

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting April 14, 2015 - Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Ms. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Jennifer Ahearn, Chair
Eugene A. Nadeau, Vice Chair
M. Terri Medeiros, Clerk [present at 6:10 p.m.]
Bethany A. Furtado
Karen Bachus [present at 6:20 p.m.]

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

The Chair announced that the individual involved in the superintendent's discussion in executive session this evening has been notified of their right to have the discussion take place in Open Session. Not all have agreed to have the discussion in Open Session, so we will be proceeding in Executive Session.

MOTION 2015-82: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, 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), (a)(2), (a)(4) and (a)(9).

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 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

Administrators also present in addition to those listed above: Dr. Anne Siesel, Sara Monaco, Ryan Mullen, David LaPlante, Denise Bilodeau, Dianne Silvia

Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session

MOTION 2015-83: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session for April 14, 2015.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2015-84: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for March 18, 2015, March 30, 2015 and April 2, 2015.

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 2015-85: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve/accept the Minutes of the Executive Session for March 18, 2015 and March 30, 2015.

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 2015-86: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, 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 2015-87: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, 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

Classified Personnel Items – Appointments

MOTION 2015-88: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Camely Machado**, non-instructional student services manager be approved; that the appointment of **Julie Donovan**, health department clerk, Toll Gate High School be approved; and that the appointment of **Albert Desrosiers**, cleaner at Pilgrim 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

Professional personnel items:

Retirements/Resignations

MOTION 2015-89: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **retirement of Nicholas Smith**, English as a second language teacher, Park Elementary School, be accepted effective the last day of the 2014-2015 school year; that the **retirement of Peter Kmiec**, technology education teacher, Aldrich Junior High School, be accepted effective April 17, 2015; and that the **retirement of Ann Marchant**, physical therapist at Lippitt Elementary School, be accepted effective the last day of 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

Coaching Appointments:

MOTION 2015-90: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Blake Simpson**, assistant coach boys Lacrosse at Pilgrim High be approved for one year only; that the appointment of **Daniel Calabro**, assistant coach girls Lacrosse at Pilgrim High be approved; that the appointment of **Michael Girad, Sr.**, assistant coach boys baseball at Toll Gate be approved for one year only; that the appointment of **Patrick Chin**, assistant coach boys volleyball at Toll Gate be approved and that the appointment of **James DeSimone**, assistant coach boys volleyball at 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 658 seniors; 645 have completed papers; 555 submitted interview or mentor paper work. We are revising and updating project binders. Anyone who would like to be a judge please contact us.

Presentation from FUSE Fellows – teaching and digital learning – Debra Lamn, Jessica Geremia and Sarah Rich - presentation

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Approval of Warwick Veterans High School DECA students attending DECA International Career Develop. Conference (April 24th-29th – Orlando, FL)

MOTION 2015-91: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve Warwick Veterans High School DECA students attending Career Development Conference April 24 through April 29, 2015 in Orlando, Florida.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of 2015-2016 School Calendar – Dr. D’Agostino presented the 2015-2016 school calendar for the Committee’s approval. Ms. Ahearn wanted to amend the calendar by eliminating Yom Kippur and said she had asked the Superintendent to provide background around what other districts are doing and also our contract language. Dr. D’Agostino responded saying Providence and Cranston only have two approved Jewish holidays and the RI Association of Superintendents does not identify as a religious holiday and a day off for all students. There is a contract provision that individuals can request a day off for religious reasons.

MOTION 2015-92: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to amend the 2015-2016 calendar.

[Motion later withdrawn after further discussion]

Discussion included majority not needing the holiday; two days off the first two weeks of school; Yom Kippur being a high holy holiday. Motion was withdrawn by Ms. Ahearn.

MOTION 2015-92: Moved by Ms. Bachus to approve the 2015-2016 calendar as presented, seconded by Ms. Furtado.

MOTION PASSES

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

Approval for timeframe of Vincent Ragosta’s investigation – Ms. Mederios asked for the timeframe expected for the investigation so our district can move on. Ms. Ahearn responded we will receive a final report on May 11th. Ms. Furtado asked if he had received all the information so he could begin the investigation and Ms. Ahearn said he has been provided with the information. When asked if the report could be sooner than May 11th, Ms. Ahearn commented she had pushed this timeframe and it will be a verbal report to expedite the investigation process. Ms. Mederios said she would be more comfortable seeing it in writing. Ms. Bachus commented she felt the verbal report should be provided to the School Committee and the concerned citizens of the community since it’s been all over the news; with a written report to follow. It was noted that Mr. Ragosta was asked to review the job performance of individuals, and it must be their decision if they want their performance discussed in open session. Those individuals would not be afforded the opportunity to make that decision since no one knows what Mr. Ragosta will say. Ms. Healey said if the report is delivered in open session, the committee could be in violation of the open meetings law.

MOTION 2015-93: Moved by Ms. Mederios to have Mr. Ragosta’s findings report to the School Committee in Executive Session so we can insure that the findings do not violate any personnel files, with a report in writing to follow in 30 days with the School Committee making a decision, seconded by Ms. Furtado.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 abstain 1 nay)

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

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Approval hiring of Andrew D. Henneous (negotiation counsel) – Ms. Ahearn said she would move forward to hire Andrew Henneous as negotiation counsel at this time as our current legal counsel has a very heavy litigation schedule and as Human Resource director has two significant job responsibilities. Ms. Furtado commented while she understood, she would caution we have in house counsel with a long history with this Union. She questioned why we would spend money on something we already have – I will stop there.

MOTION 2015-94: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to hire Andrew Henneous as negotiation counsel.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 2 nay)

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

Approval of WISE contract – The WISE Union Agreement was presented for approval. Ms. Healy said there are no changes to the current contract, other than a zero percent raise in the first year and a 2% raise in September 2016 and September 2017. The fiscal impact statement was available as required by law and she recommended approval.

MOTION 2015-95: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval.

Mr. Nadeau commented he approved of the pay raises, but he had changes that he thought were appropriate and meaningful for a 60-page contract, but had not been successful in getting them passed, so he would abstain. Ms. Ahearn explained her vote for non-approval saying she supported fair pay and increases, but was in favor of maximizing tax dollars and funding more academic programs. She felt there were missed opportunities by not engaging in serious negotiations. There were no discussions between the City DPW employees and WISE employees. Taxpayers were done a disservice in the absence of a resource sharing dialogue with the mayor about the seasonal opportunities between DPW employees and WISE employees. She said a 4 percent raise over three years is not unreasonable by most standards. I cannot and will not endorse a contract where I feel there was a lack of meaningful dialogue about contract terms.

CALL FOR VOTE: 3 AYES: (Furtado, Bachus, Medeiros)
 1 ABSTAIN (Nadeau)
 1 NAY (Ahearn)

Approval of contract award for Dell Computer for VM Ware Server Storage

MOTION 2015-96: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the contract award for Dell Computer for VM Ware Server Storage.

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 Whalley Computer for Chromebooks and Projectors

MOTION 2015-97: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the contract award for Whalley computer for chromebooks and projectors.

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 IPEVO document camera devices

MOTION 2015-98: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the contract award for IPEVO document camera devices.

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 K-Electric Holden Elementary Repairs

MOTION 2015-99: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the contract award for K Electric for Holden Elementary repairs.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval to revise Policy GBL – personnel records – Discussion regarding the personal records policy. Ms. Ahearn wanted to incorporate the “*School Committee*” to the line that reads: “*The file of an individual employee will be considered confidential and will be available only to authorized administrative personnel, SCHOOL COMMITTEE and to the employee.*”

MOTION 2015-100: Moved by Ms. Ahearn to amend GBL adding School Committee ... Ms. Furtado, seconded the motion for discussion.

Discussion: personnel records are confidential; not in the School Committee’s purview to review personnel records; employment records held in Human Resources, there is no stipulation for a specific purpose (for reviewing); going against ethics and integrity; information included in file that employee might not want anyone to see (Social Security number, marital status); superintendent and directors may ask for portions of file, but complete file is never turned over; School Committee not being able to vote, as they are suppose to sit and make a ruling on evidence presented; personnel files are not only about discipline.

CALL THE VOTE 2015-100: MOTION FAILS(2 ayes 3 nays)
2 AYES – Ms. Ahearn/Mr. Nadeau 3 NAYS – Bachus, Furtado, Medeiros

FY2015 Monthly Financial Report (Mr. Ferrucci) - For the period ending 3/31/15:

Total Revenue received	\$148,486,276
Total Expenditures	102,037,688
Total Encumbrances	6,165,277

[Excludes salaries and fringe benefits]

Summary Review of non-salary and fringe benefits costs			
School Committee	School Committee	School Committee	School Committee
Approved Budget	Revised Approved Budget	Revised Approved	Revised Approved
7/15/14	8/12/14	9/15/14	3/18/15
\$25,807,010	\$ 28,295,510	\$28,471,510	\$27,900.763

Year to Date Exp.&Encumber	Percentage of Non-Staff Costs
3/31/15	
\$22,274,851	79.8%

Budget Presentation by Department**Secondary – Mr. Mullen**

FY14Budget	FY14Expense	FY15 Orig Bud	Revised SC Budget 3/18/15	FY15YTD	Form8
Secondary Education:					
1,028,006.28	884,260.26	1,076,593.23	1,129,137.04	686,578.27	1,326,939.19
General fund:					
259,483.50	205,062.37	235,953.00	252,875.76	161,257.52	406,623.00
Summer School Remedial					
3,716.00	667.39	3,250.00	3,250.00	511.92	3,528.00
Athletics					
265,870.00	236,451.92	284,977.00	284,977.00	186,761.09	290,009.00

Elementary – Ms. Dambruch

FY14Budget	FY14Expense	FY15 Orig Bud	Revised SC Budget 3/18/15	FY15YTD	Form8
Elementary Education:					
419,787.94	415,530.15	441,377.00	452,187.00	301,146.50	588,976.00
General Fund:					
284,796.94	283,849.64	323,899.00	333,271.00	216,891.42	465,613.00

Career Center

FY14Budget	FY14Expense	FY15 Orig Bud	Revised SC Budget 3/18/15	FY15YTD	Form8
General Fund:					
58,522.00	38,067.22	81,577.23	86,024.95	25,136.99	74,060.59
Commercial Foods:					
51,220.00	44,326.07	53,220.00	53,220.00	44,768.79	53,220.00
Total Budget:					127,280.59

Special Services – Dr. Connolly

FY14Budget	FY14Expense	FY15 Orig Bud	Revised SC Budget 3/18/15	FY15YTD	Form8
6,938,797.00	6,384,925.13	6,508,635.40	6,513,449.00	5,759,794.15	6,508,820.00

Buildings and Grounds

FY14Budget	FY14Expense	FY15 Orig Bud	Revised SC Budget 3/18/15	FY15YTD	Form8
6,411,936.00	7,162,692.42	5,982,447.00	5,269,329.00	4,228,617.46	5,476,709.00

Second reading of Policy: BDC

MOTION 2015-101: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approve second reading of Policy BDC.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Information: Mr. Nadeau explained his abstention vote on WISE saying he agreed with salary increase, s I have always, but I have a 60-page contract that I have had changes to, but have been unsuccessful in getting them passed. Dr. Siesel – commented on the first PARCC testing saying it was a success and all principals have remarked how smoothly things have gone.

Public Comments: Darlene Netcoh said there was a great deal of technology problems with the PARCC testing and she has sent an e-mail to the Committee. She also commented that literary is needed in grades

4, 5 and 6. Teacher from Veterans High said there were similar issues with PARCC and the anxiety of special ed students needs to be taken into consideration and thought at times opting out appropriate. Darilyn Gorton said she needs more instruction time. She said that in May there is testing for both PARCC and STAR with no time for instruction. Mary Townsend thanked the Committee for supporting the WISE union.

MOTION 2015-102: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, 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 at 10:00 p.m.