

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting May 27, 2015  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Toll Gate High School Cafeteria on May 27, 2015. Ms. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the five school committee members in attendance.

COMMITTEE

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

The goal of the meeting was to make a decision of two final master plans. There were nine plans previously considered:

1. Asset, Health and Safety Protection
2. Consolidation of the secondary schools
3. Consolidation of the primary schools
4. Consolidation of the primary and secondary schools
5. Creation of a two middle schools and two high school “magnet schools with ninth grade academies”
6. Creation of two “broad band middle schools and two high school “magnet schools with ninth grade academies”
7. Creation of three two-school campuses (middle and high), incorporating grade six and the reorganization of the secondary schools to “magnet schools with ninth grade academies”
8. Creation of two new “super schools” middle and high. (Addition and Renovation)
9. Creation of two new “super schools” middle and high. (New Construction)

At the last meeting the following plans were considered:

1. Asset, Health and Safety Protection
5. Creation of a two middle schools and two high school “magnet schools with ninth grade academies”
7. Creation of three two-school campuses (middle and high), incorporating grade six and the reorganization of the secondary schools to “magnet schools with ninth grade academies”
8. Creation of two new “super schools” middle and high. (Addition and Renovation)
9. Creation of two new “super schools

Mr. Frenette explained magnet schools are schools with a focus or concentration in specialized programming that draw students from all over the district. Ninth grade academies function as a school within a school which serves to assist students with transition from middle school to high school.

Ms Bachus commented we should rule out #1 since it doesn't involve education enrichment or address declining enrollment and excess capacity, and #8 as super schools would be great but the district won't get the funding needed. Mr. Nadeau wanted to eliminate #9.

Tracy McDermott said she felt the public would like to have input before the School Committee made any eliminations. Ms. Medeiros commented she would like to hear from the community before making plans and input.

The following is the cost diagram presented

1. Asset Protection			
a. Bond cost(savings)	141,184,217		
b. Annual cost (savings)	0		
c. Total annual cost (savings)	14,118,421		[\$4,941,448]
5. Two middle and high schools			
a. Bond cost (savings)	112,100,663		
b. Annual cost (savings)	(4,558,300)		
c. Total annual cost (savings)	6,511,766		[-774,777]
7. Three two-school campuses			
a. Bond cost (savings)	142,757,663		
b. Annual cost (savings)	(544,000)		
c. Total annual cost (savings)	13,731,766		[4,487,518]
8. Two Add-Reno super schools			
a. Bond cost (savings)	253,318,675		
b. Annual cost (savings)	(4,732,200)		
c. Total annual cost (savings)	20,599,668		[4,133,954]
9. Two New super schools			
a. Bond cost (savings)	280,278,000		
b. Annual cost (savings)	(4,732,200)		
c. Total annual cost (savings)	23,295,600		[5,077,530]

Mr. Frenette explained no matter which option is selected, it will require the use of bond money, which must be approved by votes as well as RIDE. Having two high schools and two middle schools you keep the current curriculum. Two secondary school buildings would be retired (Aldrich and Gorton Junior). In the two middle/two high school plan, Veterans High School would be repurposed to a super middle school. Veterans was chosen to become the super middle school for geographic reasons. In a three two-school campus plan, all three high schools would remain open, but modifications would be made in order to divide the buildings to accommodate both middle and high school students – while keeping them separated.

While major construction is probably one to two years away, the start date for either plan would be the same and it could mean moving students as early as September. Darlene Netcoh commented scheduling has been worked on since January, and to close a school in September would undo the work that has been done for the past five months. She said the schools and the City need to work together. She said not to discount the last alternative of super schools, let the public make their thoughts known before School Committee makes a decision. Ms. Medeiros commented “start date” does not mean moving students; it means starting the process. Comment from member of the audience – we’ve had an interim superintendent, there may be a new one. I am not quite sure where the leadership is going and will someone new bring forth what you recommend. The cart is before the horse. I would like to have a team in place before implementing a project. Mr. Genereux asked for clarification of the fire code. Dr. D’Agostino responded we met with the fire marshal and they gave us an extension to September to update where we are. If there is no decision made at that point – remain open and repair what needs to be repaired. David Testa commented that Ed Frenette is not the decision maker – the School Committee makes the decision – for twenty years this has been completely ignored and we have to do something. It is not about your son or daughter is going to be upset.

The Chair asked if there were any questions of the Committee. Mr. Nadeau said we are on the right track, finally something is being done. I am satisfied with the way this has been handled. It is up to us to

convince the City this is the right move to make for the city and for students. Mr. Furtado commented she didn't have a question, and understood as a parent and taxpayer this is a very emotional issue. We have been charged with due diligence and we need to make giant strides and move forward.

Ms. Ahearn asked if everyone was okay with the two final plans [#5 and #7] –

Alternative 5: creation of two middle schools and two magnet high schools with two ninth grade academies; grade 6 and 8<sup>th</sup> middle schools; grade 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> high schools

Alternative 7: create 3 two-school campuses (middle & high); incorporating grade 6 and reorganization of secondary to magnet schools with ninth grade academies

Choices:

Ms. Furtado:	#5 and #7
Mr. Nadeau	#5 and #7
Ms. Bachus	#7
Ms. Medeiros	#5 and #7
Ms. Ahearn	#5 and #7

MOTION 2015-142: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Bachus, 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: 8:30 p.m.**