Warwick School Committee
Meeting of January 9, 2024
Open Session Minutes

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Veterans Middle School on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Mr. Testa called the meeting to order at 7:01PM

Committee Members

David Testa, Chair	Shaun Galligan, Vice Chair	Leah Hazelwood, Clerk
Karen Bachus	Michelle Kirby-Chapman	

Election of Officers Ms. Dambruch / Chair

A. Discussion/Action: Election of School Committee Officers

1. Chair - Karen Bachus nominates David Testa, seconded by David Testa, Karen Bachus, David Testa yay, Shaun Galligan, Leach Hazelwood, Michelle Kirby Chapman, nay. Motion fails 3-2
   Leah Hazelwood nominates Shaun Galligan, seconded by Michelle Kirby-Chapman. Motion passes 3 in favor. Nay: David Testas. Karen Bachus - present.
2. Vice Chair - Michelle Kirby-Chapman nominates David Testa, Mr. Testa respectively declined.
   Michelle Kirby-Chapman nominates Leah Hazelwood, seconded by Shaun Galligan. Motion passes 5-0
3. Clerk - Leah Hazelwood nominates Michelle Kirby-Chairman, seconded by David Testa. Motion passes 5-0

Recognitions

Employee Spotlight - December Employee Spotlight
2023 RI STEAM Educator Award - Kristen Noonan, Visual Arts Teacher, Robertson Elementary

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Darlene Netcoh - Happy New Year to everyone! Congratulations to the new School Committee. As always, willing to work with any members of the School Committee. My door is always open. Congratulations Kristin Noonan, prestigious award; yet another example of the outstanding educators that we have here in Warick. The agenda item that I want to start with is the Learn 365 that Superintendent Dambruch is going to speak about. I think it's great that Warwick Public Schools was able to work with the Girls & Boys Club in order to offer these special opportunities for students who need more work with math and reading and literacy skills, so any negative comments I have, have nothing to do with Warwick Public Schools, the Boys & Girls Club of Warwick or Warwick in any way. I do take issue with the way the whole program that Governor McKee created is run. Because he has $81M and just decided to throw it out willy-nilly to cities and towns who sign on and promise certain things. Instead of going to the School Departments themselves. He should have gone to each school department in the state and said what do you need in order to accomplish this goal of providing year round education for those students who need it. Not, oh if you sign up and do what I say, I'll throw some money at you. I congratulate Superintendent Dambruch from being able to pull something together out of chaos from the state and it's another example of you know Warwick Schools trying to do the right thing for the students.

Recommended Actions

Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Testa, approval of Minutes of Public Session - December 12, 2023

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Testa, approval of Transfers - January 9, 2024

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Mr. Testa, approval of Warrants - January 9, 2024

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Announcements-Personnel-As Presented

Discussion/Action: See attached spreadsheet - January 9, 2024 Personnel Announcements

Retirements: Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Resignations: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Coaching

Donations and Correspondence

Ocean State Job Lot, Wyoming, RI $100.00 gift card donation to WPS for Anti Bullying Event

Anonymous donation $500.00 for the Education of the Students of E.T. Wyman Elementary School

Adoption of Policies

ACC - Physical or Mental Abuse and Sexual Abuse, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Molestation Prevention Policy - 2nd Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

AG - Accomplishment Reporting to the Public - 2nd Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

DBA - Budgeting System - 2nd Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

DBD - Budget Planning - 2nd Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

DBH - Budget Adoption - 2nd Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

DFD - Rental and Service Charges - 2nd Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

AFG - Use of Independent Evaluators - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

DFC - Grants From Private Sources - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

GBB - Staff Involvement In Decision-Making - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

GBN - Disqualification of Job Applicants With Criminal Convictions - 1st Read - Tabled

IKD - Honor Rolls - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

JC - School Attendance Areas - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

JECE - Student Withdrawal From School - 1st Read - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

JHCE - Health, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Wellness - 1st Read - Tabled

Policies for Elimination - Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Reviewed Policies - Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

New Business

Discussion/Presentation: Learn 365 Grant-Vacation Club at Boys & Girls Norwood Club

Discussion/Update: Superintendent Update

- ★ Literacy Grant
- ★ Learn 365
- ★ Attendance Matters
- ★ NEASC Accreditation
- ★ Kindergarten Registration
- ★ Modern Teacher

Discussion/Update: Bond Project Status Update

Discussion/Update: High School Project Update

Discussion/Update: FY2024 Monthly Financial Report and Year End Review - Requisitions Approved $500 - $4,999.00

Discussion/Action: Approval New Role - Assistant Controller-Grants and Bond Finance Manager - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: 2024 Rhode Island Student Survey - Tabled

MOTION PASSES (3-2)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman Nayes, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - TNL Engineering LLC (Req #18308) - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - Beyond Services LLC (Req #18190) - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - Turf Products Corp (TPC) (Req # AT240049) - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Testa Nayes, Bachus

Discussion/Action: Request for additional 2 - Special Educators and 4 - FT Teacher Assistants - Moved by Ms. Hazelwood seconded by Mr. Testa approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Approval LRP National Institute Conference May 2024 - Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - Steven A. Feldman, M.D. (SP240093) - Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Full time 1:1 Teaching Assistants Request - Warwick Vets Middle School and Norwood Elementary School - Moved by Ms. Bachus, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Renaming Professional Staff and Support Staff in the Policy Manual - Moved by Mr. Testa seconded by Ms. Bachus approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - Change Order Request Delta Mechanical (PO #24000479) - Moved by Mr. Testa seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - W.W. Grainger, Inc. (#18237) - Moved by Ms. Bachus seconded by Mr. Testa approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Discussion/Action: Contract Award - Atlantic Abatement Corporation (18239) - Moved by Mr. Testa seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa

Public Comment

Darlene Netcoh - I see Modern Teacher on the agenda again, I think it's hilarious that no teachers are currently involved. If it is something having to do with teaching then, teachers should be involved. Budget and budgeted items, that time of

year scheduling and budgeting coming up, talking about programs, classes and courses that need to be scheduled because that will be coming up. Remember we should have PE for a full year in high school again. We need guidance back in Elementary school. I had a conversation with Mrs. Cousineau the other day about the importance of guidance. Programming going on now in the Elementary schools that classroom teachers are supposed to do and really Guidance Counselors used to that, it was in their curriculum. Let's think about the proper staffing for all of the programs and for the needs of the students. Huge need for those two classrooms being added for Spec Services.

Jeremey Langill - parent of first grader at Warwick Neck, and you reminded me to register my incoming kindergartener. I think the survey issue keeps coming up. I understand the idea that it doesn't matter if we do it in 4 weeks, but we can also do it now, so that's not an argument; it's a logical fallacy actually. Being a parent does not make one an expert in epidemiology or substance abuse or psychiatry or any of those things and I know the impulse is to watch a youtube video for an hour and that suddenly makes someone an expert but that's not how it works. I trust the institution that we have in place to make these decisions. So there was no reason to delay the survey. The institution has already done the work and the experts have already done the work. Me, being a parent, doesn't make me an expert in it. The fact that I had children, just means I had children. I also share Mr. Testa's concern about the language around misdemeanors. I would want to make sure that we don't exclude candidates who have made a mistake earlier in life that's not a major mistake. My suggestion would be since I am not aware that any member of the school committee is an attorney, is to accurately include the language in legal language in the policy. That way you are not leaving it up to the discretion of the school committee. Finally, I read in the language for the policy of physical education language that for afterschool activities, that all schools are encouraged to offer before and after school activities. If there is no dollar amount attached to it, it doesn't have real meaning to it.

Julie Connors Costello - tonight I come to you as an employee of the district. First of all, congratulations to the people in the new positions of the School Committee. Secondly, Mr. Oliver, you talk about the creation of a restroom that is conducive, we don't have one on my floor at Winman. There are probably 25 women and 3 men and we have one toilet for adults to use. We had to get creative or use the kids bathroom. My reason tonight is just to say that we need help at Winman. We have lots of concerns. I am not going to speak on behalf of the faculty at this particular meeting, but we're lacking in some areas of support. Most recently is the position of a school resource officer. Winman has been without, since I believe, Christmas 2022. Once in a while we get the SRO from Toll Gate, but we need an SRO ASAP. I have concerns about the lack of department heads at the Middle School level. I would also love to see a team come back to Winman.

Jen Hartell, Spec Ed teacher at Winman. First of all, I would like to express my excitement at the two positions and teaching assistants that have been added to the elementary level. I am also here to petition that we need help at the secondary level as well. I know that the school department and others have been petitioning for several years about the need for additional teams, and also we have no room for movement, our classes are already packed. When numbers are determined, you can't max out your classrooms, especially for students with disabilities. We need to make sure that we have room for movement. I am over in one class and I have a student that needs additional support. There are students who have not made educational growth in iReady for years and we have nowhere to put them. It shouldn't be all or nothing. I don't know what else to do for the students. I'm here advocating that there be movement for that continuum of services. Need additional staffing and another team to accomplish this.

Future Meetings

Fiscal Subcommittee Meeting - January 10, 2024, 2:30PM
Health & Wellness Subcommittee Meeting - January 25, 2024 , 6:00PM
Policy Subcommittee Meeting - February 6, 2024, 4:00PM
Warwick School Building Committee Meeting -February 7, 2024, 7:30AM
Monthly School Committee Meeting - February 13, 2024, 7:00PM
Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee (WSEAC) - February 28, 2024, 6:00PM

Adjournment - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood

Public meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Ayes, Galligan, Hazelwood,Kirby-Chapman, Bachus, Testa