

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Special Meeting September 16, 2015
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Ms. Ahearn called the meeting to order at 6:05 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, Phillip Thornton. 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. Thornton and the audio version of the meeting can be found on the WPS website.

Dr. Thornton said I think part of the job of superintendent is to lead the conversation on restoring that public confidence and being accessible. I work for the school committee, but I also work for the taxpayers and the parents of students; being out there and being visible. It is about a strong team moving forward, a team of teachers and administrators and the superintendent leading that conversation. In the end, you can get through it if everyone works together. He said that you will find me in the classrooms often. Warwick has some historical baggage in terms of how that's played out, but I think there's an opportunity now to really move forward. I would work closely with the president of the union and that is how I approach labor. His vision for Warwick Schools as the district moves forward is to redefine schools in terms of how many are going to be open over the next couple of years. He said he has had experience in mediation and the process in terms of teacher contracts. Teachers and administrators need more time to get together to talk about what's working and what's not working. Dr. Thornton said he is a big proponent on accurately measuring student outcomes in terms of grading. You often hear kids graduate from high schools and then go on and actually need remediation, and that's because the grades students are getting aren't matching what they know and are able to do. He also said he supports Common core and PARCC.

MOTION 2015-266: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, 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 8:30 p.m.

MOTION 2015-267: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session for September 16, 2015.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2015-268: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to adjourn the Open Session.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 p.m.