

Warwick School Committee Minutes  
Special Meeting September 15, 2015  
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Ms. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

COMMITTEE

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

This special open session meeting was a question and answer forum for Superintendent Candidate, Lori B. McEwen. It was moderated by Lara D'Antuono, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Warwick. The following are some of the responses by Dr. McEwen. The audio of the meeting can be found on the WPS website.

When asked if she would remain in the district beyond the initial three-year contract if selected, she responded she would love to be here more than three years. Large change can't happen in three years, so I would work toward that over time to earn a second contract. She said she was not planning on going anywhere for at least five or six years because she currently has a son in middle school and she doesn't want to disrupt anything by moving. Dr. McEwen said she saw opportunity and challenge in this district and explained her background and experience. She said she would look to increase student participation in SATs, PSATs and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. We need to look at student growth and keep kids on track, with a goal of 100 percent of kids at or above benchmark. Attaining 100 percent participation in SATs and PSATs would be part of Dr. McEwen's 10-year plan for the district, as well as a 100 percent graduation rate. We need to build the Warwick graduate. What does it mean to be a Warwick graduate? What does that look like? It's more than test scores; it's about grit, determination, enthusiasm, and self-knowledge. The goal is to get into the right college, not necessarily the most competitive one. It's about choosing the right college for you and making the most of that experience. I want to work with students so they are able to make that decision. Commenting on Common Core standards and PARCC tests, Dr. McEwen said she was in favor of both. She was in favor of Common Core because it has a more rigorous set of standards and the proficiency scales make sense. Referencing her relationship with her current union, she said we don't always agree, but our conversations are always respectful. I think everyone here believes in children and wants to see them succeed, but we may disagree on how we get there. Dr. McEwen said she doesn't know where the problems started between the teachers union and school committee in Warwick or why a difficult relationship exists. She said she would need to have one-on-one conversations with union leadership and see where we are aligned, where we are misaligned, and where is the gray area. We need to build relationships by being open and establishing constant communication. I expect to share open and honestly with one another. Building relationships would help lead to getting a contract that all sides can live with as well as one that moves the district forward and feels more united. One of the changes Dr. McEwen said she was in favor of was reducing the number of testing windows because there were too many before, especially for schools with limited access to technology, and it was too time-consuming. She commented that she had visited four Warwick schools today and saw some wonderful, energetic teachers and met with some fantastic children. This community has pride in its schools. She also met with Mayor Avedisian and discussed the challenges.

MOTION 2015-262: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to adjourn.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

MOTION 2015-263: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to reopen to go into executive session 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 (5-0)**

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

Meeting reconvened:

MOTION 2015-264: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session for September 15, 2015.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

MOTION 2015-265: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to adjourn the Open Session.

**MOTION PASSES (5-0)**

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 p.m.