

Advisory Committee

11/27/07 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Horoschak welcomed and introduced the members of the Advisory Committee. In his remarks he stated that the recommendations developed by the committee will be considered in compensating for the projected decline in financial resources available to the Warwick Public Schools. However, he emphasized that the best educational interests of the Warwick Public Schools' students will be given the highest priority.

The timeline for consideration of the committee's recommendations would be the end of January 2008 for potential consolidations to be implemented in the 2008/2009 FY and by the end of May 2008 for consolidations which would be carried out in future years.

Dr. Horoschak made a power point presentation which described the depth of the fiscal crisis facing the Warwick School Department.

Director of Finance, Mr. Leonard Flood, presented a handout which described the most optimistic and pessimistic budget forecasts for FY 2008. Aldridge Junior High School Principal, William Sangster, asked for an analysis of the impact of projected deficit on individual schools. Leonard Flood responded that this information will become available as the school department completes the Rhode Island state requirement to expand the number of lines in the chart of accounts

which will allow school to school spending comparisons to be made.

Director of Elementary Education, Mr. Robert Bushell, instructed the committee on the method of enrollment projections and described comparisons of actual enrollments in previous years with those projected for the future. He further explained that school principals are submitting data which pertain to individual schools for presentation to the Advisory Committee at its next meeting. Committee parent member, Mrs. Connie Jaquith, inquired if enrollments in non-public schools was declining, which was answered in the affirmative. Various charts and graphs which depict enrollment changes in the past, along with projections for the future, were provided to the Advisory Committee members.

Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Victor Mercurio, discussed current organizational changes which have transformed the junior high schools into 7-8 grade middle schools. He indicated that data on the capability of the three buildings to house the sixth grade will be discussed at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Special Education Director, Dr. Richard D'Agostino, discussed the space requirements to accommodate elementary special education programs and the school district's plans to return as many special education students in outside placements as possible to attend programs in the Warwick public schools. The impact on school consolidation in special education programs and services will be

discussed at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Dr. Horoschak brought closure to the meeting with a discussion of criteria to be used to compare redistricting and consolidation options. He requested the members of the Advisory Committee be prepared to comment on the criteria at the committee's next meeting, which was scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2007 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Central Administration Conference Room.