

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting January 13, 2015 – Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado  
M. Terri Medeiros [present at 6:15 p.m.]  
Karen Bachus [present at 6:20 p.m.]  
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  
Jennifer Connolly, Director of Special Education  
Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2015-1: 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

Additional administrators present: Dr. Anne Siesel, Denise Bilodeau, Sara Monaco, Ryan Mullen

MOTION 2015-2: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

**Election of Officers:** Ms. Furtado commented at this time we will have election of officers and called for nominations for Chair. Mr. Nadeau nominated Ms. Ahearn as Chair, and Ms. Furtado seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations, and the vote was called.

MOTION 2015-3: Moved and seconded to approve the nomination of **Ms. Ahearn as Chair.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

**Nominations for Vice Chair:** Ms. Bachus nominated Mr. Nadeau, as Vice Chair; seconded by Ms. Furtado. Call for any further nominations; there being no further nominations, the vote was called.

MOTION 2015-4: Moved and seconded to approve the nomination of **Mr. Nadeau for Vice Chair.**

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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**Nominations for Clerk:** Mr. Nadeau nominated Ms. Medeiros as Clerk, seconded by Ms. Furtado. Call for any further nominations; there being none; the vote was called.

MOTION 2015-5: Moved and seconded to approve the nomination of Ms. Medeiros as Clerk.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Student Comments:**

John Brown Francis Elementary School: Olivia Doyle and Lydia Ramsden – grade 6  
Holliman Elementary School – Noah Sullivan and Denise Nagbe – grade 6  
Gorton Junior High School – Madison Foster and Steven DeFreitas – grade 8

**Approval of Minutes of Public Session**

MOTION 2015-6: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for December 2, 2014 and December 9, 2014.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Vote of Minutes for the Executive Session**

MOTION 2015-7: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve/accept the Minutes of the Executive Session for December 9, 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 Warrants:**

MOTION 2015-8: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, 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

**Approval of Transfers:** Ms. Ahearn had a question regarding a \$34,000 transfer from textbooks into technical related hardware. This was for electronic books for Junior High Social Studies. Ms. Ahearn requested that before transfers come before the committee that clarification be provided. She commented we are approving an item after transfer request made and suggested revising. Mr. Ferrucci said we will come up with a recommendation through the superintendent's office. Call for Vote on Transfers:

MOTION 2015-9: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, 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

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**Classified personnel appointments:**

MOTION 2015-10: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the following appointments be approved: **Josephine Aeillo**, secretary Park Elementary School; **Antonia Boiano**, secretary Wyman Elementary School; **Nancy Stevenson**, teacher assistant Child Development Program; **Benjamin Milner**, maintenance helper (maintenance department).

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

**Retirement:**

MOTION 2015-11: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the **retirement of Paula Morelli**, technical assistant/dispatcher (Transportation) be accepted effective December 19, 2014.

**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 2015-12: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Bachus, that the following coaching appointments be approved: **Erik Stachurski**, head coach boys Lacrosse at Pilgrim High School (for one year only); **Nicholas Riess**, assistant coach boys baseball at Pilgrim High School; **Robert Pacifico**, head coach football at Veterans Memorial High School; **Darren Cipriano**, head coach golf at Veterans Memorial High School; **Jonathan Marr**, assistant coach baseball at Veterans Memorial High School; and **Edward Kimmerlein**, head coach boys outdoor track at Veterans Memorial High School (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

**GBP update:** Ms. Bilodeau: 601 seniors have research papers; there are 130 students ready to present on February 1, 2015 (with a snow date of February 11, 2015).

**Approval of contract award for annual renewal First Class Email System** – Mr. Ferrucci said it is recommended that a pro-rata software renewal contract to Open Text (which supports FirstClass email system) be awarded to June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$8,276.45. This amount is budgeted in FY2015 budget.

MOTION 2015-13: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of the recommendation.

**MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)**

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

**Discussion of teacher substitute pay:** Ms. Bachus said she recently learned that substitutes are paid \$75 for the first 30 days and then \$90 for every day going forward after thirty and thought we needed to have a discussion. This amount is lower than other places in the state and is less than \$25 an hour. She also commented that substitutes have no union protection nor worker's compensation if they get hurt on the job. Ms. Healey said she reviews this every year. Per diem rates are treated differently than long-term substitute rates. Cranston subs are paid \$80 per day and East Greenwich \$75 per day. Making changes

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would have budget ramifications, and as soon as we up the daily rate we would have to change the sick leave formula. We pay \$400 a day for a teacher absence, and if they use more than 5 days, they chip in for the shared cost of a substitute. Ms. Medeiros commented that the responsibilities are different for a classroom teacher and a substitute. Ms. Bachus said she wasn't looking for a change this evening, but looking for discussion to see what we could do to make things more just for our subs.

**Discussion of RFP status:** - Ms. Ahearn said we were not able to tally the votes as a committee, so we would like to tally the votes and select a candidate tonight. Four companies submitted bids. There are five core areas graded on a point scale for each bid. The bids were ranked 1 through 4 with the highest point being one. She then asked each school committee member what they ranked each company. The final bid will be awarded to the firm that receives the most scores of one. The rankings by the members were as follows:

	<u>Ms.Ahearn</u>	<u>Ms.Bachus</u>	<u>Ms.Medeiros</u>	<u>Ms. Furtado</u>	<u>Mr. Nadeau</u>
JED[Studio JAED]	4	4	1	3	4
LLB[Lerner Ladds Bartels]	3	3	3	4	2
RGB[Robinson Green]	2	2	2	2	3
SMMA [Symmes Maini]	1	1	4	1	1

Ms. Bachus commented that she thought we were going to interview the top two companies before ultimately deciding on drawing up a contract to be awarded. Ms. Ahearn felt comfortable with her numbering/ranking. Ms. Furtado remarked that time is of the essence, as it has been nearly a year since a subcommittee was formed to draw up the RFP. Ms. Ahearn said she had made calls to the project managers. Ms. Medeiros said we only have so much money in our budget, and my concern is if we choose to do certain aspects of the bid and eliminate others, she said we need to interview the top two companies and see what they will offer. Ms. Ahearn said that SMMA would not have to go outside for an educational consultant, which is part of what drove up the cost of RGB proposal. Mr. Nadeau said he had spent hours going through each bid and the quality is high for all of them. Time is of the essence. We need to choose the best candidate and give them time to do the study. I am satisfied with the work I put into it and it is time to make a decision.

Ms. Ahearn moved that the business office draw up a contract for SMMA [Symmes Maini & McKee Associates), with my direct oversight to assist if there are any questions, and once contract finalized it would come before the School Committee for final approval.

MOTION 2015-14: Moved by Ms. Ahearn to direct the business office to draw up a contract for SMMA (with her direct oversight), said contract to come before the Committee for final approval, seconded by Ms. Furtado.

**MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)**

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

The question was asked how long it would take to draw up the contract. Mr. Ferrucci responded it would depend on how closely the contract is aligned to the RFP. If there aren't many changes, we could have it by the February meeting or March at the latest. He requested a copy of the RFP as well as SMMA's bid.

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**FY2015 Monthly Financial Report (Mr. Ferrucci) - For the period ending 12/31/14:**

Total Revenue received	\$137,037,772
Total Expenditures	64,866,401
Total Encumbrances	11,079,329

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs				
School Committee Approved Budget 7/15/14	School Committee Revised Approved Budget 8/12/14	School Committee Revised Approved 9/15/14	Year to date Exp.&Encumber 12/31/14	Percentage of Non Staff Costs
\$25,807,010	\$ 28,295,510	\$28,471,510	\$21,236,455	74.6%

**Comments by School Committee members:**

Ms. Medeiros announced there would be a Spaghetti supper 2/18/15 for a student at Park; Ms. Furtado said the Special Education Advisory Committee would meet on 1/14/15 at 7:00 at the Administration Building

Public comment – Nathan Cornell (student) requested that a committee be created to end lack of communication between School Committee and teachers’ union which is leading to the creation of unpopular policies. He said the teachers right now have no say in how education is run, although they are the ones who are with the students in school. This committee shall consist of two or three representatives from the SC, Teachers’ Union and students to work together and review current policies and also suggest new ones. This committee will also propose changes to the City Charter concerning education and discuss changes with the mayor and City Council. The chairperson of this committee shall be a student, for a chairperson from the School Committee or Teachers’ Union would be biased to the organization they represent. The committee’s existence will make sure that policies will be made in the best interest of the students and that everyone will have a say. [The above was taken from his typed presentation.] Further public comments regarding all-day Kindergarten, PARCC testing and training.

MOTION 2015-15: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, 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: 9:05 p.m.**