

Warwick School Committee

Open Session Minutes

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

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The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Veterans Middle School on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Chairman Galligan called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Roll Call

Shaun Galligan, Chair, Present

Leah Hazelwood, Vice Chair, Present

Michelle Kirby-Chapman, Present

David Testa, Present

Sean Wiggins, Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers

Superintendent McCaffrey - we are looking for a nomination for the Chair of the Warwick School Committee. Mr. Testa - I move nomination of Mr. Shaun Galligan for Chair, seconded by Mr. Wiggins. Hearing no other nominations for Chair, we will have a vote at this time: Mr. Galligan - yes; Ms. Hazelwood - yes; Mrs. Kirby-Chapman - yes; Mr. Wiggins - yes; Mr. Testa - yes. Congratulations Mr. Chair.

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Mr. Galligan - at this time, I would be looking for a nomination for Vice Chair. Mr. Wiggins - I would like to nominate Ms. Leah Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Testa. Hearing no other nominations for Vice Chair, we will have a vote at this time: Mr. Galligan - yes; Ms. Hazelwood - yes; Mrs. Kirby-Chapman - yes; Mr. Wiggins - yes; Mr. Testa - yes.

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Mr. Galligan - at this time, I would be looking for a nomination for Clerk. Ms. Hazelwood - I would like to nominate Mrs. Michelle Kirby-Chapman, seconded by Mr. Galligan. Hearing no other nominations for Clerk, we will have a vote at this time: Mr. Galligan - yes; Ms. Hazelwood - yes; Mrs. Kirby-Chapman - yes; Mr. Wiggins - yes; Mr. Testa - yes.

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Mr. Galligan - I would like to take a quick second to thank my colleagues for their continued trust and confidence in me leading this committee. I want to also thank you all for your professionalism over the last year. I'm looking forward to us having a very successful year here in 2026. I will provide Ms. Tedeschi with a memo for distribution to the school community tomorrow announcing the appointments to the subcommittees.

Recognitions

[Employee Spotlight](#)

2026 Secondary Principal of the Year - Adam Heywood - Winman Middle School

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island, RIGL 42-46-5 (a(1),a(2),a(4),a(8),a(9))

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Meeting reconvened at 6:34 PM - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins to return to Open Session

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Testa to seal the minutes of Executive Session

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

There were no votes taken in Executive Session

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mary Townsend - so happy to see Anastasia Scott. Thank you for your consideration of the agenda item concerning a TA at Vets. An additional staff member is necessary.

Darlene Netcoh - congratulations to Anastasia. Good to see students who are interested in Government and how the Government Body works. Echo Mrs. Townsend about TA position at Vets. That position is highly needed. There are even more TA and Special Ed positions needed.

Recommended Actions

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval of Minutes of Public Session - December 9, 2025

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Minutes of Public Session - December 17, 2025

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa and Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Minutes of Executive Session - December 17, 2025

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Ms. Hazelwood and Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Minutes of Public Session - January 6, 2026

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa and Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Warrants - January 13, 2026

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Announcements-Personnel-As Presented - [January 13, 2026 Personnel Announcements](#)

Retirements: Moved by Mr. Testa and Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Mrs. Kirby-Chapman approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Appointments: Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

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

Donations and Correspondence

Donation from Accurate Focus LLC in the amount of \$850 for chairs for teachers/faculty rooms

Donation from Gel's Kitchen

Donation to Rhode Island Alternative Academy Foundation in the amount of \$5,450 for fence installation at 51 Draper Avenue, Warwick, RI

Adoption of Policies - None

New Business

1. Discussion/Action - Honorary January Student School Committee Member - Moved by Mr. Wiggins, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

2. Discussion/Presentation - [CLEE](#)

3. Discussion/Presentation - [GRANTS](#)

4. Discussion/Update: Capital and Construction Projects Update

Finished the door project at Park School, the last exterior door was installed.

Design work for the Governors Commission on Disabilities is nearing compilation and will be going out to bid at the beginning of February.

Design work will be completed for this summer's door and window projects and will go out to bid at the beginning of February.

Negotiations for Scott sewer connection ongoing process

ADA polling upgrades - how are we progressing. Going out to bid in February

5. Discussion/Update: FY26 Budget Update - As you can see on the finance report, we are trending good in most of our lines. Some of the items that I think are always good to take a look at are the substitute line items so you can see where we look compared to last year, we are trending in the right direction. We're about \$200,000 less than we were for last year.
6. Discussion/Update: Superintendent Update - Had the pleasure of attending an intercity rivalry for boys hockey at Pilgrim and Hendricken. We had a nice rivalry of women versus work veterans in basketball here. There are many athletic events going on right now. If you want to take the opportunity to look at our athletic calendar, it's a great time to get involved in your community and also it's an inexpensive night to cheer on our athletes. As you know, one of the largest investments in this city is taking place right now with the new high schools. We're excited to share that the construction is well underway at both the new Pilgrim and Toll Gate high schools with significant progress already achieved. We encourage you to take a moment to visit our capital projects website at www.https://warwickhsprojects.com to view updates and photos highlighting the progress. On February 3rd, the City of Warwick will be hosting a special election that includes a bond referendum. Question one on the ballot directly impacts the completion of the new high schools athletic facilities to a standard that meets the community's expectations as well as the potential for upgrading community recreation facilities than their future. Bond question #1 asked voters whether the city should authorize borrowing up to \$50 million. The Warwick Building Committee in collaboration with Dimeo construction estimates that approximately \$18 million is needed to fully complete the high schools. The remaining funding could be used to support improvements to community recreation facilities including, but not limited to, the DelGuidice Park, North Country Club Drive field, Norwood field, McDermott Pool, Vernon Street field, Bend Street field, Warburton ice rink, Mickey Stevens Sports Complex, O'Hara field, Conimicut Point, Belmont Park, City Park, Rocky Point, Clegg field, and the Frederick Street field. Obviously that would be a city decision. We are encouraging you to participate in the special election. This is an opportunity for the community to have a voice on school and community initiatives. Finally I would say congratulations to the newly elected chair of the school committee and the vice chair and the clerk of the committee.
7. Discussion/Action: Central Office Administrator Retirement Benefits - Moved by Mr. Testa and Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval. Mr. Galligan - I'm going to amend that motion. I am going to make a motion to table item, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

8. Discussion/Action: Capital and Construction Department Director Post-Retirement Retention - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval. Mr. Galligan made a motion to approve the contract as presented in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

9. Discussion/Action: Approval FY26 January Expenditures

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

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

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

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

- c. Grant Funded Requisitions - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

- d. Bid Awards - Moved by Mr. Testa and Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

10. Discussion/Action: Request to Evaluate Business Sponsorships - Moved by Mrs. Kirby Chapman, seconded by Mr. Testa approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

11. Discussion/Action: Teaching Assistant at Veterans Middle School - Moved by Ms. Hazelwood seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Testa approval

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Public Comment

Mary Townsend - thank you for quick approval of the position of TA at Vets. Agree with Ms. Netcoh, our classrooms are struggling, appreciate the support. My other thought is that I felt that through the course of this budget commission and the problems that the district has had, there has been a higher level of communication. Hope that no matter what happens, we all stay together in this.

Darlene Netcoh - seriously this one TA position is a step in the right direction. Too many positions cut. Urge voters to go out and support the bond.

Docket Session

This portion of the meeting is for School Committee members to request items to be docketed for future agenda(s) or for items to be assigned to sub committees by the School Committee Chair.

1. Resolution for **Policy Committee** - Policy Request for Resolution Response Deadline
2. Resolution for **Policy Committee** - Policy Subcommittee Chair update on the development of a policy related to Student Representation at Warwick School Committee Meetings.
3. Resolution for **Policy Committee** - Policy development or amendment allowing sponsorships for athletics, clubs, and other after school programming (*Mr. Testa's request to be blended into this policy - being, the advertising at the new high school sports complexes*)

4. Resolution for **Building Committee** - Develop a policy which outlines the procedure for approving change orders relative to the construction of the new high schools.
5. Resolution for the **Finance Committee** - Prepare an update on the ERP implementation of MUNIS, to be presented at the February 10th meeting of the Warwick School Committee.

Future Meetings

Fiscal Subcommittee Meeting - Tuesday, January 20, 2026 - 3:00PM - Postpone
Policy Subcommittee Meeting - Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - 4:30PM
Building Committee Meeting - Wednesday, February 4, 2026 - 7:30AM
Monthly School Committee Meeting - Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - 5:30PM
Health & Wellness Subcommittee Meeting - TBD

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood to adjourn the meeting

Motion Passes (5-0)

Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Meeting adjourned at 7:44PM