

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting May 12, 2015 – Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Jennifer Ahearn, Chair
Eugene A. Nadeau, Vice Chair
M. Terri Medeiros, Clerk
Bethany A. Furtado
Karen Bachus

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 all individuals to be discussed in Executive Session this evening have been notified of their right to have the discussion take place in Open Session and have chosen to proceed in Executive.

MOTION 2015-119: 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 4-0

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

Open Meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Ms. Ahearn reported out a vote taken in Executive Session – the vote was 3-1 with 1 abstention.

Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session

MOTION 2015-120: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session of May 12, 2015.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Non-renewals – Dr. D'Agostino announced: I recommend the non-renewal of the 35 teaching positions and individuals discussed in executive session for the reasons discussed at that time.

MOTION 2015-121: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Superintendent's recommendation.

Discussion: Ms. Bachus commented that it was criminal that we are laying off more English teachers when we are having a significant problem with literacy. We are laying off teachers with 10, 12, 15 years with us and we are gutting our system. There has to be a better way. I am sorry. Mr. Nadeau commented that it is a heart breaking time. What do we do?

The Vote was called: Aye: Furtado/Medeiros/Nadeau/Ahearn – 4 ayes
Nay: Ms. Bachus – 1 Nay

Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2015-122: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for April 14, 2015, April 16, 2015 and April 27, 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 2015-123: Moved by Ms. Furtado, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to accept the Minutes of the Executive Session for April 14, 2015, April 16, 2015 and April 27, 2015(as amended).

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 - Appointments

MOTION 2015-124: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Timothy Kane** summer school principal be approved and that the appointment of **Patricia Mellor**, foreign language department head Veterans High School/Gorton Junior 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

Resignation(s)/Retirement(s)

MOTION 2015-125: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the following **resignations be approved: Roberta Tvenstrup**, social worker on leave of absence, be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Chad Tvenstrup**, social studies teacher on leave of absence, be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Adergerth Kayrouz**, English teacher (Gorton) be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Siobhan Ward Kosofsky**, elementary teacher on leave of absence be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Gina Asermely**, reading specialist/consultant on leave of absence be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Elizabeth Drolet**, assistant principal (Gorton) be accepted effective July 10, 2015; and that **the following retirements be approved: Barbara Walsh**, social worker (Cedar Hill Elementary) be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Donna O'Brien**, elementary music teacher (Cedar Hill Elementary) be accepted effective the end of the 2014-2015 school year; **Dennis Mullen**, Director of secondary Education, be accepted effective August 31, 2015.

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:

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2015-126: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **retirement of Jeanette Moosey**, payroll clerk Administration Building be accepted effective May 22, 2015; and the **resignation of Nancy Duquette**, teacher assistant at John Brown Francis be accepted effective April 29, 2015.

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 2015-127: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Keith Randall**, head coach girls soccer Warwick Veterans be approved; that the appointment of **Margaret Schideler**, head coach girls tennis Warwick Veterans be approved; that the appointment of **Sherry Silven**, assistant coach girls volleyball 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

Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2015-128: 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 2015-129: 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

GEP Update – Ms. Bilodeau – following 658 Seniors – 129 presented in February – 495 doing presentation – Juniors are submitting contract for approval so they can begin their work.

Approval of Toll Gate High School trip to London (April 18-24, 2016)

MOTION 2015-130: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval of the Toll Gate High School Trip to London on April 18 through 24, 2016.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Resolution regarding Mayoral Academy Charter Schools - Ms. Bachus said she thought it was important to support local control of our schools, and read the proposed Resolution:

Whereas, communities contribute a significant portion of local revenue derived from property taxes to the education of students in public school districts; and

Whereas, Rhode Island state law mandates that the local school district pay a significant portion of an attending student's tuition for privately operated charter schools and mayoral academies; and

Whereas, the closing of local community schools while being mandated to support new, privately operated charter schools and mayoral academies can be expensive and an inefficient use of local taxpayer dollars; and

Whereas, under current law, Mayoral Academy Charter Schools may be organized and implemented without the expressed approval of local school committees or city or town councils; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in the Rhode Island General Assembly to require local schools committee and city or town council approval prior to the approval of a Mayoral Academy Charter School application by the Rhode Island Board of Education.

Be it **RESOLVED** that the Warwick School Committee affirms its commitment to carefully examine all proposed new charter schools and mayoral academies by considering the impact that such new schools will have on the quality of education for all of the students in the community; and

Be it **FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Warwick School Committee supports the passage of bills 2015-H 5160 and 2015-S 0087 that would require approval of the local school committee and city or town council of each included municipality, by either resolution or ordinance, prior to the approval of a new Mayoral Academy Charter School application by the Rhode Island Board of Education; and

Be it **FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to members of the Board of Education, Governor Raimondo, Speaker of the House Mattiello, Senate President Paiva-Weed, and the legislative delegation from the City of Warwick, the Warwick City Council and the Honorable Scott Avedisian.

MOTION 2015-131: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the proposed Resolution.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee Appointment – Dr. Jennifer Connolly recommended the appointment of Barbara Ghigliotty to the Committee.

MOTION 2015-132: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the appointment of **Barbara Ghigliotty** to the 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

Update – chromebooks for students – Mr. Ferrucci provided information regarding the purchasing of Chromebooks. For the past six months, we have discussing and reviewing the possibility of purchasing a significant number of Chromebooks with the ultimate intent of providing a technological device for each student in grades 1 through 12. Preliminary research has included not only the logistics of purchasing and administering the devices but also the development of curriculum and instruction methods that will need to be incorporated before the devices can be successfully introduced to our district. We have incorporated rolling out Chromebooks to all 9th graders beginning next school year. For the past couple of months, the discussion began to center on the feasibility of providing Chromebooks to all high school students due to curriculum and instruction needs. The Directors and Curriculum leaders have been involved with a number of pilots and projects addressing the instructional process. Their success in this process is best reflected in the fact that a number of these leaders have incorporated significant Technology Hardware purchases, specifically Chromebooks, within their Fy2016 budget request. As of April 1st there are 2,369 chromebooks. Based on the Fy2016 budget presentations, we are poised to secure an additional 2,931 chromebooks. Between curriculum and technology there is over \$1,100,000 budgeted in Fy2016 to purchase these chromebooks. In addition, within the current Fy2015 budget, the District is transferring significant unspent funds from various accounts into Technology Hardware to purchase enough chromebooks so that all secondary teachers will have chromebooks for use/professional development over the summer of 2015. We will gather the necessary financial information through a Request for Proposal process requesting per unit pricing and leasing pricing to meet the district’s entire need, 7,600 units. This RFP would be issued by mid-May 2015. Review Fy2015 inventory of chromebooks, including those purchases about to take place using funds transferred at the School Committee meeting on May 12th. Determine funding availability to either purchase out right or execute a two-year lease purchase to secure enough chromebooks for all students. This determination to be at School Committee meeting scheduled for July 2015. Receive Chromebooks for all students, grades 1-12 by September 2015. Based on teacher readiness and curriculum development, issue Chromebooks to all High School Students by the second quarter. Issue Chromebooks to all Junior High School Students by January 2016. Issue Chromebooks to all elementary students by mid Spring 2016. Financial feasibility is based on the assumption that the \$1,100,000 that is in the Fy2016 budget will survive any budget cut. The anticipated difference of the \$1,100,000 that is currently budgeted in Fy2016 and the amount needed to purchase the remaining balance of chromebooks (estimated to be \$1,762,500) will be financed either through Fy2015 transfers and surplus OR through a two year lease that would equal the \$1,100,000 currently in the Fy2016 Budget. If a lease is chosen, then the current \$1,100,000 would need to be sustained through Fy2017. In addition to reviewing how to secure all of the chromebooks needed for all students, we did review how best to sustain this initiative over time. While we do acknowledge that new technology is released and available about every six months by all accounts, how the district anticipates using technology devices such as chromebooks, we should have a useful life of approximately three years for each device. Based on a three year life for the equipment and the need to sustain this equipment for many years to come, we recommend the following: a) Once the district has given each student a chromebook, going forward each year thereafter, the district will buy enough chromebooks to give each student in 1st Grade, 4th Grade, 7th Grade and 10th Grade a new device that will be used for the next three years. Based on this model we would anticipate needing to replace 3,335 devices each year (3,000 for students and 335 for teachers). With a budget price of \$375.00 per device, Warwick Public Schools would need to sustain an annual budget of \$1,250,625 for device replacements. This annual amount is within \$125,000 of the current amount being proposed for chromebook purchases in the Fy2016 budget. To rollout a timeline of replacing a third of the equipment every year, for Fy2016, we would propose taking our current inventory of chromebooks some of which are 2 years old already and some being only a year old and issuing the

older devices to the Fy2016 High School Seniors and Grade 9 students this fall. High School Seniors would be able to take the chromebooks with them upon graduation next year and Grade 9 students would be in line to receive new chromebooks in Grade 10.

Update Workers Compensation Insurance – Mr. Ferrucci – In spite of Warwick School’s success in implementing the Work Safety Committee, we would once again face a significant increase in workers compensation costs for the 2015-2016 school year. This is the second year in a row that The Trust has dramatically increased our rates. We are facing a 19.2% increase (+\$186,434) for Fy2016. It was explained to us that The Trust has determined that the total workers comp pool held at The Trust needs to increase by 6%. This requirement to increase the total pool for all of its members has forced The Trust to increase their premium rates by over 9%. The second factor is based on Warwick Public School’s experience. The experience modifier has to increase from 2.12 to 2.25 which is another 6.1%. This experience modifier raise is in spite of our success with the Work Safety Committee and is influenced by future reserves that The Trust has deemed necessary for open claims. Due to this proposed significant increase, we are taking the necessary steps to seek alternative proposals. We anticipate having a recommendation for the School Committee by their next scheduled meeting in June. We have met our contractual obligations of providing written notice to The Trust that WPS may not renew coverage for next year. The Trust has provided the exit fee that WPS would be required to pay, (\$96,818), if WPS were to decide to leave The Trust.

Approval of Toll Gate Girls’ Lacrosse team – Mr. Mullen

MOTION 2015-133: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of the Toll Gate Girls’ Lacrosse team.

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 to Heinemann – Grade 2 Supplemental Literacy Materials

MOTION 2015-134: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, approval of the contract award to Heinemann (grade 2 supplemental literacy materials).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Approval of advertisement for the Pilgrim High School Booster Club – Mr. Mullen recommended approval of the request to sell advertising space at the Pilgrim football stadium and scoreboard.

MOTION 2015-135: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, approval of advertisement for the Pilgrim High School Booster Club [advertising will fall within guideline police].

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

FY2015 Monthly Financial Report – Mr. Ferrucci – For the period ending 5/4/15:

Total Revenue received	\$152,335,803
Total Expenditures	114,564,233
Total Encumbrances	4,854,932

[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	School Committee Revised Approved Budget 3/18/15
\$25,807,010	\$ 28,295,510	\$28,471,510	\$27,900,763
	Year to date Exp.&Encumber 5/4/15	Percentage of Non Staff Costs	
	\$23,539,617	84.4%	

Bids/Change Orders

MOTION 2015-136: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the bid for a medical insurance provider be awarded to WB Health, as per the bid summary.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

In reference to the bus service contract, Ms. Bachus commented she looked at the cost increase which is significant. The bus drivers are not getting raises. No one comes in lower than them {First Student} – It was huge when we gave up and privatized this. She moved approval because there is nothing else. Ms. Furtado commented that First Student is everywhere.

MOTION 2015-137: Moved by Ms. Bachus, and seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the bid for contractual bus service be awarded to First Student 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. Generaux commented it felt like a low blow and poor timing with layoff notices going out on “teacher appreciation week.” He said whatever technology plan you have, you still need teachers. Darlene Netcoh advocated for English instruction saying there are too many cuts. There are 3 out of 6 days of literacy. STAR and PARCC testing is eating up instruction time. We don’t need a common core coach – put back our English, math, social studies and science teachers. Jason Huddon referencing chromebook purchases said he felt he was being replaced by a machine and not a good one. Ms. Townsend thanked Ms. Bachus for her comments about school buses, saying what’s done is done, had we done the right thing we would not be where we are today.

MOTION 2015-138: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, 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: 9:30 p.m.