

MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2012
WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
10 HARRIS AVENUE
4:00 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

Attorney Present:

David G. Lussier, Esquire

Administrators Present:

Kenneth M. Sheehan, Superintendent of Schools
Susan P. Buonanno, Principal, Greenbush Elementary
School

Recording Secretary:

Michelle M. Colozzo

1. Open Session

Open Session

Mr. Williamson opened the meeting at 4:08 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call

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

**3. Approval:
Discretionary Leave**

**Approval: Discretionary Leave: Social Studies
Teacher – John F. Deering Middle School**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the request for discretionary leave for the 2012-2013 school year submitted by Tamara Paulo, Social Studies Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School. He said granting of this leave also takes one

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of our people who has been laid off, off the unemployment rolls and the layoff list.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR DISCRETIONARY LEAVE FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR SUBMITTED BY TAMARA PAULO, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion passed 4 to 0.

4. Approval: Maternity/ Parental Leave

Approval: Maternity/Parental Leave: Part-Time Teacher Assistant – Wakefield Hills Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the request for maternity/parental leave submitted by Kimberly Fontes, Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective October 14, 2012 through October 13, 2013.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR MATERNITY/PARENTAL LEAVE SUBMITTED BY KIMBERLY FONTES, PART-TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 14, 2012 THROUGH OCTOBER 13, 2013. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Sean M. Murphy, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion passed 4 to 0.

5. Acceptance of Resignation

Acceptance of Resignation: Principal – Greenbush Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan said that Mrs. Buonanno would like to read her letter. Mrs. Buonanno read the following letter:

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Dear Mr. Sheehan and Members of the West Warwick School Committee,

I have had 5 wonderful years in the West Warwick School Department as the Principal of Greenbush Elementary School. At this time I am asking for you to accept my resignation as Principal of Greenbush Elementary School effective August 23, 2012. I will always appreciate the job opportunity I have had in West Warwick. I would like to thank you personally and professionally for all the support you have given me throughout my work here in the district. I have learned so much and approached every challenge with the very best intention for the students here in West Warwick. I will always cherish my work with the administrative team, the faculty, staff, students and families of the West Warwick School District. I wish the district the very best in all its future endeavors.

Thank you,
Susan Buonanno

Mr. Sheehan recommended with reservations that the School Committee accept the resignation of Susan Buonanno from the position of Principal at Greenbush Elementary School, effective immediately. He said he was very pleased that on August 26, 2007, he had the opportunity to give Susan Buonanno an interview for a job. He said Mrs. Buonanno has never disappointed him.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION REGRETTABLY OF SUSAN BUONANNO FROM THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy, for discussion.

Mr. Murphy said he has always heard good things from the district and throughout the town about what Mrs. Buonanno has done. Mr. Williamson said he is sorry to see Mrs. Buonanno go and he made an effort to keep her; and they will remain friends. Mr. Williamson said Mrs. Buonanno's number one priority was student advocate, always for the kids, and she has never deviated in any circumstances away from that. Mrs. Buonanno thanked and wished everyone well.

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

6. Acceptance of Resignation

Acceptance of Resignation: Assistant Principal – John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation of Andrew Longo from the position of Assistant Principal at John F. Deering Middle School, effective immediately. Mr. Sheehan said Mr. Longo has accepted a high school assistant principal position in Middletown.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ANDREW LONGO FROM THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, Elizabeth B. Brunero, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Williamson said for the record, we wish Mr. Longo the best in his new endeavor.

7. Acceptance of Resignation

Acceptance of Resignation: Grade 4 Teacher – Wakefield Hills Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation of Katherine Tanner from the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective immediately. Mr. Sheehan said Ms. Tanner has accepted a position in the Cranston School Department, not at Mrs. Buonanno's school.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SEAN M. MURPHY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF KATHERINE TANNER FROM THE POSITION OF GRADE 4

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TEACHER AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion passed 4 to 0.

8. Consent to Superintendent's Appointments

Consent to Superintendent's Appointments:

a) Principal – Greenbush Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Joan M. DeAngelis to the position of Principal at Greenbush Elementary School, effective immediately.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JOAN M. DEANGELIS TO THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Sean M. Murphy, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Sheehan said what you really need to know is that West Warwick is very, very pleased to have Joan DeAngelis apply for the principal's position.

Mr. Sheehan said he knows her previous superintendent—he mentored him and hired him for his first teaching position. Mr. Sheehan said also her background in Special Education was in Swansea where he spent 14 years.

Mr. Bradley came into the meeting at this point. Mr. Sheehan said Joan DeAngelis is the new principal at Greenbush—she was just hired. Mr. Bradley said he studied her resume. Mr. Sheehan said we are very pleased to have her on board. Mr. Williamson

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congratulated Mrs. DeAngelis and wished her good luck.

b) Assistant Principal – John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Kimberly Laliberte to the position of Assistant Principal at John F. Deering Middle School, effective immediately.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SEAN M. MURPHY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KIMBERLY LALIBERTE TO THE POSITION OF PRINCIPAL AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Vincent D. Bradley, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Williamson welcomed Kimberly Laliberte. Mr. Sheehan said how lucky West Warwick is, again in the month of August. He said Ms. Laliberte also has an extensive resume, even from the point of coming out of school and working as a research scientist—her credentials speak for themselves. Mr. Sheehan said when she was in East Providence as the department head, she moved the science department light years ahead—she is an excellent educator and has also worked as a trainer for the Rhode Island Department of Education for the evaluation system. He said we were lucky to have her apply and accept the position at Deering Middle School which adds a tremendous piece to that school to support the administration, the School Committee, and Mr. Dillon. Mr. Sheehan thanked Ms. Laliberte for her application and wished her well. Mr. Williamson congratulated Ms. Laliberte.

c) Full-Time One-on-One Nurse with West Warwick High School Student

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Mr. Sheehan said that he had hoped that we would have had a candidate today, but after the interviews today, we saw that neither of the two candidates were worthy of being nurses in the West Warwick Public Schools; therefore he does not have a recommendation at this time.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FULL-TIME ONE-ON-ONE NURSE WITH A WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Sean M. Murphy, Vincent D. Bradley, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion to table unanimously passed.

d) .6 Classroom-Based Registered Nurse – West Warwick High School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Carrie Sylvia to the position of .6 Classroom-Based Registered Nurse at West Warwick High School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SEAN M. MURPHY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF CARRIE SYLVIA TO THE POSITION OF .6 CLASSROOM-BASED REGISTERED NURSE AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Vincent D. Bradley, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Sean M. Murphy, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Carrie Sylvia.

e) .5 Social Studies Teacher – Maisie Quinn Alternative Program

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Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Bruce Gaines to the position of .5 Social Studies Teacher in the Maisie Quinn Alternative Program.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE GAINES TO THE POSITION OF .5 SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER IN THE MAISIE QUINN ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B.

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

f) Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher – West Warwick High School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Martina Marasco to the position of Long-Term Substitute Art Teacher at West Warwick High School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MARTINA MARASCO TO THE POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE ART TEACHER AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. 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.

g) Long-Term Substitute Split Assignment: LTS Special Ed. Teacher / LTS Grade 2 Teacher – Greenbush Elementary School

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

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Swope to the Long-Term Substitute Split Assignment Position of Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher/Grade 2 Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF SANDRA SWOPE TO THE LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE SPLIT ASSIGNMENT POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER/GRADE 2 TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. 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 and welcomed Sandra Swope.

h) S.M.I.L.E. Leader – John F. Horgan Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Maria DePalma to the position of S.M.I.L.E. Leader at John F. Horgan Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY VINCENT D. BRADLEY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MARIA DEPALMA TO THE POSITION OF S.M.I.L.E. LEADER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Sean M. Murphy, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vincent D. Bradley, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

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i) Head Co-Ed Soccer Coach – West Warwick High School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Isaura Price to the position of Head Co-Ed 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 ISAURA PRICE TO THE POSITION OF HEAD CO-ED SOCCER COACH AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy, for discussion.

Mr. Florio asked if this was boys' soccer or co-ed. Mr. Sheehan said it is co-ed, boys and girls could play. Ms. Price said right now, it is just boys. 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 Isaura Price.

j) Assistant Co-Ed Soccer Coach – West Warwick High School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Richard Grenier to the position of Assistant Co-Ed 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 RICHARD GRENIER TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CO-ED SOCCER COACH AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

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Mr. Florio asked what the reason was that Mr. Grenier went from head coach to assistant coach.

Mr. Sheehan said that the School Committee passed a policy last year where no coach could coach three sports as the head coach.

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.

9. Approval of Contracts

Approval of Contracts:

a) Principal – Greenbush Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the contract of Joan DeAngelis, Principal of Greenbush Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONTRACT OF JOAN DEANGELIS, PRINCIPAL OF GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

The number of work days for the Greenbush Principal at 210 days and the Middle School Assistant Principal at 220 days were discussed. Mr. Sheehan said that the elementary principals at Wakefield Hills and Greenbush work 210 days, and the principal at Horgan works 220 days because 10 of those days are for Saturday School; and the secondary people work 220 days. Mr. Sheehan said regarding travel expenses, elementary is \$1000 per year and secondary is \$1200 per year because the nighttime events associated with the elementary schools are far different from the secondary schools.

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

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The School Committee congratulated Mrs. DeAngelis on her contract.

b) Assistant Principal – John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the contract of Kimberly Laliberte, Assistant Principal of John F. Deering Middle School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SEAN M. MURPHY THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONTRACT OF KIMBERLY LALIBERTE, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vincent D. Bradley, Joseph Florio, Jr., Sean M. Murphy, and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

The School Committee congratulated Ms. Laliberte on her contract.

Mr. Sheehan thanked the School Committee for taking time out of these busy days right before school to make these personnel decisions.

Mr. Williamson reminded everyone of the change to the School Committee meeting schedule—there will be a meeting on September 18th instead of the 11th due to the primary election, at the middle school; and Executive Session will begin at 5:30.

10. 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: Sean M. Murphy, Vincent D. Bradley, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and James A. Williamson, Jr. Motion unanimously passed.

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Meeting adjourned at: 4:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth B. Brunero, Clerk

Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder