

**MINUTES**  
**WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 21, 2013**  
**WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**10 HARRIS AVENUE**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

**Members Present:** Sean M. Murphy, Chairperson  
Joseph Florio, Jr.  
Stephen H. Lawton

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vice-Chairperson  
Christopher R. Messier, Clerk

**School Committee** Andrew Henneous, Esquire

**Attorney Absent:**

**Administrators Present:** Karen A. Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools  
Margaret Baker, Director of Financial Operations  
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.

**2. Roll Call**

**Roll Call**

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

**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**

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## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON 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 Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

### 4. Executive Session

#### Executive Session

**Contracts: Discussion: Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the West Warwick School Committee and the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance**

The School Committee met in Executive Session.

### 5. Open Session

#### Open Session

The School Committee returned to Open Session.

### 6. Roll Call

#### Roll Call

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

### 7. Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

#### MOTION

#### Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

**MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

### 8. Approval: Home Instruction Plans

#### Approval: Home Instruction Plans

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the home instruction plans of Mr. & Mrs. Alrahbi, Gabriel & Julie Cote, Mr. & Mrs.

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Aram Dasnabedian, Mrs. Tracy Desantis, Jennifer & Antonio Faria, Mrs. Sarah McKenna, Matthew & Crystal Wall.

## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE HOME INSTRUCTION PLANS OF MR. & MRS. ALRAHBI, GABRIEL & JULIE COTE, MR. & MRS. ARAM DASNABEDIAN, MRS. TRACY DESANTIS, JENNIFER & ANTONIO FARIA, MRS. SARAH MCKENNA, MATTHEW & CRYSTAL WALL.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

## 9. Approval: Revised Memorandum of Understanding

**Approval: Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the West Warwick School Committee and the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance re: Dean of Students**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the West Warwick School Committee and the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance re: Dean of Students.

## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE RE: DEAN OF STUDENTS.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

## 10. Approval: Lease Agreement: Copiers

**Approval: Lease Agreement: Copiers**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended the School Committee approve the lease agreement to provide copiers for the

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West Warwick Public Schools.

Mrs. Baker said there was a lack of copiers at the high school and middle school, so Frank Mealy and Jim Monti took a look at how they were set up for copiers, and then we went to the Master Price Agreement. Originally we asked for refurbished machines from Aztec, but Axion came back asking for less money for new machines: \$90 per machine per month for 20 machines, especially for the high school and the middle school. Mrs. Baker said this is saving the district money because with this proposal, the click charges are less so the printing we will be doing will be costing us less. She said they are multi-function all black and white machines which will be redistributed to all of the schools.

Mr. Murphy asked if this was already budgeted, and Mrs. Baker said it actually will save money in the budget—usually it's about 3 cents per copy and this will be about 1 cent per copy.

Mr. Florio asked if Aztec was approximately the same price as this and Mrs. Baker said they were refurbished machines, and Axion is for brand new machines—we would rather have brand new machines.

## MOTION

### **MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR COPIERS.**

Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

## **11. Approval: Revisions to West Warwick High School Handbook**

### **Approval: Revisions to West Warwick High School Handbook**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the revisions to the West Warwick High School Handbook. She said as you may recall, these revisions were provided for you in the packet of the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton, for discussion.

Mrs. Tarasevich said basically the revisions are aligning to the Social Suspension policy which was adopted a couple of years ago, and it includes the breathalyzer so we don't run into problems.

Mr. Lawton asked just at dances, and Mrs. Tarasevich said yes, and it also includes no bumping and grinding. She said we started that last year at homecoming.

Mr. Murphy asked about the clothing language—is that against the students' freedom of speech?

Mrs. Tarasevich said no. Mr. Murphy asked about the loss of electronic devices now that we are giving them to the students at school. Mrs. Tarasevich said this is just the high school handbook, and we don't give them any devices at the high school.

Mr. Florio and Mr. Lawton asked about phones.

Mrs. Tarasevich said that students shouldn't make or receive phone calls; parents are asked to call the office. Mr. Lawton said he gets texts and he knows teachers do that, so they take the phone away the first time? Mrs. Tarasevich said it is all broken down: the first offense, the phone is taken away from them until the end of the day; the second offense, it is kept and the parent has to come in and pick it up—it's progressive consequences in terms of electronics.

Mr. Murphy asked will we stop that when we fully implement with the Chromebooks? Mr. Florio said what happens when you take the devices or cell phones or devices for security? Mrs. Tarasevich said they are locked in the back office. Mr. Florio asked how about if they are in the kids' hands?

Mrs. Tarasevich said it's their responsibility if it gets lost or stolen.

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Mr. Florio asked what if there is something illegal going on? Mrs. Tarasevich said that is another consideration when kids or adults have devices in their hands every day. When they sign up, they have to sign a code of ethics, if the parent is allowing their student to bring a Smartphone to school, they are telling us they will use it for instructional purposes only—it's the honor system—it's something that the administrators deal with on a daily basis—kids communicating with other students in school and outside. We monitor it the best we can—electronics takes up a lot of discipline time. We have an electronics list that gets posted every day—and if they see someone on the phone and they shouldn't have it, there are consequences. Mr. Florio asked who monitors that? Mrs. Tarasevich said the Dean of Students; and that's just a piece of it—it's a huge job. Mr. Vigeant said it's an even bigger problem at Quinn with kids who are emotionally disturbed. Mr. Lawton asked if a child comes in late, what's a half day, and Mrs. Tarasevich said 10:30.

Mr. Murphy asked about the language: students who miss exams must receive approval to take the exam and will be penalized 10% per day. Mrs. Tarasevich answered 10% of their grade—that's been our practice. She said every exam period we get those questions and it always comes to the principal; and as long as the student is in good standing, and if it's reasonable, we always grant it.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

### **Approval: Request for Discretionary Leave: Science Teacher – John F. Deering Middle School**

#### **12. Request for Discretionary Leave**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the request for discretionary leave for the 2013-2014 school year submitted by Michelle Ziemba, Science Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School.

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## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR DISCRETIONARY LEAVE FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE ZIEMBA, SCIENCE TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. for discussion.

Mr. Murphy said she obviously has a letter; what is the policy for someone giving you a verbal, not a letter? Mr. Vigeant said we always ask for a letter, and

Mr. Murphy said we had one last month who didn't have a letter. Mr. Vigeant said he called three times and he spoke with her on the phone, and she clearly said she is leaving—not under the best of circumstances. Mr. Florio asked was it documented and Mr. Vigeant said yes. He said most times he makes calls in Lori's presence.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

## 13. Acceptance of Resignations

### Acceptance of Resignations:

#### a) **Part-Time Teacher Assistant – John F. Deering Middle School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation from Jayne Lewis, Part-Time Teacher Assistant at John F. Deering Middle School, effective immediately.

## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM JAYNE LEWIS, PART-TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

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**b) Part-Time Teacher Assistant – John F. Deering  
Middle School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation from Amanda Campbell, Part-Time Teacher Assistant at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective immediately.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM AMANDA CAMPBELL, PART-TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

**14. Consent to  
Superintendent's  
Appointments**

**Consent to Superintendent's Appointments**

**a) Long-Term Substitute Grade 3 Teacher –  
Wakefield Hills Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Kimberly Pacheco to the position of Long-Term Substitute Grade 3 Teacher at Wakefield Hills Elementary School.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KIMBERLY PACHECO TO THE POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE GRADE 3 TEACHER AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr., for discussion.

Mr. Vigeant said Kimberly Pacheco is a 1993 graduate of Stonehill and received a Master's Degree from Rhode Island College in 1997. Previously, she worked as a long-term substitute at Greenbush and

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Deering and has been highly recommended by the administrators who supervised her.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Kimberly Pacheco.

### **b) Long-Term Substitute Grade 1 Teacher – John F. Horgan Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Dyana Richmond to the position of Long-Term Substitute Grade 1 Teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School, effective for the 2013-2014 school year.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DYANA RICHMOND TO THE POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE GRADE 1 TEACHER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton, for discussion.

Mr. Vigeant said Dyana Richmond is a 2001 graduate of URI and earned a Master's Degree from Rhode Island College in 2007. She also worked at Greenbush and Deering Middle School and is equally commended for her service to the district.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Dyana Richmond.

### **c) Extracurricular Activity Directors/Advisors**

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Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointments of the following individuals to the respective positions listed below at West Warwick High School and John F. Deering Middle School.

Brian Hopkins, Drama Director, West Warwick High School

Rikki Bicknell, Drama Producer, West Warwick High School

Harry Ryan, Mock Trial Advisor, West Warwick High School

Metro Narcisi, III and Brian Hopkins, Tri-M Music Honor Society Advisors

Tracy Lefort, Yearbook Advisor, John F. Deering Middle School

## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS LISTED BELOW AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL AND JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

**BRIAN HOPKINS, DRAMA DIRECTOR, WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL**

**RIKKI BICKNELL, DRAMA PRODUCER, WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL**

**HARRY RYAN, MOCK TRIAL ADVISOR, WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL**

**METRO NARCISI, III AND BRIAN HOPKINS, TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY ADVISORS**

**TRACY LEFORT, YEARBOOK ADVISOR, JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton, for discussion.

In response to a question about stipends, Mrs. Baker responded that it is in the teacher's contract as to how much they get, and it is all budgeted.

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The following members voted in the affirmative:  
Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Sean M.  
Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

**15. Audience of Citizens**

**Audience of Citizens**

None.

**16. 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. Florio said he just wanted to say the  
Superintendent's idea of putting applications back in  
gives the background—when you are going through it,  
certain things hit you and you want to make them  
aware they are doing a good job and why we are  
hiring them.

**17. Adjournment**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR.  
THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN  
THE MEETING.** Motion seconded by Stephen H.  
Lawton. The following members voted  
in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio,  
Jr., and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 3 to 0.

**MOTION**

Meeting adjourned at: 5:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sean M. Murphy, Chairman

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Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder