Warwick School Committee

Meeting of May 4, 2023 Open Session

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Toll Gate High School on Thursday, May 4, 2023. Mr. Testa called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE

David Testa, Chair
Shaun Galligan, Vice Chair
Leah Hazelwood, Clerk
Karen Bachus - Not Present
Michelle Kirby Chapman

Public Comment

JoAnn Schofield, President and CEO of Mentor RI. We've had the pleasure of mentoring the Mentor program in Warwick Public Schools for over 30 years. I would like to thank the Committee for including $25,000 in the operational budget for this valuable program where right now as of this week at 99 young people are being served one- to-one with volunteer mentors from the community.

Darlene Netcoh, Teacher, President of Warwick's Teacher Union. Reiterating what I said the other night, I am pleased to see that the budget includes new Special Ed positions. We do need a Special Ed certified Early Childhood for WELC. We do need many other items, I know last year the district cut professional development money and all of that cut was not put back. I hope that the School Committee and the administration works with the Mayor to pass the budget. Let's get it passed for the students of Warwick; that's why we are all here.

Jeremy Langill - I read through the budget and saw the items related to conscious discipline and was really excited about it. Helps me be a better parent; hope there's an avenue for getting parents the training as well. Anxious to see training for our teachers as well. I was surprised by Monday's meeting with the delay and want to say that it surprised me because the motion that was on the table had do with being in violation of policies, and when that question was directed to, the attorney, the attorney stated there was no violation of policies, in terms of the meeting you were having on Monday, May 1st. When I watched that, I thought to myself, great, we're going to table that motion and go back to the meeting. On the stage, there's only one person's whose legal opinion matters and that's all that really matters. That made me nervous that it passed. Look forward to seeing this budget pass.

Unfinished Business

Discussion/Action: FY24 Superintendent Recommended Budget

Mr. Testa: Committee Members are free to go through specific line items to ask questions, propose changes, additions, subtractions or keep it the same.

Mr. Galligan, thank you to the members of the administration and everyone up here on the stage who has been very helpful over the past three days in getting the information required so that tonight we could feel confident in each and every line item that we are voting on. I also just want to provide a point of clarification; this past Monday, I want to make it clear, I was not challenging Mr. Testa. I have tremendous respect for our Chair, he's been on the School Committee for a while and been through several budgets. We are going to vote on many line items in several meetings throughout the year and we're likely not going to agree. With respect to the comments just made, I was not challenging the legality of the policy, certainly the policies are reviewed by an attorney and the Policy Sub Committee and put forth, rather, I was looking at "do I have the information necessary to vote on the budget"? So I respect Attorney Henneous, and I respect his background , his knowledge and his education and years of experience, but the fact of the matter was that there were items which I was missing, so I was not able to proceed; that is the fact. One final remark on Monday evening's proceedings. To me, Monday evening it's not a story right. The Chair and I, as well as my colleagues, were going to disagree on points, it's going to happen, and that's all that was.

Mr. Galligan, I am going to personnel with the exception of just asking Mrs. Ruggieri to just confirm that the 17 ½ adds on the Y side and the 15.2 adds, as well as the 1.5 admin adds, all of these and the associated salary of $1.9 million dollars approximately is captured within our salary line item, is that a correct statement. Mrs. Ruggieri, yes that is correct, however, I do need to clarify one thing. We have to make an educated estimate on salaries for teachers so I used a step 5. We may have some more coming in closer to step 10, more come in closer to step 1. So I just kind of made a middle of the road estimate. Mr. Galligan, fantastic. So that line item we could be over budgeting in that line item or it could be under budget? Mrs. Ruggieri, correct. Mr. Galligan, thank you for that and then associated with all of those adds, the $146,372.87 FICA and Medicare, that is associated within the line items on fringe benefits? Mrs. Ruggieri, correct. Mr. Galligan, thank you very much for that.

Mr. Chair, turning it over to my recommended cuts at this time.

MOTION 2023-118: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $17,500 to 57309 - Teachers Chromebook

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION 2023-119: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $3,150 to 57309 USB-Connectors

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION 2023-120: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $5,000 to 57309 technology related hardware, miscellaneous classroom and hardware needs

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

57309 - the District's core data center hardware cyber security $150,000. Dr. Taylor urged consideration in this area. To redo our data center would be over $1M. Mr. Galligan, have we considered tier 1 data centers off site and work with a cloud environment. Dr. Taylor, virtualizing our servers to the cloud. Mr. Galligan, how along are we percentage wise? Dr. Taylor, nothing virtualized yet, half of the way through the process. By June 30th, we will be done with the first phase. Would like to add to it each year. Mr Galligan, no proposed cuts to 57309 cyber security. Motion withdrawn.

MOTION 2023-121: For the public's knowledge, in speaking with Ms. Dambruch, Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. McGrath, Director of Finance. Stated that we can reduce this line item by $25,000. Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $25,000 to 53409 - Negotiations and Arbitrations

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-122: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $50,000 to 53402 - Legal Services

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-123: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to add $54,024 to 53403 Health Service Providers

MOTION PASSES (3-1)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood Nayes: Kirby Chapman

53410 Police and Fire Detail - clarification from Mr. McGrath

53502 - technology network vulnerability assessment. Recommendation $5,000, not wise at this time. Motion that we cut this line item 53502. Dr. Taylor, I would like to add a bit of color to that; that's a requirement now for cyber insurance as a penetration test and that's exactly what that line is and that's why it lives in the other services line and not in like a hardware or software line. Mr. Galligan, so this is not a recommendation, it's a requirement? Dr. Taylor, correct, it's a recommendation in that we don't need to do it, but it would impact our cyber insurance. Mr. Galligan - Mr. Chair, I am going to withdraw motion based on the fact that there could be an adverse effect.

MOTION: 2023-124: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $10,000 to 53502- Other Services Synet Door repairs

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-125: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to add $600,000 to 55111 transportation contractors. Mr. Testa, I get your intention, don't see it as realistic. Don't believe First Student can provide us with the buses.

MOTION PASSES (3-1)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman Nayes: Testa

MOTION: 2023-126: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to add $30,000 to 57305 Athletics/Sandpros

MOTION PASSES (3-1)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman Nayes: Testa

MOTION: 2023-127: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms.Hazelwood to cut $10,000 to 57306 furnitures and fixtures

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-128: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $100,000 to 56215 electricity

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-129: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $5,000 to 53303 conferences and workshops

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-130: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $20,000 to 56406 non public textbooks

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

Mr. Galligan, clarification on 56101 general supplies curriculum certifications for the lifesaver program. Mr. McCaffrey, are we going to be able to cover with Perkins Grants? Mr. McCafreey, we should be able to cover.

54601 rental land and buildings motion to add $6,475 for storage container of sports equipment to free up the rear gymnasium. Motioned by Mr. Galligan, seconded bs. Hazelwood. Motion withdrawn

MOTION: 2023-131: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $5,300 to 57311 Traversa

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-132: Moved by Mrs. Kirby Chapman, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $40,000 to 51327 AMPM Supervision Classified

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

53216 tutoring services - for all students who are hospitalized at Bradley hospital. Attorney don't touch this, there are legal aspects

Recess at 7:21PM

Returned to Open Session at 7:33PM

MOTION: 2023-133: Moved by Mr. Galligan, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $20,000 to 56219 custodial supplies

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-134: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $5,000 to 51202 snow plow overtime

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-135: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $1,000,000 to 51110 salaries

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-136: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $81,000 to 51332 sick payoff non severance

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-137: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $100,000 to 51338 - ESY

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-138: Moved by Mr. Tests, seconded by Mr.Galligan to cut $25,000 to 53214 mentoring

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

54201 rubbish disposal services $100,000 - looking to cut $20,000, is that problematic. Mr. Oliver, yes this will be problematic. Mr. Testa, motion withdrawn

MOTION: 2023-139: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $10,000 to 54313 repair non student vehicles

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-140: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $5,000 to 54321 maintenance repair electrical

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

54322 maintenance repair HVAC budgeted $120,000, looking to reduce it by $10,000. Mr. Oliver, this covers all our buildings. Withdrawn

MOTION: 2023-141: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $5,000 to 54405 sewage and cesspool

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-142: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $2,000 to 54602 rent lease equipment vehicles

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

54902 fire alarm system $140,000 budget. Was looking to reduce by $15,000. Withdrawn

MOTION: 2023-143: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $52,722 to 55610 tuition other districts within state

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-144: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $600,000 to 52204 private pension

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-145: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $2,500 to 55809 employee travel teachers

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION; 2023-146: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $18,000 to 56101 supplies and materials Motion withdrawn

MOTION: 2023-147: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr.Galligan to cut $150,000 to 56201 natural gas

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-148: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $50,000 to 56202 gasoline

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-149: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $10,000 to 56207 vehicle maintenance supplies and parts

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-150: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $25,000 to 56211 other

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-151: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $21,500 to 56501 technology related supplies

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTON: 2023-152: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $185,000 to 57202 building improvements

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-153: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $3,500 to 57305 equipment (secondary)

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-154: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to cut $30,412 to 57311 tech software costs

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-155: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to cut $3,000 to 58101 Professional organization dues and fees

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

Recess at 8:21PM

Returned to Open Session at 8:31PM

MOTION: 2023-156: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to add $40,000 back to 57202

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-157: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood to add an additional $250,000 to breakage

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-158: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Galligan to accept the budget as amended this evening, Thursday, May 4, 2023, grand total $184,223,389

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

MOTION: 2023-159: Moved by Mr. Testa, second by Mr. Galligan to adjourn the meeting

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes: Testa, Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby Chapman

Meeting adjourned at 8:37PM