

Warwick School Committee Minutes
Meeting July 28, 2016
Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Administration Building on Thursday, July 28, 2016. Ms. Furtado called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE

Bethany A. Furtado Chair
Eugene A. Nadeau Vice Chair
M. Terri Medeiros Clerk
Jennifer Ahearn [not present]
Karen Bachus

Present: Superintendent Thornton, Katherine Duncanson, Anthony Ferrucci, Lynn Dambruch, Denise Bilodeau, Sara Monaco, Steve Gothberg
Attorney Andrew Henneous and Attorney Adams

MOTION 2016-333: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1),(a)(2), and(a)(4).

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Vote to seal Executive Minutes

MOTION 2016-334: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to seal the minutes of the Executive Session for July 28, 2016.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

There were no votes taken in Executive Session

Approval of Transfers

MOTION 2016-335: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Professional Personnel Items

Appointment(s)/Transfer(s)/Re-assignments(s)

MOTION 2016-336: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval of the appointment of **Ilaine Larrivee**, School Psychologist, for the 2016-17 SY, pending receipt of National & State BCI and verification of prior experience.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2016-337: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Deborah Maldonado**, Special Education, Secondary, be accepted upon School Committee approval for the 2016-17 SY, pending receipt of National & State BCI and Verification of prior experience.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2016-338: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Kristen Thomas**, ELL, 80% Secondary, be accepted upon School Committee approval for the 2016-17 SY, pending National & State BCI and verification of prior experience.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2016-339: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Harley Mitchell**, Severe/Profound, Elementary, be accepted upon School Committee approval for the 2016-17 SY, pending receipt of National & State BCI.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2016-340: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Sabrina Antonelli**, Principal, Holden, be accepted upon School Committee approval for the 2016-17 SY, pending receipt of National & State BCI and RIDE certification.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

MOTION 2016-341: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Kimberly Ruggieri**, Secretary, Chief Academic Officer, be accepted upon School Committee approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Leave(s) of Absence

MOTION 2016-342: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the request of unrestricted leave of **Erin Woulfe**, Science Teacher, Toll Gate High, be accepted upon School Committee approval for the 2016-17 school year.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Retirement(s)/Resignation(s)

MOTION 2016-343: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the **retirement** of **Carol Shunney**, English Teacher, Winman Junior High, be accepted upon School Committee approval effective July 14, 2016; that the **retirement of Arthur Bennett**, Social Studies teacher at Pilgrim High, be accepted upon School Committee approval effective July 25, 2016; that the **resignation of Jennifer Lavallee**, Speech Language Therapist, Winman Junior High, be accepted upon School Committee approval effective July 18, 2016; that the **resignation of Sherri Jeschke**, Science Teacher, Pilgrim High, be accepted upon School Committee approval effective July 22, 2016; and that the **resignation of Maria Rollin**, English Department Head at Toll Gate High be accepted upon School Committee approval effective July 25, 2016.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Coaching recommendations:

MOTION 2016-344: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, that the appointment of **Scott Bayha**, head coach boys cross country at Pilgrim be approved for the 2016-17 school year only; that the appointment of **William King**, assistant coach football at Pilgrim be approved for the 2016-17 school year only; that the appointment of **Joseph Fratus**, assistant coach football at Pilgrim be approved for the 2016-17 school year only; that the appointment of **Blake Simpson**, assistant coach football at Pilgrim be approved for the 2016-17 school year only; that the

appointment of **Sherry Silven**, assistant coach girls volleyball at Toll Gate be approved for the 2016-17 school year only; that the appointment of **Taylor Stringfellow**, assistant coach football at Toll Gate be approved for the 2016-17 school year only; that the appointment of **Matthew Raso**, assistant coach football at Toll Gate be approved for the 2016-17 school year only.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Contract Award: Highlander Institute

Recommended approval of Phase 2 of the proposal with Highlander Institute Contract for 2016-17 school year totaling \$34,000. This amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2016-345: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

[Ms. Furtado and Ms. Bachus requested updates and feedback.]

Contract Award: IXL Math Program Renewal - Mr. Ryan requested annual renewal for the IXL math program utilized by 9,300 students in the amount of \$44,175.00

MOTION 2016-346: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Contract Award: RILINK & WebPath Express - Recommended contract award for RILINK and WebPath Express – Eastbay Collaborative annual renewal for RILINK library program \$29,261.50 and Follett School Solutions, Inc. for WebPath Express for elementary and secondary \$4,990.00 total award \$34,251.50. This amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2016-347: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Contract Award: All Day Kindergarten Furniture – Recommended award to School Specialty, Inc. for kindergarten furniture for Cedar Hill, Greenwood, Holden, Holliman, Norwood, Robertson, Scott, Sherman, Warwick Neck and Wyman – total award \$35,056.00. This amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2016-348: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Contract Award: iMacs for Junior High Music Exploratory Course - Recommended award for iMac equipment for use in Junior High School music exploratory courses to Apple Computer, Inc. in the amount of \$51,435.00. This amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2016-349: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Contract Award: iPads for Special Education Programs – Recommended award to purchase 20 iPads for use by students in our Special Education programs to Apple Computer 10 iPad Minis @ \$330 each and 10 iPad Airs @ \$453 for a total award of \$7,860.00 This amount is budgeted.

MOTION 2016-350: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Contract Award: Fill material for athletic field projects - Request to purchase processed gravel for athletic field projects underway at Toll Gate and Pilgrim from Cardi Corp. in the amount of \$30,000.

MOTION 2016-351: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, approval.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Personnel Matters/Administrators – Discussion/Action Non-renewal/pre-deprivation hearing(s)-administrator(s) under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

At 6:42 p.m. there was a break before the non-renewal hearing and the meeting resumed at 6:47 p.m. A stenographer was present to record the hearing.

Present: Joseph Bleczinski and Attorney Richard Boren.

Ms. Furtado announced under personnel matters there will be a hearing for Joseph Bleczinski who has asked that it be held in Open Session. Attorney Richard Boren was present and gave an opening statement. He reported on Mr. Bleczinski's educational background and said Mr. Bleczinski has been with the school department for 18 years, serving as assistant principal as Winman 2015-16 and assistant principal at Vets. On February 23, Mr. Bleczinski received a letter from Dr. Thornton advising him he was being recommended for non renewal and his employment would expire at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Grounds for the recommendation were that the district is undergoing a restructuring and reorganization. On March 8 a vote was taken by the School Committee (4-1) to accept the nonrenewal recommendation. On March 9, Dr. Thornton notified Mr. Bleczinski of non-renewal by letter indicating non-renewed due to fiscal exigency and consolidation, potential restructure and availability of funds. This non renewal was for reasons other than performance. Mr. Boren made a comparison between the Budget of 2016 and 2017 to show that each budget had nine assistant principals, and the total salary went from \$888,831 to \$895,941 a \$7,110 increase. He reviewed a list that he had prepared showing assistant principals for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. There is no fiscal exigency.

Attorney Boren questioned Dr. Thornton regarding the number of assistant principals, the budget for assistant principals, notice of vacancy of 12/5/15 and 3/24/16, postings, and salaries.

Attorney Henneous said the facts are straight forward that consolidation and administration restructure is happening and has happened. The facts are abundantly clear regarding restructuring and reorganizing administration, and it's our belief that it's Mr. Bleczinski's burden to prove that no restructuring or consolidation is happening and if he can't prove that, then this case should be closed and dismissed.

The members of the School Committee left to conference with Attorney Adams and returned at approximately 8:20 p.m. Ms. Furtado said after conferencing with our attorney, we have had a discussion and conversation, and at this time I would make a motion to reaffirm the previous vote taken by the school committee.

MOTION 2016-352: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to reaffirm the previous vote taken by the school committee.

MOTION PASSES (3 ayes 1 nay)

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

A written decision will be provided by Attorney Adams.

MOTION 2016-353: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Nadeau, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.