

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting March 8, 2016
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE

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

Administration present: Superintendent Thornton, Attorney Henneous, Justin Martin, Anthony Ferrucci, Stephen Gothberg, Lynn Dambruch

MOTION 2016-84: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, 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), (a)(9).

MOTION PASSES (3-0)

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

Open Meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

Administration also present: Steve Ruscito, Jennifer Connolly, Anne Siesel, Kathleen Desrosiers, Sara Monaco, Dianne Silvia, Robert Corrente, Denise Bilodeau

Vote to seal minutes of Executive Session

MOTION 2016-85: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to seal the Minutes of the Executive Session of March 8, 2016.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Votes taken in Executive – A vote of 5-0 was taken to resolve WISE Grievance #15-441 by entering into a MOA.

Non-renewals: The individual notified of non renewal under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) has opted to have this matter heard in Open Session. Superintendent Thornton recommended the non-renewal of Joseph Bleczinski, his employment with the district to cease at the end of this school year. The standard by which I make this recommendation is the administrator non-renewal standard of “I can find a better administrator and/or an administrator who is a better fit for the district.” Though the consolidation process, the school district is closing schools and reorganizing administrative teams. In creating these administrative teams, careful attention was paid to placing groups of administrators together that would work well together and compliment each other’s talents and abilities. Over the course of this winter, in an interview setting where Mr. Bleczinski applied for another administrative position in the district, I was able to observe and evaluate this administrator. Interview notes from the administrative team indicate to me that I can find a better administrator. Excerpts from team member interview notes reveal the following: Interviewer #1 records that this administrator is “not an academic leader” and has “no progressive thinking.” Interviewer #2 records that the administrator is “not very knowledgeable of the role of principal.” Interviewer #3 rates the administrator very low in all areas. “Not teaching and learning” is recorded in the comments section under Job Knowledge. Interviewer #4 records that the administrator shows “little motivation” and is “not an academic leader.” These observations by the interview team, coupled with my observations that are similar in nature, such as his lack of content knowledge in curriculum, instructions and assessment, bring me to the recommendation of non-renewal for Mr. Bleczinski.

MOTION 2016-86: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval of Superintendent's recommendation for non-renewal. [Joseph Bleczinski]

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2016-87: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the Minutes of the Open Session for February 3, February 9 and February 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 Executive Minutes

MOTION 2016-88: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session for January 19, 2016(as amended), February 3, 2016 and February 9, 2016. Executive Minutes for February 24, 2016 Executive will be held for amendment.

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 2016-89: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to accept 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 2016-90: Moved by Ms. Ahearn, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to accept the warrants for March 8, 2016 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

Professional personnel items:

Secondary Administrator Assignments:

MOTION 2016-91: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve the secondary administrator assignments for Veterans Junior High School: **Principal David Tober, Assistant Principal Lynn Prentiss, and Assistant Principal Allison Nascenzi.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2016-92: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the secondary administrator assignments for Winman Junior High School: **Principal Joanne Pelletier and Assistant Principal Donna Zanelli.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2016-93: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the secondary administrator assignments for Pilgrim High School: **Principal Gerald Habershaw, Assistant Principal Pamela Bernardi, Assistant Principal Jeffrey Taylor, and Assistant Principal Bruce Fairbanks.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2016-94: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the secondary administrator assignments for Toll Gate High School: **Principal Stephen Chrabaszca, Assistant Principal Candice Caluori, Assistant Principal John Livsey, Assistant Principal Timothy Kane.**

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

MOTION 2016-95: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, that the appointment of **Hope Valloney**, Integrated Preschool Teacher, Drum Rock Early Childhood Center be approved pending receipt of National and State BCI and receipt of RI State Certification.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Leave of Absence:

MOTION 2016-96: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the request for unrestricted leave of Julie Petitbon, English teacher at Veterans High be approved effective the 2016-2017 school year.

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:

Appointment

MOTION 2016-97: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Joel Torres, Custodian**, at Wyman be approved effective upon School Committee approval.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Retirement:

MOTION 2016-98: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the **retirement of Candace Williams**, custodian at the Administration Building be accepted effective February 17, 2016.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Coaching recommendations:

Appointments:

MOTION 2016-99: Moved by Mr. Nadeau, seconded by Ms. Furtado, that the appointment of **Isabelle Nielson**, assistant coach, girls' Lacrosse @ Veterans High be approved for the 2015-2016 school year only; that the appointment of **Michael Masse**, assistant coach boys' ice hockey @ Veterans High be approved for the 2015-2016 school year only; that the appointment of **Sherry Silven**, assistant coach boys' volleyball @ Veterans High be approved for the 2015-2016 school year only; that the appointment of **Robert Bayah**, head coach girls' outdoor track @ Veterans High be approved for the 2015-2016 school year only; that the appointment of **Ed Tarczuk**, assistant coach, girls' outdoor track @ Veterans High be approved for the 2015-2016 school year only; and that the appointment of **James Areson**, head coach, girls' Lacrosse, Toll Gate High be approved for the 2015-2016 school year only.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

New Business

Discussion/Action Mutual Link Presentation – A communications system that would allow schools to connect with the Warwick Police and Fire Departments and Kent Hospital in the event of a natural disaster or school emergency was demonstrated.

Discussion/Action STAR Interim Assessments – Overhead presentation. Each comprehensive assessment system includes specific strategies used for screening, diagnosing and monitoring individual students in literacy and numeracy. Systems include assessments of sufficient frequency and relevance as needed to ensure students have access to diverse pathways to support individual learning plans. Assessments must coordinate with evaluation process for determining edibility IEP and receiving English language services. PARCC compares student to grade level standards. STAR compares students to grade level peers.

Discussion/Action Elementary Reading Interventions - Current model: 22.5 reading interventionists (reading recovery model 1 to 1 teacher/student) servicing K-3. Grades 4-6 are not consistently serviced in current model. Currently have one literacy coach that services four elementary schools. Reading service delivery for 2016-2017 – transition to small group, research-based reading interventions; service all at-risk students in grades K-6; various research-based interventions based on student need; allows for support/consultation with classroom teachers which will strengthen core instruction. Proposed adding more literacy coaches that service additional elementary schools. The concern with the current model is that currently 342 at-risk students in grade K-6 are not receiving reading support from a reading specialist. Also there are a low percentage of students achieving expected level in the fall of grade 2.

Comments by School Committee members: Ms. Bachus: Reading Recovery program has been used for a long time. Why get rid of something that works? We used to have literacy teachers 6 days a week. Dr. Thornton commented we are modeling other districts. I cannot promote a reading program that leaves kids behind. We are not helping 342 children. Less than half of the kids come in lower than where they were supposed to be. Ms. Medeiros said small groups work best. Mr. Nadeau said he has had calls and emails from parents for the past month talking about the success of the Reading Recovery program and their concerns about removal.

Discussion/Action Policy: Homework (First Reading) – agenda item tabled

Discussion/Action Policy: Responsible Use of Technology (First Reading)

MOTION 2016-100: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve the first reading of Policy Responsible Use of Technology.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action February Vacation Survey

Dr. Thornton: based on policy a vote must be taken in March, and I am recommending that the 2016-2017 school calendar be approved; “start date August 29th, no February vacation and ending June 13” is the recommended calendar. It was noted that Wednesday before Thanksgiving is a no school day on the State calendar.

MOTION 2016-101: Moved by Ms. Furtado, to approve 2016-2017 calendar – seconded by Ms. Bachus for discussion.

Discussion and comments: ○delay February vacation another year, because people plan things more than a year in advance; ○eliminate February and have two weeks in March; ○look at research showing effect on student performance; ○look at performance in other districts; ○having Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah off, ○keep February vacation (save on heating), wait until the whole state eliminating; ○custodians use this time for maintenance, airing out building,

MOTION to AMEND – Moved by Ms. Furtado, to reflect Yom Kippur and to eliminate the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and go back to the 24th and 25th [Oct. 12 is Yom Kippur], seconded by Ms. Medeiros. The calendar keeps February vacation intact next year, however it will be eliminated starting the following school year 2017-18.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action Bid Award WACTC Wheel Balance Machine – it is recommended to award Lappen Auto Supply Company for a wheel balancer in the amount of \$14,748.46, using state grant funds.

MOTION 2016-102: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Bachus, to approve the recommended award bid.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action Bid award – high school gymnasium floor refinishing – bid recommendation for replacement and resurfacing gym floors at both high schools and junior high schools. Projects are funded using bond funds that were originally earmarked for fire code projects at Gorton and Aldrich. Award bid

Kenvo Floor Co., Inc.	Resurface gym floor Tollgate	24,516.00
	Resurface gym floor at Veterans Jr. High	37,984.00
	Replace gym floor at Pilgrim High	194,800.00
	Replace gym floor at Winman Jr.	<u>133,932.00</u>
	Total	391,232.00

MOTION 2016-103: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, to approve the bid award recommendation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action Bid award – high school athletic tracks – recommending resurfacing outdoor tracks at Tollgate and Pilgrim High Schools, using bond funds originally earmarked for fire code projects at Gorton and Aldrich. Recommended to award bid to Dynamic Sports Construction, for the Pilgrim track \$162,800 and Tollgate Track \$177,744 for a total award of \$340,544.

MOTION 2016-104: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to approve the recommended award bid.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

FY2016 Superintendent recommended REVISED Budget

Mr. Ferrucci presented the Revised Budget based on projections showing increases in expenses and the availability of additional funding associated with additional surplus from FY2015. The total surplus for FY2015 of \$3,183,725 was confirmed by both city finance and city auditors. Prior to January the school department approved a revised budget acknowledging the use of \$2,423,026 prior year surplus. The difference between what has been acknowledged and what is currently available is \$760,699 which is incorporated in our current recommended revised budget for Fy2016. The revised budget totals \$163,184,562.56 which is a 0.5% increase from the current revised budget.

MOTION 2016-105: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of the Superintendents REVISED Budget.

MOTION PASSES (4 ayes 1 nay)

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

Discussion/Action contract award – Cox Voice Over Internet Phones (VOIP) – overhead presentation

MOTION 2016-106: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action contract award – District Wide Lock & Key replacements – request award contract to Clark Security Products (using Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium contract) for purchasing a key and lock hardware in the amount of \$12,948.20. Funds are budgeted.

MOTION 2016-107: Moved by Ms. Medeiros, seconded by Ms. Bachus, approval of contract award.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action contract award – senior project overhead projectors – Recommended contract award to CDW Government, Inc. for 60 Epson Projectors \$23,700 – This amount has been budgeted.

MOTION 2016-108: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, approval of award.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action contract award PARCC testing technology supplies – Request for headsets and optical mice for a total award to Hub Technical Services of \$5,711.70 [headsets-\$3,311.70 and 800 optical mice \$2,400] – Amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2016-109: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Medeiros, approval of award.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Discussion/Action recommendation to rescind bid award – SMMA – agenda item **withdrawn**

Bids/change Orders – Greene Building Fire Code Change Orders – request to amend the fire code construction contract to Maron Construction Company for work performed during summer of 2015. Change Order 1 increases contract by \$2,222 for work associated with various doors not part of original bid. There is a credit for work in the amount of \$375. Total increase to original award is \$1,847. Request approval of change orders.

MOTION 2016-110: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Adoption of Policies

Naloxone (Second Reading)

MOTION 2016-111: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of the second reading of the Naloxone Policy.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

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

Information and proposals

Superintendent and Staff – The Superintendent commented on the 5-year plan for boilers and roofs on buildings; Ms. Bachus had a concern about IEP's being changed saying it was against the law and wrong. Her second concern was that she had reached out to a couple of administrators and was told they couldn't talk to her.

Public Comment: Robert Bushell said the Reading Recovery program was started in the early 1990s. Reading Recovery is a well-run concise program. Eliminating it due to cost is a poor reason. Don't eliminate a program that effective and works for kids. Keeping a child out of special education would save schools more than \$100,000 over the child's school career. Michael Pierce said reducing reading specialists at the elementary level to spread support across six grades, instead of 3 grades, doesn't make for better anything. Coaches for reading are to coach teachers not students. STAR testing ok for tool not designed as one tool. A reading specialist from John Brown read letter from a parent who said her son struggled with reading concepts and began to hate school. Then he got into the Reading Recovery

program and everything started coming together. Progress made was life-changing. Another letter said a child thought books were too hard and began the individual reading program and had hope and was happier and more confident student. A letter from a Park Elementary 4th grade teacher noted that reading is the foundation of success. Taking away the Reading Recovery program is taking away valuable services which have proven to work for so many years. Darlene Netcoh noted the website says going from 19,000 students to 9,000 is wrong. Also she said listen to what reading specialists, parents and students are saying. Put literacy where it should be. Darilyn Gorton remarked that STAR has major issues and wanted to bring up a point that nobody had made – Reading Recovery was a fantastic home school collaboration.

MOTION 2016-112: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Ahearn, 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: 10:55 p.m.