

MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE
JULY 10, 2012
JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL
WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
6:30 P.M.

This meeting was called to order by James A. Williamson, Jr., Chairman.

Members Present:

James A. Williamson, Jr., Chairman
Sean M. Murphy, Vice-Chairman
Elizabeth B. Brunero, Clerk
Joseph Florio, Jr.
Vincent D. Bradley

School Committee

David G. Lussier, Esquire

Attorney Present:

Administrators Present:

Kenneth M. Sheehan, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Caroline Caswell, Assistant Superintendent of
Schools
Michael R. Petrarca, Director of Administration and
Transportation
Karen Tarasevich, Principal, West Warwick High
School
Paul Vigeant, Director of Special Education and Pupil/
Personnel Services

Recording Secretary:

Michelle M. Colozzo

Open Session

1. Open Session

Mr. Williamson opened the meeting at 5:40 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call

The following members were present:
Mr. Williamson, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Brunero, and
Mr. Florio. Mr. Bradley was absent at this point in the
meeting.

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3. Motion to go into Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session according to RI General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (a) Paragraphs 1 and 2

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ACCORDING TO RI GENERAL LAWS 42-46-4 AND 42-46-5, SUBSECTION (a), PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2.

Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion passed 4 to 0.

4. Executive Session

Executive Session

- a) Personnel
- b) Litigation
- c) Contracts

The School Committee met in Executive Session.

5. Open Session

Open Session

6. Roll Call

Roll Call

The following members were present:
Mr. Williamson, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Brunero,
Mr. Florio, and Mr. Bradley.

7. Reading of Mission Statement

Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Murphy read the Mission Statement of the West Warwick Public Schools.

The West Warwick Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, is dedicated to providing all learners with access and opportunity to a challenging comprehensive education while developing 21st Century Skills in a safe, personalized learning environment.

8. Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE

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THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Vincent D. Bradley, Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

9. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

Eli Roth, Community Organizer with Thundermist, said that he came to talk about a program he mentioned this spring—the community garden. Mr. Roth said he wanted to thank the Operations Management Technology Program. He said this program really did a good job and allowed us to stay on budget. On behalf of Thundermist, Mr. Roth said we want to them and voice support of that program.

Mr. Roth briefly spoke about what the project entailed and again expressed appreciation for Mr. Doyle and his students.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman's Report

11. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Williamson said he and Mr. Sheehan were both going to pass on their reports tonight.

12. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda

a) **Approval: Executive Session Minutes: June 19, 2012**

a) **Approval: Executive Session Minutes: June 19, 2012**

b) **Approval: Open Session Minutes: June 19, 2012**

b) **Approval: Open Session Minutes: June 19, 2012**

c) **Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: June 26, 2012**

c) **Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: June 26, 2012**

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d) Approval: Payment of Bills: \$1,629,974.63

d) Payment of Bills: \$1,629,974.63

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, Joseph Florio, Jr., Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

13. Approval: 2013 Budget Amendments

Approval: 2013 Budget Amendments

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the 2013 budget amendments.

Mr. Petrarca explained the changes which will amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2013 to \$49,395,027.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SEAN M. MURPHY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 2013 BUDGET AMENDMENTS. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr., for discussion. The School Committee had a brief discussion. The following members voted in the affirmative: Vincent D. Bradley, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

14. Approval: Bid Award

Approval: Bid Award: Rubbish Removal -- Districtwide

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the bid award in the amount of \$54,190.32 submitted by Waste Management for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015 and said that the information associated with this bid was provided by Mr. Townsend.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BID AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$54,190.32 SUBMITTED BY WASTE

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MANAGEMENT FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2015.

Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

15. Approval: First Reading: Revised Policies

Approval: First Reading: Revised Policies

- a) **Attendance Policies**
 - 1) **High School**
 - 2) **Middle School**
 - 3) **Elementary School**
- b) **Sexual Harassment Policy**
- c) **Instructional Organization**
- d) **Curriculum**
- e) **Student Awards and Incentives**
- f) **Placement, Promotion and Retention**
- g) **Curriculum Guides**
- h) **Transportation**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the first reading of the revised policies.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF THE REVISED POLICIES. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

16. Approval: First Reading: Homeschool Policy

Approval: First Reading: Homeschool Policy

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the first reading of the homeschool policy.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF THE HOMESCHOOL POLICY. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B.

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Brunero, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

17. Approval: Out-of-State Field Trip

Approval: Out-of-State Field Trip: John F. Deering Middle School Grades 6 – 8 Band and Chorus Students to Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, May 29 – June 4, 2013

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the out-of-state field trip for John F. Deering Middle School Grades 6 – 8 Band, Theatre, Chorus, and Dance Students to Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, May 29 – June 4, 2013.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP FOR JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6 – 8 BAND AND CHORUS STUDENTS TO WALT DISNEY WORLD, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, MAY 29 – JUNE 4, 2013. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

Mr. Florio asked how chaperones there will be, and Mr. Sheehan said there is a 1-10 ratio as noted in the packet. Mr. Florio asked how many kids are going, and Mr. Sheehan said approximately 120 and approximately 12 chaperones. He said the fundraising will also be paying for the substitutes for the teachers going on this trip, so there will be no cost to the district.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

18. Acceptance of Resignation

Acceptance of Resignation: Director of Administration and Transportation – West Warwick Public Schools

Mr. Sheehan said he thought he would be long gone before this day came. He read the following letter from Mr. Petrarca:

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Mr. Kenneth M. Sheehan
Superintendent of Schools
10 Harris Avenue
West Warwick, RI 02893

Dear Ken:

Please accept this letter as notification that I will be resigning and/or retiring from the West Warwick Public Schools effective August 12, 2012.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as the Director of Administration and Transportation for the West Warwick Public Schools. Twenty-eight years ago, the Superintendent and School Committee took a chance on a young, somewhat inexperienced accountant and I am extremely grateful to them. It has certainly been an interesting journey, and along the way I have had the good fortune to have worked with many outstanding and dedicated administrators and educators.

I have also been extremely fortunate to have always had a very dedicated and loyal business office staff who I have thoroughly enjoyed working with throughout my career.

Although we are in the midst of some difficult financial times, I am very proud of how our district has overcome so much adversity these past few years. I feel I am leaving a school system that is stronger and better than ever.

On a final note, I will dearly miss all my colleagues and friends that I will be leaving behind, and I wish the school district nothing but the very best.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Petrarca
Director of Administration and Transportation

MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY
THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT
THE RESIGNATION AND/OR RETIREMENT
FROM MICHAEL R. PETRARCA FROM THE
POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF
ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION
WITH DEEP REGRET AND WISH HIM THE**

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BEST FOR THE FUTURE. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr.

Mr. Lussier said that he has been working with Mike for 28 years; he said they always talked about going together. Mr. Lussier said when Mike came aboard, he had been the attorney for four years. He said we had a tremendous amount of arbitrations and grievances—he thinks we went through a period of ten years where anything to do with finances, we won, and it was because of Mr. Petrarca's thoroughness and research and his testimony at hearings—he was always prepared and knew what he was talking about. Mr. Lussier said he gave him an education. He said he knows how his staff relates to him because he works with that office. Mr. Lussier said this is a big loss to the West Warwick school system and he doesn't know if anyone can fill his shoes. He said Mr. Petrarca is well respected in the state of Rhode Island and by the Department of Education. Mr. Lussier said it has been a pleasure working with him.

Mr. Bradley said in the short time he has known him, he has worked to the level of educational slave and he wishes him well in the future.

Mr. Murphy said he has only been on this earth for 31 years, but he has always known him as school Mike; he has always gone above and beyond and he is always here and has done a great deal for this community.

Mr. Sheehan said that he didn't have the luxury of an assistant superintendent, but Mike Petrarca has always served as the Assistant Superintendent for him. Mr. Sheehan said when you mentioned he can't be replaced, there isn't a person in the entire state who has more financial knowledge and accounting knowledge than Mike Petrarca. Mr. Sheehan said without being trained in education, he is as good as he has ever seen.

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Mr. Sheehan said that Mike is the guy that he has always gone to first in this district and he acted as the Assistant Superintendent if the Superintendent wasn't here.

Mr. Lussier said there were times when we had interim superintendents, but Mike was the superintendent in those periods of time—the consistency was Mike; the interim superintendents would listen to him because he was always here.

Mr. Williamson said he is sure there will be a more appropriate venue to speak his personal comments, and Mrs. Brunero agreed.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, Joseph Florio, Jr., Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

19. Acceptance of Resignation

Acceptance of Resignation: Special Education Teacher – John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation of Allyson Cascione from the position of Special Education teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, effective immediately.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ALLYSON CASCIONE FROM THE POSITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, Joseph Florio, Jr., Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

20. Consent to Superintendent's Appointments

Consent to Superintendent's Appointments

a) Athletic Director

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of

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Gregory Kortick to the position of Athletic Director.

Mr. Sheehan said Mr. Kortick has served as Assistant Athletic Director since 2005.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GREGORY KORTICK TO THE POSITION OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR THE WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr.

Mr. Vigeant said that Mr. Kortick has been employed as a Social Studies teacher since 1995 and has always received favorable evaluation from his principals. Mr. Kershaw said that Mr. Kortick has worked for Mr. Kershaw as a coach and since 2005, he has served as Assistant Athletic Director.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

The School Committee congratulated Gregory Kortick.

b) Yearbook Advisor – John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Tracy LeFort to the position of Yearbook Advisor at John F. Deering Middle School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF TRACY LEFORT TO THE POSITION OF YEARBOOK ADVISOR AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr.,

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Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vincent D.

Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

c) Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach – West Warwick High School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Stephen Derderian to the position of Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach at West Warwick High School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN DERDERIAN TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT GIRLS' SOCCER COACH AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy.

Mr. Vigeant said Stephen Derderian is a 1988 high school graduate and he has coached soccer in town since 2005. Mr. Vigeant said Mr. Derderian has also worked for the Department of Business Regulations since 2009 and has met all standards established by RIDE.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Stephen Derderian.

d) Assistant Girls' Volleyball Coach – West Warwick High School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Victoria Ahrens to the position of Assistant Girls' Volleyball Coach at West Warwick High School.

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MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF VICTORIA AHRENS TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL COACH AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy.

Mr. Vigeant said Victoria Ahrens is a 2012 graduate of Franklin Pierce College where she majored in American Studies and Elementary Education, graduating magna cum laude. Mr. Vigeant said she has worked as a coach in East Greenwich from November 2011 to the present and meets all the standards established by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

21. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

None.

22. School Committee Discussion for the Good and Welfare of the School System

School Committee Discussion for the Good and Welfare of the School System

Mr. Williamson said last year we said in June that we would not have to have administrators' reports until October, and since we did not receive any this month, now it's official. He asked if any administrators had any comments to make.

Mr. Vigeant said he would like to say that Mr. Petrarca has been incredibly supportive of West Warwick Special Education and given him the flexibility to make changes. Mr. Vigeant said he appreciates all of his support and friendship.

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Mr. Kortick said that one piece of advice that Mr. Kershaw gave him was don't do anything that will make Mike Petrarca want to yell at you.

Mr. Bradley said for the past five years, Mike Petrarca has been very patient, helpful, and tolerant, and whatever progress he has made and whatever respect he has in the community, he owes it all to Mike Petrarca. Mr. Bradley said with somebody else in that job, he knows he would not have achieved the degree of knowledge he has, and he appreciates that.

23. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Vincent D. Bradley, Sean M. Murphy Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth B. Brunero, Clerk

Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder