

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting May 13, 2013
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. 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
Karen Bachus, Clerk
Jennifer Ahearn
Eugene A. Nadeau

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 2014-119: 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 7:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

Student Comments:

Robertson Elementary School: Dominic Martin and Alexandra Buffi (grade 6)

Warwick Neck Elementary School: Logan Ferguson and Casey Davenport (grade 6)

Wickes Elementary School: Sara Bowles and Ryan Loranger (grade 6)

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2014-120: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the amendment to the March 11, 2014 Minutes; and the April 8, 2014, April 10, and April 16, 2014 Minutes.

Amendment by Ms. Ahearn to the April 16th Minutes: adding a monetary amount for the math coaches: salary \$82,000 to \$88,000, have to include benefits (administration position – have doctorate).

MOTION 2014-121: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau – to amend minutes to record that numbers specific for math coaching (Minutes dated April 16, 2014).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2014-122: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the amendment to the March 11, 2014 Minutes; the April 8, 2014, April 10, and April 16, 2014 (as amended).

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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MOTION 2014-123: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the Executive Minutes for April 8 and April 16, 2014.

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 2014-124: 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

Approval of Warrants

MOTION 2014-125: 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:

Leave of absence

MOTION 2014-126: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the request for unrestricted leave for **Gina Asermely**, reading specialist/consultant, Hoxsie Elementary be approved effective for the 2014-2015 school year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Retirements

MOTION 2014-127: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **retirement of Cathy Burroughs**, elementary teacher Norwood Elementary School be accepted effective last day of school; **retirement of Gudrun Cannon**, special education diagnostic prescriptive teacher – Drum Rock Early Childhood Center, be accepted effective last day of school; and **retirement of Elaine Houle**, elementary teacher Wyman Elementary School accepted effective 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

MOTION 2014-128: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the **retirement of Robert Bushell**, Director of Elementary Education be accepted effective August 29, 2014.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

Classified personnel items:

Retirement:

MOTION 2014-129: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of John Cole**, cleaner at Toll Gate High School be accepted effective June 2, 2014.

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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Coaching Appointments:

MOTION 2014-130: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the appointment of **Andrew Croll**, assistant coach boys' outdoor track at Toll Gate High School be approved for one year only; that the appointment of **David Croll**, assistant coach boys' outdoor track at Warwick Veterans High School be approved.

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 – Tracking 664 seniors; 443 research papers; 411 completed graduation portfolio; 511 ready to present May 22; and request for state waver meeting by 56 students in math and 2 in English.

Presentation on school bus safety program “Student Guardian” – by Dana Meinke of Student Guardian. This vendor provides cameras and monitoring in an effort to crack down on motorists who willingly violate the law by passing buses when the stop-arm is out. Legislation was passed by the General Assembly that enables photo evidence as admissible to court to prosecute violations. The photo shows the license plate, but not the occupant. The photo and video evidence are turned over to local law enforcement officials, who are the ones that enforce the violation. This company now has 80 active programs in nine states, eight of which are in Rhode Island. The Student Guardian service is provided at no cost to the school district or city, as it is paid for by motorists committing the violation. She said 12.5 percent of ticket revenue goes to the state, 12.5 percent goes to the municipality and 75 percent goes to Student Guardian to offset the cost of the service. The vendor provides the camera and the monitoring, but the school district must negotiate with the city in order to receive any money. The video camera only records when the bus is stopped and the stop-arm is out; it is not running all the time. Prior to the cameras it was up to witnesses on the street or the bus monitor to write down the information regarding violators. Ms. Meinke said that Student Guardian works with the bus companies to be as low impact as possible and makes every effort to work around the bus company's schedule should maintenance be required.

Mr. Furtado explained that the committee wasn't voting on whether to approve the program or not for the district, but rather to listen to the presentation to learn about the service. It is something that she supported and will arrange to have put on future agendas.

Approval of Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee Appointments:

MOTION 2014-131: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve **Adrian Phillips and Caitlin Regan** for the Warwick Special Education Advisory 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 Elementary Health Curriculum

MOTION 2014-132: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, move approval of the Elementary Health Curriculum.

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 contract award for boilers at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center and John Wickes Elementary School – (Mr. LaPlante) Request to award contract to New England Trane for replacement of two boiler systems – Drum Rock Early Childhood Center (\$139,301) and John Wickes Elementary School (\$181,932). The total award is \$321,233 and the funds are budgeted.

MOTION 2014-133: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to approve the contract award for boilers at Drum Rock Early Childhood Center and John Wickes Elementary School.

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 replacement laptops for elementary principals – (Mr. Ferrucci) Recommendation to award contract to CDE Computer Dealers, Inc. to purchase refurbished Dell computer equipment for elementary principals and director of elementary schools. This is for 19 laptops, 19 monitors and 18 docking stations at a price 25% less than buying new in the amount of \$13,577.

MOTION 2014-134: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, approval of contract award to CDE Computer Dealers, Inc. for replacement of laptops for elementary principals.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of contract award for grade 6 Writing Resource Teacher Manuals (Mr. Ferrucci) – Request to award a contract to Heinemann for Grade 6 Writing Resource Teacher manuals in the amount of \$9,856.08, said funds are budgeted.

MOTION 2014-135: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to award contract to Heinemann for Grade 6 Writing Resource Teacher manuals in the amount of \$9,856.08.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Approval of contract award for Physics Textbooks (Mr. Ferrucci) – Request to purchase AP Physics Textbooks from Follett School Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$16,937.80, said funds are budgeted.

MOTION 2014-136: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, to purchase AP Physics Textbooks from Follett School Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$16,937.80.

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 (Mr. Ferrucci)

For the period ending 5/2/14:

Total Revenue received	\$151,511,647
Total Expenditures	\$112,896,303
Total Encumbrances	\$ 7,195,674

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs

School Committee Approved Budget 7/16/13	School Committee Revised Approved Budget 7/16/13	School Committee Revised Approved 3/11/14	Exp.&Encumber 5/2/14	Percentage of Non Staff Costs
\$24,842,824	\$25,762,824	\$26,807,173	\$24,757,817	92.4%

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RFP Subcommittee questions/update: Ms. Bachus responded we are moving along swimmingly. We have fantastic people on the committee that are doing a great job. The RFP is coming together and we should have more information next week. It's pretty exciting. We're on target to present in June.

Ms. Ahearn said she had a list of questions that came out of the last subcommittee meeting. Although the questions were presented separately, the following is a summary of the questions and responses: who is the key person responsible for developing the RFP; who is the key contact for answering RFP questions; how will qualified bidders be chosen; who is responsible for evaluating and ranking responses to the RFP; and what statutes and guidelines must be followed? The following is a summary of responses: Ms. Healey said it is her understanding that the subcommittee would develop the RFP for the School Committee to then approve; she suggested the School Committee designate someone to receive RFP questions, but strongly suggested the school department's purchasing manager, who handles bids, and legal counsel be consulted to ensure legal rules are followed and all bidders receive the same information and opportunity; the School Committee would conduct the analysis of the RFP, and that in the past the RFP has been publicized as well as mailed to particular bidders; the School Committee would be responsible for evaluating and ranking the responses to the RFP; and the public bidding statute should be followed, which determines whether something should be bid based on the contract. It depends on the nature of the services and the nature of the bid, but you're required to put out a publicly sealed bid. The amount of detail depends on the preference of the School Committee. Most RFPs are usually fairly broad and provide stated information about the district and the task to be performed.

Staff Survey (Ms. Ahearn) – Ms. Ahearn said in regard to the staff survey, she wished to draft a site level survey to be given to principals and teachers before the end of the year in an effort to gain feedback and better support administration. I think the schools would benefit from constructive feedback from principals and teachers. Superintendent D'Agostino said there are a number of ways currently that staff has input at the elementary and secondary level regarding the needs and direction that departments need to follow, including meeting with elementary and secondary education directors, gaining feedback from teacher workshops, as well as participating in a RIDE survey. Ms. Ahearn felt that people don't give honest feedback when your boss is right in front of you. She wanted everyone to feel they have a voice in our organization. I believe we can get more information from staff to make it a more collaborative environment and help you to ensure we're hitting all of our targets. Dr. D'Agostino said the RIDE survey provides the feedback and answers to the questions that Ms. Ahearn was asking. RIDE surveys are anonymous that go to the state and then come back to us, with no fear of anyone in the buildings seeing it.

MOTION 2014-137: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to have a survey developed.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes 3 nays)

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

Budget 2015 – Ms. Ahearn: Math coach/contractor costs – Ms. Ahearn asked where the funding was coming from for the math coach/contractor costs. Mr. Ferrucci responded we were given approval to budget 3 math coaches, and since we did not have an actual amount, we budgeted an amount for a reading coach times three. Mr. Ferrucci explained that between \$375,000 and \$380,000 was included in the 2015 school budget request sent to the city and mayor, which calls for approximately \$2 million from the city, and that the school department must wait to see how much funding the city will give the schools before it can determine what happens with the math coaches. If the city funds our request for the \$2 million, then nothing more needs to be done because the math coaches are included in the budget request, but if we don't get what we're asking for, then we'll have to revisit the budget and make cuts.

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Economies of scale – Ms. Ahearn said she felt there were areas within the school department and on the city side where resources and responsibilities could be shared in an effort to cut down on costs and redundancy. She said she felt Rosemary Healey, who serves as the director of human resources and legal counsel for the school department, was more than capable of handling the legal duties and responsibilities for both the schools and the city. Ms. Healey responded by saying there were several reasons why it's necessary for each entity to have its own legal representation, the first of which was if one person represented both, a conflict of interest would exist. She used the example of if the School Committee wished to sue the city over being forced to pay the principal and interest on bond payments, and she was the sole representation for both, she would be unable to advise them since she would be representing both parties. In addition, she said just taking care of legal matters that pertain to the schools takes up most of her time and there's no way she would be able split her time between school and city matters.

Ms. Ahearn felt we should also look at the City Department of Public Works and the school department's Buildings and Grounds, specifically to the possibility of sharing plows and other maintenance equipment. Ms. Healey said she's participated in studies that looked at sharing and combining services between the schools and the city but said there were several obstacles that prevented it from happening, such as finances and differences in contracts between the two sides. Chief Budget Officer Anthony Ferrucci said each group needs to be able to defend their needs because they are different.

Ms. Ahearn suggested a Motion to Reconsider the 2014-2015 Budget to reconsider where we are going to spend our funds.

MOTION 2014-138: Moved by Ms. Ahearn to vote where we are going to spend our funds, seconded by Mr. Nadeau.

MOTION FAILS (2 ayes 2 abstains)

Bethany A. Furtado – abstain
Eugene A. Nadeau - Aye
Jennifer Ahearn - Aye

M. Terri Medeiros – abstain
Karen Bachus – (not present for vote)

[Note: Ms. Bachus not present for this vote]

Policy Update – discussion regarding the need to review and make changes to policy. Dr. D'Agostino said the directors have been meeting and the reviewing is in process. Some of the policies are very old. Commenting on the bullying policy, Ms. Ahearn said it was passed in 2012 that incidences would be reported semi-annually, and she has never seen any.

Open Meetings laws- public comment – In regard to public comment at committee meetings, Ms. Ahearn wanted to know why committee members are not allowed to answer questions from the public. Ms. Healey responded that there is a great risk of being in violation of open meetings law. You can run into legal problems if it becomes a debate of something that isn't properly posted. Also fines would be imposed on individual School Committee members and that they would not be reimbursed for the fines. If you want an Open Forum with a question and answer, it must be posted as such, but there is still a risk of violating open meetings law. Mr. Nadeau remarked often the public asks a question that could be answered in two to five words, and asked if there could be a compromise where Ms. Healey could advise the committee whether a question could be answered or not. She responded you can't pick and choose which question gets answered. Mr. Nadeau said people sit at the meetings for hours and if they have questions that can be answered after the meeting; he would love to do it. Healey said past practice had been for a committee member to indicate they could answer a question for someone after the meeting.

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Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2014-140: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, that the bid for graphing calculators in the amount of \$21,024, be awarded to The Bach Company, 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 2014-141: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for furniture moving in the new flooring and ABM abatement project in the amount of \$8,000 be awarded to Gentry Moving and Office Installations, 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 2014-142: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for new flooring in the ABM abatement project in the amount of \$8,325 be awarded to AA Asbestos Co., as per the 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 2014-143: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for custodial supplies in the amount of \$138,441.66 be awarded to the various vendors as per the 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 2015-144: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the bid for medical supplies, single source 3 year supply system be awarded to Moore Medical as per the bid tabulations.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Public comment: Mr. Ginolfi commented on the proposed Kent County Charter School and hoped for a resolution against it. Darlene Netcoh also commented on the charter school. Mr. Testa said since there is no cost for cameras on the buses, it was a no brainer and hopefully the City would give some of the money to us. He also felt some of the items on the agenda tonight shouldn't be there; this is stuff you should hash out on your own time. There was a lot of talk tonight, but there's still no all-day K and no middle school. You have more substantive things to discuss. Mary Townsend thanked the new members of the advisory committee; and also commented as WISE President she felt WISE members should be moving furniture rather than going out for a bid. Tracey McDermott said that she has been coming to School Committee meetings for 17 years, but the last year of meetings has been mind-boggling. The RFP questions should have been answered before you started the process. You spent three hours talking about nothing and 20 minutes voting on issues that affect education.

MOTION 2014-145: 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: 10:20 p.m.