

**MINUTES**  
**WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**JUNE 13, 2013**  
**JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE**  
**5:00 P.M.**

*This meeting was called to order by Sean M. Murphy, Chairman.*

**Members Present:**

Sean M. Murphy, Chairperson  
Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vice-Chairperson  
Christopher R. Messier, Clerk  
Joseph Florio, Jr.  
Stephen H. Lawton

**School Committee**

Andrew Henneous, Esquire

**Attorney Present:**

**Administrators Present:**

Kenneth M. Sheehan, Superintendent of Schools  
Margaret Baker, Director of Financial Operations  
Brian Dillon, Principal, John F. Deering Middle School  
Jeffrey Guiot, Assistant Principal, John F. Deering Middle School  
Greg Kortick, Athletic Director  
James Monti, Director of Educational Reform, Compliance and Technology  
Keith Remillard, Principal, Wakefield Hills Elementary School  
Philip Solomon, Assistant Principal, West Warwick High School  
Karen Tarasevich, Principal, West Warwick High School  
Paul Vigeant, Director of Special Education and Pupil/Personnel Services

**Recording Secretary:**

Michelle M. Colozzo

**1. Open Session**

**Open Session**

Mr. Murphy opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M.

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## 2. Roll Call

### Roll Call

The following members were present:  
Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Brunero, Mr. Messier, and  
Mr. Florio. Mr. Lawton was not present at roll call.

## 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) Paragraph 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), PARAGRAPH 2.** Motion  
seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following  
members voted in the affirmative: Christopher R.  
Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and  
Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

## 4. Executive Session

### Executive Session

- a) Personnel
- b) Contract

The School Committee met in Executive Session.

## 5. Open Session

### Open Session

## 6. Roll Call

### Roll Call

The following members were present:  
Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Brunero, Mr. Messier,  
Mr. Florio, and Mr. Lawton.

## 7. Reading of Mission Statement

### Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Lawton 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*

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*comprehensive education while developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills in a safe, personalized learning environment.*

### 8. Pledge of Allegiance

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Messier led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 9. Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

#### Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

### 10. Student Representative

#### Student Representative

None.

### 11. Audience of Citizens

#### Audience of Citizens

None.

### 12. Chairman's Report

#### Chairman's Report

Mr. Murphy recognized Mr. Tucker from the Town Council and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Williamson for his work with the Superintendent Search Committee. Mr. Murphy said the School Committee is pleased with the result—to have a new Superintendent with such high character, knowledge, and poise; he is looking forward to begin working with Karen Tarasevich. He would also like to thank Karen Tarasevich, the administration, and Ken Townsend and everyone involved with graduation—it was very successful as usual. He indicated that all of the students had very positive things to say about their experiences in West Warwick and what they look forward to in the future.

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Mr. Murphy also commended Mr. Sheehan for his service as Superintendent and the way he handled his duties including the following:

- Two Caruolo actions and lawsuits
- Work-to-rule
- Interactions with both unions
- Termination of underperforming staff
- Evaluations of staff
- Oversight of administrators and development of leadership team
- Collaborative program and bringing back 82% of Special Education students to the district, with the help of Mr. Vigeant
- Race To The Top
- Closing of An Elementary School
- Involvement in the Rhode Island Superintendents' Association and West Bay Collaborative
- School Budget – always doing more with less
- Increased student achievement

Mr. Murphy said Mr. Sheehan was always there for everyone in this room, and he doesn't know where this school system would be today without him—he managed to keep the school system afloat in difficult times. Mr. Murphy said he has really appreciated working with Mr. Sheehan, and he thanked him for serving as Superintendent.

### **13. Superintendent's Report**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sheehan spoke about the district when he first took office as Superintendent and the work that has been done in the past six years. He said that the team of educators and the five members of the School Committee worked together. Mr. Sheehan acknowledged all of the School Committee chairpeople he has worked with: Dan Burns, Lindagay Palazzo, Jim Williamson, and Sean Murphy. He said the bottom line is that there was an agenda in this school system about doing the best for kids.

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Mr. Sheehan also commended the administrators he worked with: Paul Vigeant, Jim Monti, Mike Petrarca, and Maggie Baker. He said that the school system also hired rookies, and they grew and now are leading the charge including the new Superintendent of Schools in West Warwick.

Mr. Sheehan said that he has been very fortunate and expressed appreciation to the School Committee, the principals, the directors, and the Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. Sheehan spoke briefly about the efforts of Mr. Remillard and Mr. Monti which ultimately led to the district's receipt of \$80,000 in grant funds to purchase Chromebooks for students at Wakefield Hills.

### **14. Consent Agenda**

#### **Consent Agenda**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>a) Approval: Executive Session Minutes: May 14, 2013</b>                 | <b>a) Approval: Executive Session Minutes: May 14, 2013</b>                 |
| <b>b) Approval: Open Session Minutes: May 14, 2013</b>                      | <b>b) Approval: Open Session Minutes: May 14, 2013</b>                      |
| <b>c) Approval: Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes: May 31, 2013</b> | <b>c) Approval: Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes: May 31, 2013</b> |
| <b>d) Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: May 31, 2013</b>      | <b>d) Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: May 31, 2013</b>      |
| <b>e) Approval: Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes: June 5, 2013</b> | <b>e) Approval: Special Meeting Executive Session Minutes: June 5, 2013</b> |

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**f) Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: June 5, 2013**

**f) Approval: Special Meeting Open Session Minutes: June 5, 2013**

**g) Approval: Payment of Bills: \$924,166.32**

**g) Approval: Payment of Bills: \$924,166.32**

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

**15. Approval: Home Instruction Plans**

**Approval: Home Instruction Plans**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the home instruction plans of Ms. Asia Lynn, Ms. Lori Marzilli, Kathryn Cahill & Michael Leandro, Ms. Kathy McDaniel, and Ms. Eva Pirro Sasa.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE HOME INSTRUCTION PLANS OF MS. ASIA LYNN, MS. LORI MARZILLI, KATHRYN CAHILL & MICHAEL LEANDRO, MS. KATHY MCDANIEL, AND MS. EVA PIRRO SASA.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

**16. Update: Public Relations Committee**

**Update: Public Relations Committee**

Mr. Messier said at their last meeting they talked about the Financial Town Meeting, but he is still waiting to hear what the plan is.

Mr. Murphy said he has concerns about the Public Relations Committee being used as a political force in recommending voting the budget up or down.

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Mr. Messier said they talked about this and everyone agreed that they shouldn't be recommending a yes or no vote, but explaining what a yes vote would mean and what a no vote would mean. Mr. Sheehan agreed, we should explain what a yes or no vote would yield—what the ramifications would be. He said he believes Councilman Kenahan is on the Public Relations Committee, and Councilman Tucker is here tonight—Mr. Sheehan didn't know if he would be willing to talk about whether or not the town will be sending out a communiqué about vote yes and it means this, or vote no and it means this—we are not trying to sway anyone. Mr. Tucker said this is probably something we should talk about at another time.

## 17. Discussion/Approval: Extension of School Committee Attorney and Special Education Attorney Contracts

### Discussion/Approval: Extension of School Committee Attorney and Special Education Attorney Contract

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR.  
THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE  
THE EXTENSION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ATTORNEY CONTRACTS PENDING A COST  
ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE TWO FIRMS.**

Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

## 18. Approval: Out-of- State Field Trips

### Approval: Out-of-State Field Trips

a) **John F. Deering Middle School Grade 7  
Students to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic,  
Connecticut, June 17, 2013**

b) **John F. Deering Middle School Grade 8  
Students to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic,  
Connecticut, June 18, 2013**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the following out-of-state field trip requests:

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- a) John F. Deering Middle School Grade 7 Students to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, Connecticut, June 17, 2013
- b) John F. Deering Middle School Grade 8 Students to Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, Connecticut, June 18, 2013

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FOLLOWING OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:**

- a) **JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 7 STUDENTS TO MYSTIC AQUARIUM, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT, JUNE 17, 2013**
- b) **JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADE 8 STUDENTS TO MYSTIC AQUARIUM, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT, JUNE 18, 2013**

Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier, for discussion.

Mr. Murphy asked which teachers are putting on the second field trip, and Mr. Dillon answered: Mark Grover.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

**19. Discussion/Approval: Revisiting of School Committee Action of May 14, 2013 re: Out-of-State Field Trips Request**

**Discussion/Approval: Revisiting of School Committee Action of May 14, 2013 re: Out-of-State Field Trip Request: John F. Deering Middle School Students to Washington, DC in 2014**

Mr. Murphy noted that the School Committee had previously denied this request since the dates of the trip are not during April vacation. He said Ms. Pigott

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is present tonight to speak to the School Committee about the request.

Ms. Colleen Pigott, Teacher and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Level Leader at John F. Deering Middle School addressed the School Committee. Ms. Pigott spoke about the reasons why they feel the trip is less effective during April vacation including the following:

- Reduced participation of students and teachers due to previous family commitments scheduled for April vacation
- Longer lines and increased waiting times to visit exhibits
- Inability to obtain appointments at the Capitol, the White House, National Archives, Library of Congress due to increased demand
- Increased difficulty to monitor students due to the crowds

Ms. Pigott also spoke about the educational opportunities this trip represents for students. She spoke about how students have the opportunity to raise funds for the trip and that scholarships are also available so that all students who meet the Social Suspension requirements would be eligible.

Ms. Pigott stated there is no cost to the district for substitutes—they pay for every cost that is incurred for the trip. Mr. Dillon also provided information about the trip. The School Committee discussed different aspects of the trip and Ms. Pigott answered their questions.

Mr. Murphy asked if there was a motion to reverse the School Committee's previous decision, and there was none. Mr. Murphy noted that since there was no motion, the prior motion of May 14, 2013 stands.

### **20. Approval: Maternity Leaves**

#### **Approval: Maternity Leave:**

- a) **Kindergarten Teacher – Greenbush**

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### Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the maternity leave request of Kristy Cronan, Kindergarten Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School, commencing on or about July 26, 2013 and continuing through approximately October 25, 2013.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST OF KRISTY CRONAN, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMENCING ON OR ABOUT JULY 26, 2013 AND CONTINUING THROUGH APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 25, 2013.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Christopher R. Messier, Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

#### b) English Teacher – John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the maternity leave request of Nicole Spencer, English Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, commencing on or about August 4, 2013 and continuing through approximately November 4, 2013.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST OF NICOLE SPENCER, ENGLISH TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, COMMENCING ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 4, 2013 AND CONTINUING THROUGH APPROXIMATELY NOVEMBER 4, 2013.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

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### 21. Approval: Parental Leave Extensions

#### Approval: Parental Leave Extension:

##### a) Special Education Teacher – John F. Horgan Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the request for parental leave extension from Katie Furney, Special Education teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School, to continue parental leave for the 2013-2014 school year.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR PARENTAL LEAVE EXTENSION FROM KATIE FURNEY, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO CONTINUE PARENTAL LEAVE FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

##### b) Part-Time Teacher Assistant – Wakefield Hills Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the request for parental leave extension from Kimberly Fontes – Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Wakefield Hills Elementary School to continue parental leave and return on October 20, 2014.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR PARENTAL LEAVE EXTENSION FROM KIMBERLY FONTES – PART-TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TO CONTINUE PARENTAL LEAVE AND RETURN ON OCTOBER 20, 2014.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

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Mr. Lawton asked how long do you hold a position for – is it in the contract? Mr. Sheehan answered it is for two years.

The following members voted in the affirmative:  
Christopher R. Messier, Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy.  
Motion unanimously passed.

### 22. Acceptance of Resignations

#### Acceptance of Resignations

##### a) Teacher – Special Education ESY Program

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation of Ashley Fusaro from the position of Teacher in the Special Education ESY Program.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR.  
THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT  
THE RESIGNATION OF ASHLEY FUSARO  
FROM THE POSITION OF TEACHER IN THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ESY PROGRAM.**

Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton, for discussion.

Mr. Messier said that he noticed over the last couple of months, we have had a lot of people resigning from the ESY summer program—are we rolling in with an entire new staff?

Mr. Vigeant responded that given the fiscal situation and the needs of our students, we have reduced the extent of the ESY program this year, so there are reduced opportunities for staff, lower hours, teachers are looking for more work than we can offer. The program will be as consistent and high quality as in the past.

The following members voted in the affirmative:  
Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

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### b) Grade 2 Lead Teacher – Wakefield Hills Elementary School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation of Lisa Sherman from the position of Grade 2 Lead Teacher at Wakefield Hills Elementary School.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LISA SHERMAN FROM THE POSITION OF GRADE 2 LEAD TEACHER AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

### 23. Approval: Change in Employment Status

#### Approval: Change in Employment Status

Mr. Sheehan recommended that a change of employment status be awarded to Janet Patrone.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS FOR JANET PATRONE.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Christopher R. Messier, Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

### 24. Consent to Superintendent's Appointments

#### Consent to Superintendent's Appointments

### a) Maisie Quinn School Principal/Assistant to the Director of Special Education

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Brian Ackerman to the position of Maisie Quinn School Principal/Assistant to the Director of Special Education.

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**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MAISIE QUINN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION.**

Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion to table unanimously passed.

Mr. Sheehan introduced Brian Ackerman and said Mr. Ackerman should know the tabling of the motion has nothing to do with his qualifications or the position—it has to do with the Financial Town Meeting and what the new superintendent will be recommending.

**b) Math Teacher – West Warwick High School**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Jason Wilkinson to the position of Math teacher at West Warwick High School.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JASON WILKINSON TO THE POSITION OF MATH TEACHER AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL.** Motion

seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr., for discussion.

Mr. Vigeant said Jason Wilkinson is a graduate of Rhode Island College where he majored in Secondary Education and Math, and he is currently working in Ponagansett, since September 2012.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

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The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Jason Wilkinson.

### **c) Accountant/Business Office Supervisor – Administration**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Diane Gonyea to the position of Accountant/Business Office Supervisor for the West Warwick Public Schools.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DIANE GONYEA TO THE POSITION OF ACCOUNTANT/BUSINESS OFFICE SUPERVISOR FOR THE WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier, for discussion.

Mr. Vigeant said Diane Gonyea is a graduate of Bryant College with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration, and she has been employed as a bookkeeper for the Smithfield School Department since 2008 and she was a bookkeeper and payroll manager for the Burrillville School Department from 1990 through 2008.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Diane Gonyea.

Mr. Sheehan said it should be noted that there is no increase in the budget—this position had been budgeted—there was a reduction in this department and with the difference in salary between the outgoing Director of Administration and the current Director of Financial Operations, there will be no additional tax dollars needed.

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### **d) Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher – John F. Deering Middle School**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Lynda Nikodem to the position of Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, retroactive to May 13, 2013.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF LYNDA NIKODEM TO THE POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, RETROACTIVE TO MAY 13, 2013.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

Mr. Vigeant said Lynda Nikodem is not new to the district; she has a Bachelor's Degree from Rhode Island College in Elementary Education and English, she has a Master's Degree from Johnson & Wales in Elementary and Special Education. She has been a Substitute Teacher since 2004 and has been appointed to several long-term elementary assignments over the years. Mr. Dillon said she did an outstanding job.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

### **e) Certified Staff – Special Education Extended School Year Program**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of the following certified staff in the Special Education Extended School Year Program: James Owen – Math Teacher.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR.**

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**THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING CERTIFIED STAFF IN THE SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM: JAMES OWEN – MATH TEACHER.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

**f) Student to Student Mentor Coordinators – West Warwick High School and John F. Deering Middle School**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Esther Dinerman to the position of Student to Student Mentor Coordinator at John F. Deering Middle School.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ESTHER DINERMAN TO THE POSITION OF STUDENT TO STUDENT MENTOR COORDINATOR AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton, for discussion.

The School Committee wanted to know what the Student to Student Mentor Coordinator is. Mr. Vigeant said there are two positions, one of which we are appointing tonight, associated with students with autism. Mrs. Dinerman will be coordinating the program matching students with autism with peer mentors funded through the IDEA grant.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

**g) Certified Staff – YMCA B.L.A.S.T. Program –**

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### John F. Deering Middle School

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointments of the following individuals as certified staff for the YMCA B.L.A.S.T. Program at John F. Deering Middle School: Lisa LeCampion, Angela Palazzo, Tufon Oral, and Jennifer DeCotis.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AS CERTIFIED STAFF FOR THE YMCA B.L.A.S.T. PROGRAM AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL: LISA LECAMPION, ANGELA PALAZZO, TUFON ORAL, AND JENNIFER DECOTIS.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Christopher R. Messier, Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

#### **h) Certified Staff – Proficiency-Based Summer School – West Warwick High School**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointments of the following individuals to the following certified staff positions in the Proficiency-Based Summer School Program at West Warwick High School, contingent upon enrollment: Math Coach: Lori Tashjian; ELA Coach: Lori Huntley; Math Teachers: Kerrie Mott and Monique Maynard; History Teacher: Eugene Gallo; Science Teacher: Christine Kirch; Special Education Teacher: Wayne Brusseau; English Teachers: Richard Grenier and Colleen Pigott; and Guidance Counselor: Karen Moniz.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING**

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**INDIVIDUALS TO THE FOLLOWING CERTIFIED STAFF POSITIONS IN THE PROFICIENCY-BASED SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL, CONTINGENT UPON ENROLLMENT: MATH COACH: LORI TASHJIAN; ELA COACH: LORI HUNTLEY; MATH TEACHERS: KERRIE MOTT AND MONIQUE MAYNARD; HISTORY TEACHER: EUGENE GALLO; SCIENCE TEACHER: CHRISTINE KIRCH; SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER: WAYNE BRUSSEAU; ENGLISH TEACHERS: RICHARD GRENIER AND COLLEEN PIGOTT, AND GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: KAREN MONIZ.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier, for discussion.

Mr. Messier asked why we need two English teachers when every other subject has only one—is there a high failure rate in English? Mr. Monti responded that it is because students have to pass four years of English to graduate—they can make up a math class later on but they can't make up an English class.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

### 25. Approval: Contracts

#### Approval: Contracts

##### a) Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Murphy recommended that the School Committee approve a three-year contract for Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools for the West Warwick Public Schools, effective July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR KAREN TARASEVICH, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2013**

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**AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2016.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy.

### **b) Assistant Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve a three-year contract for Caroline Caswell, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools, for the period beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE CONTRACT FOR CAROLINE CASWELL, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

### **c) Accountant/Business Office Supervisor**

Mr. Sheehan recommended that the School Committee approve the contract of Diane Gonyea, Accountant/Business Office Supervisor, effective July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Sheehan noted after speaking with the individual, the contract is being recommended for approval with a 20% co-pay.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE AMENDED CONTRACT OF DIANE GONYEA, ACCOUNTANT/BUSINESS OFFICE SUPERVISOR.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

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### 26. Audience of Citizens

#### Audience of Citizens

Mr. Brian Dillon, Principal of John F. Deering Middle School, addressed the School Committee. Mr. Dillon congratulated the hard work done by Ms. Pigott, Ms. Fisher, and Mr. Lancellotta; and he expressed his disappointment that we couldn't come to resolution on the request. Mr. Dillon noted that over the past week, 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been coming up to the middle school and asking questions of the National Junior Honor Society students, most of whom were able to go on the trip in the past. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders were getting excited hearing about this trip. Mr. Dillon said it is things like this that go beyond test scores, considering the whole child, that really make a difference in our community. Mr. Dillon said he hopes we can revisit this because he knows it will be detrimental to the trip going forward.

Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Dillon. Mr. Murphy also indicated that none of the School Committee members disapprove of the trip, and they urge Ms. Pigott to re-submit the request for April vacation.

Mr. Keith Remillard, Principal of Wakefield Hills Elementary School, addressed the School Committee. He said with regard to the One to One Grant, he wanted to commend Mr. Monti. Mr. Remillard said it was about perseverance and figuring out how we were going to do it; and it was due to Mr. Monti's dedication.

### 27. 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. Murphy said the Financial Town Meeting is in two weeks. He said he would like to know what legally needs to stay in place and what would happen if the budget does not pass.

Mr. Sheehan said that according to state law, five days after you know you are going to be in deficit, you

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have to create a deficit reduction plan to submit to the Town Council. He noted that the School Committee is also faced with a \$558,000 deficit, and you don't have \$558,000 to cut.

Mr. Messier said he was at the middle school on Monday for the band presentations—they did the 5th and the 8th grades and then the 6th and the 7th grades. He said from a safety perspective, he thinks we need to schedule these on different nights because the parking lot was absolutely a mess—someone is going to get hurt and we need to address that.

### 28. Adjournment

#### Adjournment

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Christopher R. Messier, Clerk

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Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder