

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Meeting September 23, 2015  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. Ms. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE

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

MOTION 2015-270: 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).

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

**Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session**

MOTION 2015-271: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session of September 23, 2015.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action: Appointment-Superintendent

MOTION 2015-272: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to appoint Dr. Phillip Thornton as Superintendent under a three-year contract, subject to parties mutually agreeing and review by legal counsel.

Remarks by School Committee Members:

Mr. Nadeau commented there were 24 candidates brought down to two which were considered best of all of them. Lori [McEwen] presented to us on Tuesday and everyone was impressed with her responses. Phillip Thornton was much shorter in his responses and did not look to the audience as she did. However, we had the opportunity to speak with him in the library and I was confident in his responses which were much more opened. Proud to lend my vote to Phillip Thornton.

Ms. Furtado thanked the interview committee and said Dr. Holland brought two fine candidates that Warwick would be happy to have. Based on the interviews in public, our executive meetings with both candidates, they are both knowledgeable, well versed and forward thinking. Dr. Thornton has a fine grasp of the facilities as well as an ability to engage building administrators.

Ms. Medeiros said we had ability to meet candidates in public and meet privately. She said the surveys were valued and thanks administrators, principals and community members for providing feedback.

Ms. Ahearn thanked all that participated in the process. She said both candidates have strengths, and we are looking for someone who has had experience. There is no substitute for experience and someone who had the opportunity and challenge to deal with consolidation and contract negotiations. Dr. Thornton has had opportunities and challenges to deal with consolidation and contract negotiations, two

challenges currently facing the Warwick School Department. He has had experience with that and I feel he is the appropriate individual for this position. She also thanked Dr. William Holland for participating in the process and ensuring it was open and transparent.

Ms. Bachus said the Warwick community is in a state of flux. There are a lot of people that are angry with Warwick Public Schools. While I believe Lori McEwen and Phillip Thornton are fine people and well qualified for the position, I don't think they are good for Warwick. I said continually we need one of our own in charge; someone respected by everyone in the City; someone who loves this school system, and that man is William McCaffrey. I can't in good conscience vote for either one of these candidates.

CALL FOR VOTE: Ayes: Ms. Furtado, Mr. Nadeau, Ms. Medeiros, Ms. Ahearn  
Nay: Ms. Bachus

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

MOTION 2015-273: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, 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: 7:30 p.m.**