

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting December 2, 2014
Special Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building, on Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 5:50 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
Lynn Dambruch, Director of Elementary Education
Anthony Ferrucci, Chief Budget Officer
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources
Jennifer Connolly, Director of Special Education
David LaPlante, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Ms. Furtado announced this is the first time the School Committee as a whole has discussed the bids submitted in response to the RFP for a long-term planning consultant. She said the bids were similar yet dramatically different, as some seemed to be educationally driven and some structurally driven. We need to know how we are going to analyze and compare apples to apples. She asked if any members would like to make a comment or suggestion as how we will look at the data and decide what direction we will go.

Ms. Bachus commented that she felt Robinson Green Berretta and SMMA were the most helpful and thought what they had to say was good. Attorney Healey remarked there is a legal standard that must be met, which is the selected bid must be the lowest bid meeting specifications. Each proposal must be scored and ranked to determine the lowest bid.

Ms. Ahearn said she compared the cost associated with the work to the number of hours it would take, but not all had hours and cost associated. SMMA had a breakdown of where they would spend time, how much it would cost and that Robinson Green followed the format, but the other two didn't have much information about where they would spend the dollars.

Ms. Healey said no one has ability to make decision on their own, and there is a need for a scoring sheet, so if there is a challenge you can explain it.

Mr. Nadeau said all four proposals were excellent and asked if we can change requirements or lessen the requirements. Ms. Healey responded the process must be consistent, and if you are going to waive a requirement, you have to waive for all bidders. If you narrow the scope, you might get other bidders. Mr. Nadeau said if nothing comes close to the \$150,000 we have to approve a larger contract, and be aware that additional money is very worthwhile.

Ms. Medeiros said she hadn't gotten to a point to choose, but had looked at the proposals and put them into categories as to demographics that relate to us. Spending \$150,000 of the kids' money is a burden, but we are committed to doing this and we can't spend more than \$150,000.

Ms. Furtado said we have to have the conversation of the importance of ranking and what ranks first and foremost. Ms. Healey commented you need a checklist whether requirements were met. It is time consuming. She suggested that the members rank the bids according to the criteria in the RFP and

submit their ranking sheets. Ms. Furtado said we would do a disservice to the companies and the committee that already looked at this to not go through it individually. If all members do the ranking process, instead of just one, we will have many pairs of eyes on the information. This is our charge and our job. She offered to coordinate the paperwork.

Mr. Nadeau said if we need additional \$150,000 for such a long-term outlook, any money is well worth it. Ms. Furtado disagreed saying if we spend \$300,000 on a project that should have cost \$150,000, that's less money in the classroom or the athletic fields. It has cost the district millions of dollars every year by not doing this. Ms. Bachus remarked we should have done this long ago and we are wasting money by waiting. Ms. Ahearn asked about Aldrich and Gorton, the two buildings needing fire code upgrades if they remain open. Mr. LaPlante responded we need an answer one way or the other by June 1st. We requested another variance a couple months ago, and were told we had to come back with a yes or no and how we plan to do the upgrades by June 1st and there would be no more extensions. Ms. Furtado commented that if the buildings remain open and are not upgraded, we would be fined per violation per day for each building.

Ms. Healey said that if consolidation does take place, the department needs to know before June 1st because it would involve many staff transitions.

Ms. Furtado said she would provide a digital copy of an evaluation sheet. It was decided the next meeting for review would be December 17, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. and it would be opened to the public.

MOTION 2014-300: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, 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: 6:30 p.m.