

Warwick School Committee

Open Session Minutes

November 12, 2025

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The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Veterans Middle School on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Vice Chair Hazelwood called the meeting to order at 5:15PM.

Roll Call

Shaun Galligan, Chair, Absent

Leah Hazelwood, Vice Chair, Present

Michelle Kirby-Chapman, Not Present

David Testa, Present

Sean Wiggins, Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions

Recognition of Warwick Police Department's Community Services Division in appreciation of your department's ongoing partnership with Warwick Public Schools

Colonel Michael Lima, Chief of Police

Captain Charles Boisseau

Sergeant Timothy (TJ) Tavares

Sergeant John Zaborski

Officer James Wenneman

Officer Al Marano

Officer Ryan Shibley

Officer Nia Pina

Officer Stanley Hermanowski

Officer Brittany Crabtree

Officer Gerard DiTomasso

Officer Michael Maccarone

Employee Spotlight

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Darlene Netcoh - TA positions get approved, they are needed. I cannot reveal where I know some are definitely needed. I know you received an email today from a teacher concerned about positions that were cut and need to be added back. Gorton move - I was against the Gorton move, but it was a good thing that we were able to put schools in there. As of right now, it requires a lot of repairs. You can improve Gorton and rent it out. The school could be the landlord and collect money.

Recommended Actions

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Minutes of Public Session - October 16, 2025

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Minutes of Executive Session - October 16, 2025

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins Approval of Warrants - November 12, 2025

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Announcements-Personnel-As Presented - [November 12, 2025 Personnel Announcements](#)

Retirements: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Resignations: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Leave of Absence: Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Coaching Recommendation(s) - [Appointment of Coaches](#)

Donations and Correspondence

Donation of an assessment kit, manuals, protocols and rating scales to be utilized district-wide from Susan Culbert in the amount of \$2,410 - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Adoption of Policies

2nd Read

[BFE - Administration in Policy Absence](#) - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

1st Read - Tabled

[BDDG - Minutes](#) - Motion to Table - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (3-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Testa, Wiggins

Clerk Michelle Kirby-Chapman - Present at 5:40PM

New Business

1. Discussion/Presentation: [State Assessment Data](#)

Mr. Testa - I get this data, I do, but the RICAS that encompasses the whole district doesn't show where the big bright spots are. It doesn't show the areas that we need to improve. I mean that comes later with the individual RICAS data. I see it and some people from the public may look at this and say, well it's just ok or they could be disappointed. My point is there's a bigger picture here and it doesn't present itself from the data.

Ms. Hazelwood - I had a conversation with the Superintendent stating that there are a lot of good things happening in this district. This does not sum up the story. We need the data, but it doesn't sum up what's happening in our schools, and I believe we will see more and more improvement in the years to come.

2. Discussion//Update/Presentation: High Schools Projects Update

We have a key feature now on our website, the latest drone fly, which looks a lot like last month. So any members of the public want to go and see roughly a 90-second drone flyover of construction progress, it is there on this website. Concrete installation is ongoing, it will be through November, and the much anticipated arrival of steel is starting mid-December. Very exciting, things are going to go very quickly out there. I'm going to pivot to Pilgrim. DEM has given us the green light to start work at Pilgrim HS. So if you were to drive by that site today, you're going to see all of the safety measurements are in place. I want to make the School Committee aware that there is a change in course, but it is approved by RIDEM and we think it is going to save us a lot of money. We will keep you updated. We have essentially started the first real construction activity out there. By the time we come before you next month, we will have a definite approach.

Mr. Testa - it's important to add a little bit to what you presented because we discussed this today at the Building Committee meeting. Last month when you came before us, we thought that we had an area of clean built. We were going

to keep that, right? But part of that, which we were very clear about, you have to excavate the walls around it. We did that and found a black substance and we had to stop and get it tested. We believe it is organic material. But every single time we encounter it, we have to stop, test and wait. Testing is money, stopping is time and time is money. The fact that the cap in place is approved by the RIDE. Mr. Bates - it's common, fully compliant. RIDE has a database on all land use restrictions sites.

3. Discussion/Update: [Capital and Construction Projects Update](#)

Mr. Wiggins - thank you for your work at Hoxsie

Ms. Hazelwood - thank you for going to Oakland Beach this week about the heating system.

4. Discussion/Action: Approval of the Toll Gate High School GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price) - [Toll Gate GMP #s Summary](#)

Mr. Bates - so the guaranteed maximum price to build the Toll Gate High School. So, this guarantees the ceiling of costs of work outside of any owner directed or approved changes. It's inclusive of the \$88 million and change dollars of early release packages that we have approved here by this committee. To date, there were 12 of them. This GMP now puts Dimeo's total contract amount up to \$152,566,876 million and that's for the building itself and that is for the CTC renovation, what we're calling the the base project and that represents about \$750ish dollars per square foot, which I can say in 2025 to build a new high school in in this region in the mid-\$750 range is quite an achievement. So credit to the team on that. We do have \$9 million in total alternates that you can see on the screen. If you would include those alternates, that moves that per square foot number up in the high \$780s. I just want to note a few things about the GMP document. LeftField and the capital project team, Mr. Gothberg, Mr. Oliver, we sat down with Dimeo and we reviewed Dimeo's rates against their competitors in the region. We find that they're on par. We looked at their staffing plans. We think that the amount of staffing that they've allocated to the jobs is appropriate. We looked at the contingencies within the GMP and we found them appropriate. We've reviewed all the subcontractor bid tabs and we're in agreement with all of the selections that have been made. So we're recommending approval of this document.

Mr. Wiggins - in keeping true to our last conversation with Pilgrim, I certainly agree with adding back to the GMP, 1 through 8. I do appreciate you explaining 9 and 10. So I would move to have those eight items added. Is that a move? He basically moved to do it for us. I mean, he did my work for me.

Mr. Bates - don't take that as a motion, but what I'm saying is that this comes with a caveat that additional funding would be in place at some future time. As of right now, we are over budget. We had a stated budget of \$285 million. We're \$30 million over that. So, it would be dependent on additional funding to realize those head alternates.

Mr. Wiggins - going back to our previous discussion, we promised the community a facility that includes obviously outdoor sports facilities, bleachers, press boxes, things that bring kids to the city of Warwick to not do it or not to have it as the as part of the plan seems silly. I do understand that it does increase the cost. We know that we're doing well and we're coming under budget on a lot of things. This is the last part of the project, so we'll know more when we get to that part of it, but I would like to make a motion to

Ms. Hazelwood - I'm going to refer to legal first.

Mr. Henneous - So I believe the no motion is on the table right now, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think your motion is to approve the what are we calling the overall 160, but the the gross maximum at 152 plus the additions of 1 through 8 for a total of \$160,573,190.

Mr. Wiggins - that would be correct

Mr. Henneous - subject to I guess funds being available?

Mr. Bates - yes

Mr. Wiggins - which was the same with

Mr. Henneous - correct. Ok so that would be the motion. You need a second and then discussion and a vote

Ms. Hazelwood - the motion is for the alternates to be added bringing the total cost to \$160,573,190.

Moved by Mr. Wiggins, seconded by Mr. Testa

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

5. Discussion/Update: FY26 Budget Update - requisitions Approved \$500 - \$4,999.00

FY26 we are still going along, we have a deficit so that has not changed. We will be deficit spending the whole year. The Superintendent and I continue to review all the expenditures to date. Our goal is to minimize what the deficit will be at the end of year. We continue to be in a good trend in line with what the budget is.

6. Discussion/Update: Gorton Administration Move Update - we are going to be going out to bid for the administration office space approximately 30,000 square feet; about 60 employees and we come with a lot of stuff. We have files and records that we have to keep forever. There is a lot of information that we need to keep close by. Whether or not there's space in Warwick that can contain us, I don't know, but we are going to find out through this RFP and will certainly bring it back to you for your review

Mr. Testa - I find it amazing that we have to keep records in perpetuity, paper records, right? We can't digitize them as that would cost a lot of money. Mr. Enos - Nope. Payroll going back to day one, we have to keep them. Mr. Testa - again, this there is no disrespect intended towards anyone, this is an area that school departments typically don't delve into, right? Leasing of property, so, you're a school Finance Director, you're a good one. My concern is that once we go out to RFP that we have people consulting with us here to make sure that we're asking the right questions, crossing the right tees, and dotting the right eyes. Mr. Enos - correct. Mr. Testa - right, ok that's all I had. Thank you.

7. Discussion/Update: Superintendent Update

As we approach the completion of the first third of the school year, I'd like to take the opportunity to share with you some events and happenings since the last meeting we had in October. Under teaching and learning, we learned a lot from Dr. Antonelli and Dr. Schulz this evening on test scores. Since that time, RIDE has published their star ratings for schools. As you know, the right star ratings for schools are based on a combination of academic performance, student success, college career readiness using metrics such as student achievement on state tests, student growth, English language proficiency, chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, etc. Recently, we have received some positive news on the rating of our schools. Pilgrim was recently rated as a three-star school. The information is available online at RIDE if you'd like to take a look at it. I want to thank the faculty and staff at Pilgrim and all our schools for all they do every day to support our students with teaching and learning. Obviously, the star rating is one snapshot, one set of metrics of what's happening at a school. There are other metrics out there as well. You heard some from Dr. Antonelli. There are some informal metrics that we don't always hear or don't always share. Last week I happened to stop at Oakland Beach School at 7:00 in the morning and I was a little bit dumbfounded because I was struggling to find a decent parking spot. But you'd be amazed at the amount of staff members that are in there working hard at least an hour before the start of school getting ready for the day. And hats off to the staff members at Oakland Beach for all they do. But it's amazing the amount of people and the dedication they have for our kids. It's just one of those other metrics that we never really look at. Under facilities, we heard about the different work that Mr. Gothberg and Mr. Oliver have been doing and cleaning up as we get into the school year. I have had the opportunity to work with the our athletic director along with the director of public works and pre-planning for the spring season. We had a very productive meeting with the director of public works. We have a great plan to make sure we properly support our athletes in the spring. As you know, with the construction of the two high schools, we're limited on the field space that we have and we've been able to keep accomplishing a lot. I'd also like to thank Donna Higgins as well. We had successful trunk or treat events. We had a lantern night at Winman. They're all a big hit. I want to thank the PTO's, the PTAs, teachers, teaching assistants and our custodians for supporting the events as well as our administrators. Finally, we had Veterans Day ceremonies at the end of last week earlier this week and it was a great educational tool for our students. Our teachers that organized the events did a great job in communicating to the students the importance of the day. We had the opportunity to honor some local Veterans and it was very positive, very meaningful and I felt the students were very respectful and they realized the importance of our Veterans and the freedom they have provided us in this country. Under athletics, this past week, we've have two new state champions as a result the girls volleyball team won the division 4 state championship at Toll Gate and the other night, the soccer team at Toll Gate won the Division 3 state title. Hats off to both teams for all their hard work, and all their hard work has paid off. At the end of the month, we'll be celebrating Thanksgiving. We all have a lot to be thankful for and I'm thankful for all that everyone is doing here at Warwick. It's truly making a difference. We're moving in the right direction. You know, we have new high schools that have broken ground. We have seen positive results with the teaching and learning and I'm truly thankful for all the hard work that the teachers and staff members and administrators are doing here in Warwick.

8. Discussion/Update: Athletic ACT Grant Awards Update - ACT grants we were fortunate enough to be awarded \$23,000 for our athletic programs
9. Discussion/Action: Approval FY27 Related Request - Helmet Services - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

10. Discussion/Action: Approval to convert the existing Data Systems Specialist position into the former Assistant Coordinator of Operational Systems role - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

11. Discussion/Action: Approval Teacher Assistants Request - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

12. Discussion/Action: Approval FY26 November Expenditures

- a. Change Orders - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

- b. General Funded Requisitions - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

- c. Bid Awards - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Public Comment

Mary Townsend - thank Darlene Netcoh for mentioning the TAs and thank all of you for recognizing the need, not only legally, our students deserve the services they deserve.

Thank you to Susan Culbert at WELC - new to that position and there's a lot going on so she is taking on a lot of roles.

Thank you for your donation. Welcome to Tracy Jacques. Publicly recognize how important Kim Ruggieri has been

Darlene Netcoh - regarding the assessment data, we've said this before PSAT and SAT should not be used. RIDE has failed our schools. The star ratings, you could have all 5s and a 2 and you're a 2. At some point RIDE is going to wake up. Mr. McCaffrey mentioned going to Oakland Beach and seeing the staff and faculty working. I would like to add that you can go to any of our schools in this district and find the faculty and staff there preparing for the day. Thank Kim Ruggieri, she put the human back in Human Resources. She worked with people on a humane level. Thank you for that! Congratulations on your retirement.

Sean Rainey - Baseball Coach at Warwick Vets. Thank the maintenance department for the great work they have done.

Future Meetings

Policy Subcommittee Meeting - Tuesday, December 2, 2025 - 4:30PM

Building Committee Meeting - Wednesday, December 3, 2025 - 7:30AM

Monthly School Committee Meeting - Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - 5:30PM

Health & Wellness Subcommittee Meeting - TBD

Adjournment Moved by Mr. Testa seconded by Mr. Wiggins to adjourn the meeting

Motion Passes (4-0)

Ayes: Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Meeting adjourned at 6:42PM