

MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 29, 2014
WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
10 HARRIS AVENUE
12:30 P.M.

This meeting was called to order by Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vice-Chairperson.

Members Present: Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vice-Chairperson
Joseph Florio, Jr.
Stephen H. Lawton

Members Absent: Sean M. Murphy, Chairperson
Christopher R. Messier, Clerk

Administrators Present: Karen A. Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools
Frank Mealy, Assistant Director of Educational,
Reform, Compliance, and Technology
Kenneth Townsend, Director of Property Services and
Transportation

Recording Secretary: Michelle M. Colozzo

1. Open Session **Open Session**

Mrs. Brunero opened the meeting at 12:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call **Roll Call**

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

School Committee Minutes

July 29, 2014

Page 2 of 5

3. Approval: Bid Award: Approval: Bid Award: Chromebooks Chromebooks

Mrs. Tarasevich said the School Committee had paperwork listing the options and recommendation as well as a chart that gives the bidders.

The School Committee discussed outright purchase versus lease-purchase. Mr. Monti answered the School Committee's questions via a video call. He said they had looked at everything available to us. Mr. Mealy added that the Acer 720 is the best quality machine for the price, and with regard to functionality, it has the ports we need. Mr. Monti said it actually meets our needs better than the others. It met some of our issues regarding durability—it is a heftier tool.

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve a lease-purchase with a one dollar buyout, 36 months at \$18,795, for a total price of \$676,653.84. Mrs. Tarasevich said the annual cost would come from the department's budget of \$100,000 and the additional \$125,000 from the budget surplus for each of the three years. She said as always, we are looking for funding from grants—we did apply for a Champlin grant, and if we are successful, we would only need \$25,000 from the surplus. It was noted that the lease purchase option would allow us to take advantage of additional grant opportunities as they arise and not to have to dig so deeply into the surplus, and Mr. Mealy noted that every year grant opportunities come out.

Mrs. Tarasevich said that there is no doubt that there is a need for these Chromebooks with the PARCC exam coming up next year, so there is no doubt that eventually we would need to do this—it's just a matter of deciding what road we want to go down.

Mr. Mealy noted that if the Chromebooks were purchased outright, we would not be able to get the money back from any future grant opportunities that may be available.

School Committee Minutes

July 29, 2014

Page 3 of 5

The School Committee and Mr. Monti discussed the advantage of going with the lease-purchase option and not having to touch the surplus.

Mrs. Tarasevich said we are trying to meet the needs of every department and building and trying to make sure we address everything we need to and still not wipe out the surplus.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY STEPHEN H. LAWTON THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR LEASE/PURCHASE WITH THE \$1 BUYOUT TO CDW FOR 2500 ACER C720 CHROMEBOOKS TO BE PAID IN 36 MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS OF \$18,795.94 FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$676,653.84. Motion seconded by Joseph Florio, Jr. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Elizabeth B. Brunero. Motion passed 3 to 0.

4. Approval: Bid Award: Fire Sprinkler System – John F. Deering Middle School

Approval: Bid Award: Fire Sprinkler System – John F. Deering Middle School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the bid award for the fire sprinkler system at John F. Deering Middle School to Pierce Fire Construction of 24 Greco Lane, Warwick, RI, in the amount of \$449,249.00.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BID AWARD FOR THE FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL TO PIERCE FIRE CONSTRUCTION OF 24 GRECO LANE, WARWICK, RI IN THE AMOUNT OF \$449,249.00. Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton, for discussion.

Mr. Townsend said that one thing that has happened since the project went out to bid is you have to do water pressure testing, and we came in 18 pounds under pressure. He said re-engineering is being done right now and he thinks it will come back with us

School Committee Minutes

July 29, 2014

Page 4 of 5

needing a fire pump. Mr. Townsend said he told Pierce that when we first contracted with them, and they will include the extra pricing. Mr. Townsend said his professional opinion is to do it once and do it right. He said he will have that for the September meeting. Mr. Townsend said we are talking about \$60,000-\$100,000 in extras. He also said right now we are looking at the middle school, but the high school will need a pump as well. Mr. Townsend said the middle school, we need to get underway, but the high school will be a full bid package with that in it. Mr. Townsend said most of the work will take place on second shift after school starts. Mrs. Tarasevich thanked Mr. Townsend and said he has been on this since 2005.

A roll call vote was taken, and the following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Elizabeth B. Brunero. Motion passed 3 to 0.

5. Approval: Payment of Bills

Approval: Payment of Bills: \$1,063,643.80

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the School Committee approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,063,643.80.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH FLORIO, JR. THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,063,643.80. Motion seconded by Stephen H. Lawton. The following members voted in the affirmative: Stephen H. Lawton, Joseph Florio, Jr., and Elizabeth B. Brunero. Motion passed 3 to 0.

6. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

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: Joseph Florio, Jr., Stephen H. Lawton, and Elizabeth B. Brunero. Motion passed 3 to 0.

School Committee Minutes
July 29, 2014
Page 5 of 5

Meeting adjourned at: 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth B. Brunero, Vice-Chairperson

Michelle M. Colozzo, Recorder