

**MINUTES**  
**WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 21, 2014**  
**JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

**Members Present:**

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

**Member Absent:**

Stephen H. Lawton (Open Session)

**School Committee  
Attorney Present:**

Andrew Henneous, Esquire

**Administrators Present:**

Karen A. Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools  
Margaret Baker, Director of Financial Operations  
Kenneth Townsend, Director of Property Services

**Recording Secretary:**

Michelle M. Colozzo

**1. Open Session**

**Open Session**

Mr. Murphy opened the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

**2. Roll Call**

**Roll Call**

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

**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**

# School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 2 of 14

## MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER 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 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.

## 4. Executive Session

### Executive Session

- a) Personnel
- b) Contracts

The School Committee met in Executive Session.

## 5. Open Session

### Open Session

The School Committee returned to Open Session at 4:45 P.M.

## 6. Roll Call

### Roll Call

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

## 7. Reading of Mission Statement

### Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Florio read the Mission Statement.

## 8. Pledge of Allegiance

### Pledge of Allegiance

## 9. Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

### Motion to Close Executive Session Minutes

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Christopher R. Messier, Elizabeth B. Brunero, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

## MOTION

# School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 3 of 14

## 10. Audience of Citizens

### Audience of Citizens

None.

## 11. Approval: FY '15 Budget

### Approval: FY '15 Budget

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the FY '15 Budget.

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY '15 BUDGET.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

Mrs. Tarasevich said she wanted to congratulate Mrs. Baker and her department on the budget format—it is very nice. Mr. Murphy said it was a fantastic job.

Mrs. Baker supplied the following information:

- Budget totals \$52,518,825 which represents an increase of \$2,049,526.
- Budget includes no raises for classified staff.
- Budget includes incremental increases for teachers Step 1 to Step 10 at an expense of \$338,944. Step 11 teachers are scheduled to receive a negotiated 2.0% increase which totals \$299,700.
- Salaries total \$29,508,444, which is 56% of the total budget.
- Teachers pension – change in state retirement system contribution rate, which adds an additional \$346,267 of expense.
- Classified pension ARC – second payment of \$1,251,225 expensed for FY 14 and FY 15.

## School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 4 of 14

- Benefits total \$15,340,744 which is 29% of budget.

Mrs. Baker also spoke about and the School Committee discussed the following sections:

- Purchased Services
- Capital Improvements
- Technology
- Special Education
- Health and Dental Insurance

Mrs. Tarasevich and the School Committee thanked Mrs. Baker for all of her work.

The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

### 12. Approval: Bid Award

#### Approval: Bid Award

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the bid award submitted by Walker Specialties, Inc. of 63 Sprague Street, Boston, Massachusetts to provide and install two hundred and fourteen (214) white fiberglass based with vinyl laminates window shades for West Warwick High School, in the amount of \$13,862.00.

#### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BID AWARD SUBMITTED BY WALKER SPECIALTIES, INC. OF 53 SPRAGUE STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS TO PROVIDE AND INSTALL TWO HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN (214) WHITE FIBERGLASS BASED WITH VINYL LAMINATES WINDOW SHADES FOR WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,862.00.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier, for discussion. Mr. Messier noted that only two bids were received.

**School Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2014**

**Page 5 of 14**

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

**13. Approval: Extension  
of Parental Leave**

**Approval: Extension of Parental Leave: Special  
Education Teacher – West Warwick High School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School  
Committee approve the request submitted by Danielle  
Irving, Special Education Teacher at West Warwick  
High School, for a parental leave extension to  
April 11, 2014.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R.  
MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY  
DANIELLE IRVING, SPECIAL EDUCATION  
TEACHER AT WEST WARWICK HIGH  
SCHOOL, FOR A PARENTAL LEAVE  
EXTENSION TO APRIL 11, 2014.** Motion  
seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following  
members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr.,  
Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and  
Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

**14. Approval:  
Discretionary Leave**

**Approval: Discretionary Leave: Grade 2 Teacher  
– John F. Horgan Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School  
Committee approve the request submitted by Kathleen  
Winslow, Grade 2 Teacher and Grade 2 Leader at  
John F. Horgan Elementary School, for a discretionary  
leave from these positions through the remainder of  
the 2013-2014 school year.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R.  
MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
APPROVE THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY  
KATHLEEN WINSLOW, GRADE 2 TEACHER  
AND GRADE 2 LEADER AT JOHN F. HORGAN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FOR A  
DISCRETIONARY LEAVE FROM THESE  
POSITIONS THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF**

**School Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2014**

**Page 6 of 14**

**THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

**15. Acceptance of Resignation for Retirement Purposes**

**Acceptance of Resignation for Retirement Purposes: Speech/Language Pathologist – Maisie E. Quinn School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee accept the resignation for retirement purposes from Linda White, Speech/Language Pathologist at Maisie E. Quinn School, effective at the conclusion of the 2013-2014 school year.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES FROM LINDA WHITE, SPEECH/LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST AT MAISIE E. QUINN SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion. Mr. Messier noted that she will be missed, and Mrs. Tarasevich agreed, adding that she has done a really great job for the district. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

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

**Consent to Superintendent's Appointments**

**a) Interim Principal – John F. Horgan Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Kathleen Winslow to the position of Interim Principal at John F. Horgan Elementary School.

**School Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2014**

**Page 7 of 14**

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN WINSLOW TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM PRINCIPAL AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2014 THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr., for discussion

Mrs. Tarasevich said that Kathleen Winslow is here tonight. Mrs. Tarasevich said Ms. Winslow received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and her Master's Degree in Administration from Providence College. She has been a teacher since September 2004, obtained her Building Administrator certificate in 2013, and she stepped to the plate at the very last minute while we posted the position and did a fabulous job.

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

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed Kathleen Winslow.

**b) Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher – Greenbush Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee provide advice and consent to the appointment of Valerie Herman to the position of Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School, effective March 14, 2014 through the end of the school year.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF VALERIE HERMAN TO THE POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**

## School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 8 of 14

**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

### **c) Long-Term Substitute Grade 2 Teacher – John F. Horgan Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee provide advice and consent to the appointment of Bethany Moore to the position of Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School effective March 24, 2014 through the end of the school year.

### **MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROVIDE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF BETHANY MOORE TO THE POSITION OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EFFECTIVE MARCH 24, 2014 THROUGH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr., for discussion.

Mr. Messier asked how many people were interviewed for that position, and Mrs. Tarasevich said she couldn't tell them because Mr. Vigeant isn't here. Mr. Messier said it doesn't look like we posted the position. Mrs. Tarasevich said she will be more than happy to research this with Mr. Vigeant.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Ms. Moore received her Bachelor's Degree from Rhode Island College in Elementary and Special Education, and she has been working as a substitute teacher since January 2012. She has covered long-term substitute Grade 4 position at Greenbush from September through November 2013.

## School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 9 of 14

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

The School Committee congratulated and welcomed  
Bethany Moore.

**d) School Social Worker – John F. Horgan/  
Wakefield Hills Elementary School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School  
Committee give advice and consent to the  
appointment of Nadia Bordieri to the position of  
School Social Worker at John F. Horgan Elementary  
School/Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective  
April 1, 2014, and contingent upon receipt of RIDE  
certification.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO  
THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE  
ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE  
APPOINTMENT OF NADIA BORDIERI TO  
THE POSITION OF SCHOOL SOCIAL  
WORKER AT JOHN F. HORGAN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/WAKEFIELD HILLS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE  
APRIL 1, 2014, AND CONTINGENT UPON  
RECEIPT OF RIDE CERTIFICATION.** Motion  
seconded by Christopher R. Messier, for discussion.

Mr. Florio asked how long does it take to get a  
certificate? Mrs. Tarasevich said she will have it by  
the end of the year.

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

**e) Head Co-Ed Tennis Coach – West Warwick  
High School**

## School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 10 of 14

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Greg Gonsalves to the position of Head Co-Ed Tennis Coach at West Warwick High School.

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GREG GONSALVES TO THE POSITION OF HEAD TENNIS COACH AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Christopher R. Messier, for discussion. Mr. Florio said what you were referring to before about me reading the Mission Statement in Italian, he wants you to know that Greg Gonsalves put down on his application that he was the Sons of Italy Man of the Year.

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

### **f) Head Girls Softball Coach – John F. Deering Middle School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Alyssa Lemoi to the position of Head Girls Softball Coach at John F. Deering Middle School.

### MOTION

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ALYSSA LEMOI TO THE POSITION OF HEAD GIRLS SOFTBALL COACH AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Christopher R. Messier, Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, and Sean M. Murphy. Motion passed 4 to 0.

**School Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2014**

**Page 11 of 14**

**g) Assistant Co-Ed Volleyball Coach – West  
Warwick High School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Jean McGarry to the position of Assistant Co-Ed Volleyball Coach at West Warwick High School.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GIVE ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF JEAN MCGARRY TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL COACH AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion.

Mr. Messier asked there is no policy in place saying we have to have so many candidates, and Mrs. Tarasevich said no.

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.

**h) Assistant Co-Ed Baseball Co-Coaches – West  
Warwick High School**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee give advice and consent to the appointment of Richard Grenier, Jr., and Richard Lizotte to the positions of Assistant Co-Ed Baseball Co-Coaches at West Warwick High School.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE APRIL MEETING SO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CAN LOOK INTO THE POSTING OF THESE POSITIONS.** Motion seconded by Elizabeth B. Brunero, for discussion. Mr. Florio asked is that just for 16h—doesn't that

## School Committee Special Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2014

Page 12 of 14

affect the rest of the individuals we are approving?  
Mr. Messier said we are voting individually.  
Mr. Henneous advised if your intention is to table to a specific meeting, it should be noted.

In answer to a question of when practice would be beginning, Mr. Williamson said he believes they may have begun already. Mr. Messier asked what are they doing right now if they haven't been appointed, and Mr. Williamson said probably working with the assumption that they would be appointed.  
Mr. Messier asked how come these are so late?  
Mrs. Tarasevich said Mr. Vigeant is not here to speak to the actual process. Mr. Murphy said if they started J.V. already, it's up to the varsity coaches to continue coaching until the assistant is appointed.

Mr. Florio said he knows the School Committee already voted, but he thinks if we are going to do one, we should do all three. Mr. Murphy said and the reason is . . . ? Mr. Williamson said a table motion for an assistant coach is one thing, but it's not the situation with Mr. Gonsalves—that's a different story, and there may be some liability involved.

Mrs. Tarasevich made a recommendation that the Committee approve this one as we did the other ones, and relative to any concerns, that we continue that discussion moving forward. Mr. Messier said for the April meeting he wants to get an answer on the Schoolspring question.

The following members voted in the affirmative to table: Joseph Florio, Jr., Elizabeth B. Brunero, Christopher R. Messier, and Sean M. Murphy.  
Motion to table passed 4 to 0.

### **17. Approval: Contract: Director of Property Services and Transportation**

#### **Approval: Contract: Director of Property Services and Transportation**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the three-year contract for Kenneth Townsend, Director of Property Services and Transportation.

**School Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

**March 21, 2014**

**Page 13 of 14**

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER THAT WE TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE APRIL MEETING SO THAT ALL OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE PRESENT.** Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr., for discussion. Mr. Messier said it's what we talked about before--he thinks it's fair to look into some other alternative and he thinks it's fair to have Mr. Lawton here for this vote. A roll call vote was taken. The following members voted in the affirmative: Mr. Florio and Mr. Messier. The following members voted in the negative: Mrs. Brunero and Mr. Murphy. Motion failed 2 to 2.

Mr. Murphy asked if there is a motion to approve the contract.

**MOTION**

**MOTION MADE BY ELIZABETH B. BRUNERO TO ACCEPT THE CONTRACT.** Motion seconded by Sean M. Murphy, for discussion. Mrs. Brunero said she thinks he is well deserving of this contract—he goes above and beyond—she is 100% behind the contract. Mr. Murphy said he is also 100% behind the contract and everything in there—just the job title alone—for an understanding of what he does.

Mr. Florio said he has a question if there's a 2 to 2 vote to approve the contract, that motion to approve the contract, and the answer was that the motion will die. A roll call vote was taken. The following members voted in the affirmative: Mrs. Brunero and Mr. Murphy. The following members voted in the negative: Mr. Florio and Mr. Messier. Motion failed 2 to 2.

**18. Audience of Citizens**

**Audience of Citizens**

**19. School Committee Discussion for the Good and Welfare of the School System**

None.

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

None.

**School Committee Special Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2014**  
**Page 14 of 14**

**20. Adjournment**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION**

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

Meeting adjourned at: 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Christopher R. Messier, Clerk

---

Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder