,824	\$25,762,824		\$17,985,691	69.8%

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Bids/Change Orders:

MOTION 2013-289: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for air and water flow testing at the Career and Technical Center be awarded to Thomas-Young Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$7,238 as per the bid tabulation 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

MOTION 2013-290: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for ceiling tile abatement and replacement at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center be awarded to Coletta Contracting Co., Inc. in the amount of \$140,100 as per bid tabulation 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

MOTION 2013-291: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, that the change order for building security improvements be approved as per the tabulations 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

Adoption of Policies

Second Reading

MOTION 2013-292: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, that Policies JEA: Compulsory Attendance Ages; Policy JE: Student Attendance; Policy IGAE/IGAF: Health Education/Physical Education and Policy IGCA: Summer School approved at the last meeting and presented for the second reading this evening be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Information/Proposals –

School Committee Members:

Special Advisory Committee meeting 12/11/13 at the Administration Building at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Medeiros commented there are many holiday concerts and the time and dates can be found on our website.

Mr. Nadeau said he was pleased that Ms. Bachus' motion passed and said he expected cooperation as we go forward with these plans; cooperation of unions, Mayor and City Council. His thought was that this was being rushed too fast. He said it was his hope middle school model and all day Kindergarten will be implemented before any consolidation occurs, a necessary move with the Common Core standards coming next year. Ms. Furtado said that what the administration and long term members and educators did and continues to do does not go unappreciated. The parents and students who spoke before us are well informed and polite. It is not easy – arduous and laborious for us. We will go back to the task at hand and move forward and come up with a plan that is in the best interest of education for the students. Superintendent D'Agostino said the long-term committee knows how I feel about them, they have gone beyond volunteers, and we are united and stand behind work that we did and data we collected. Administration stands ready to do whatever we need to do.

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Public comment: David Testa said he supported the decision, rather that you had voted on the plan, but please keep public aware of timeframe. A student thanked the Committee for their decision. Darlene Netcoh thanked the committee for making the right decision, and suggested that they go into the buildings during the day and see how they are used. She also remarked that GBP needs a major overhaul. Another person commented that the consultant be from out of state, and make sure that Kindergarten and middle school be considered. She suggested looking into funding and a new complex that could handle it all. Kerry, a social communication needs teacher at Vets, thanked the committee for listening to the students and to move forward and have a plan prepared for those students. A Greenwood parent suggested that the first thing to look at before closing schools should be moving sixth grade into junior high school and making room for all-day Kindergarten. Ms. Vella-Wilkenson commented that she was ashamed to think that individuals couldn't stick to the truth and facts and instead they would smear the reputations of individuals who have taken time away from their families to serve the city of Warwick. She apologized for any of my constituents who did that to you or to the committee. Patrick Mahoney commented on decreasing funds the schools receive.

MOTION 2013-293: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 p.m.