

**Warwick Public Schools – School Committee
Parents Communication Advisory Committee
7 p.m. Warwick Public Schools Administration Bldg.
Meeting Minutes February 4, 2010**

Mission: To advise and make recommendations to the School Committee as to how we can better facilitate communication by and between parents, school administration and the Warwick School Committee.

Present:

Voting Members: David Testa (J.B. Francis, Aldrich; Chair); Patti Nazareth (Greenwood); Michelle Barrett (Greenwood); Ed Racca (Sherman); Paula Breslin (Holliman, Pilgrim); Barbara Supsky (Oakland Beach, Gorton); Ian Drew (Wyman); Steve Campanelli (Robertson);

Ms. Wolff (Warwick Neck); Heidi Ross (Wyman); Tracey McDermott; Marc Comtois (Hoxie);

Stacie Silvestre (Sherman/Aldrich); Peter Horoschak (Superintendent); Lucille Mota-Costa (S.C.); Patrick Maloney (S.C., JB Francis)

Non-Voting Members: Kristin Campbell(RIPIN) Jen Marcello (Lippitt)

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by David Testa

Motion made /seconded to accept minutes of December 3, 2009 as distributed.

Completed Business – (David Testa)

- Additional links added to website**
- ~1350 e-mails sent...~ 476 were opened some responses were noted**

Unfinished Business – (David Testa)

- Connection with PTA/PTO's is ongoing... perhaps send a invite to all PTO/PTA presidents... list from Dr. Horoschak's secretary**
- Master list of WPS committees and schedules – work in progress**

New Business –

- PCAC proposed By-laws Distributed to members to take home to read for vote on adoption @ March meeting**
- Any revisions will be e-mailed to members prior to March meeting**

General Discussion-

- Question regarding budget to Dr. Horoschak....He is guessing, has expectation of serious reductions in funding. Will not be any stimulus funds this year. Anticipating the worst – more personnel reductions. Limit to teacher layoffs, 40 notices will be sent out, only 20 can be enacted. Anticipate administrative and support staff reductions. School closings are not anticipated for next year. At the Jr. High level Winman and Gorton lost a team this year and Aldrich will lose a team next year. ? Were savings seen from last years closures, yes ~ \$800,000. Next step would be redistricting whole city. School Committee wants a long-range plan to be developed.**
- Code upgrades need to be made to utilize closed bldgs.**
- A second early childhood center is being looked at for northern part of city**

- Principals are responsible for making contact w/ Bldgs/Grounds regarding problems at individual schools.
- Summer maintenance, extra workers could be hired to maintain school grounds.
- Need to address the issues developing from prolonged short staffing vs. general maintenance
- Union contracts prohibit outsourcing
- School playgrounds are used by city residents after 3pm, but are still responsibility of school dept.
- Patrick Maloney commented safety issues have been addressed when brought to the attention of school dept.
- March – June need public response – address apathy among parents
- Board of Regents has proposed many changes; competing demands; School Dept. being given requirements but not the means to implement
- Discussion of rotating school committee meetings to various areas of district.
- Ask PTA/PTO's ideas for parents to get involved. Ask to forward best ideas to PCAC. List of ideas by the superintendent "How to help your school".

Updates -

Administration – (Dr. Horoschak)

- NECAP – unacceptable math scores 11th grade
- Race to the top funding tied to charter schools.

- **Diminishing resources, where should they be directed.**

School Committee – (Patrick Maloney/Lucille Mota-Costa)

- **Tuesday meeting at Toll Gate Auditorium**

- **Tardiness policy –2nd reading new policy is a result of an initiative of a student**

- **Concern mandates may not be followed, ex. bus monitors**

Reminder - free and reduced lunch applications can be filled out at any time if family economic situation changes.... Possibility of including this info in a citywide connect-ed message.

Thank you to Heidi Ross for distributing Warwick tourism Dept. city map and folder, at our meeting.

Next meeting – Thursday March 4, 2010

7 p.m. Administration Building

Motion to adjourn 8: 51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Nazareth