Warwick School Committee
Open Session Minutes
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
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The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at Veterans Middle School on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Chairman Galligan called the meeting to order at 5:34PM.

Roll Call
Shaun Galligan, Chair, Present
Leah Hazelwood, Vice Chair, Present
Michelle Kirby-Chapman, Present
David Testa, Present
Sean Wiggins, Present

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions
Employee Spotlight

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms.Hazelwood 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 6:30 PM

Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins 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
Darlene Netcoh - number of agenda items I would like to comment on. Glad to see that there is going to be a revision of the graduation by proficiency. Living with this thing for about 20 years.
The robotics team traveling out-of-state, hope you grant that permission.
Budget, I hope the City does what it is supposed to do and put the 25/26 budget up for a vote in front of City Council.

Recommended Actions
Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood approval of Minutes of Public Session - February 19, 2026
Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins approval of Minutes of Executive Session - February 19, 2026
Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins Approval of Warrants - March 10, 2026
Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Announcements-Personnel-As Presented - Personnel Announcements

Donations and Correspondence - none

Adoption of Policies

1st Read

DRAFT BCD- STUDENT LIAISON TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Moved by Ms. Hazelwood, seconded by Mr. Wiggins

Mr. Testa - thank you Policy subcommittee. Regarding students' roles and responsibilities, there should be a little more meat. The Narragansett policy talks about the purpose of this participation is to help the School Committee gain greater insight into student activities, programs and needs at the high schools to encourage student involvement. Come prepared with a topic of interest to report on.

Motion Passes (5-0)

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

2nd Read

COPY KHB - ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIPS

Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)

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

Chair Updates from the Policy Sub-Committee

With a 60-day policy, Mrs. Murray reviewed a lot of the other policies with the other committees. Is 60 days a timely fashion? Other committee policies we can merge.

Waiting for Building to bring us their policy.

Mr. Testa - Building Committee met after we met. Will take it up after the next meeting.

New Business

1. Discussion/Presentation: Proposed Class of 2028 Graduation Showcase

Mr. Wiggins - thank you. This is an incredible way of changing this kind of dialogue.

Mr. Testa - thank you. Someone who has judged capstone projects for a number of years, they have gotten stale. Like this format. This is more natural and encompasses your four years in school.

Ms. Hazelwood - I have helped many children across that stage. This is so much more organic, natural. They will be able to talk with ease about their high school experience, especially the last two years. That's when they are really wrapping up their high school years.

Mr. McCaffrey - take a moment to thank Dr. Guera and Mr. Livsey for all you do for your schools, huge difference, big impact.

John Livsey - Pam Bernardi and Steph Shields

Mr. Galligan - thorough presentation - one thing that I really like as opposed to the current way, this almost mirrors what they are going to experience when they get out in the real world. The way this is structured is getting them ready to go out in the real world. I like that it is similar to a resume. I would like to see as you grow this, to trickle this to the middle and elementary schools.

Tim Kane - echo Mr. McCaffrey - both high schools have come together on a lot of issues

2. Discussion/Presentation/Update: High Schools Update - Pass. Mr. Bates is under the weather. He will give a more substantial update at our April meeting

3. Discussion/Update: FY26 Budget Update - mother nature has not been kind to our finances. While we have been tracking pretty well in our overtime line, the regular overtime and the snowtime as of the beginning of last month was well under the total budget for what we had, however, the storms we had over the last month, as well as the subzero temperatures over the weekends and the need to check the buildings to make sure everything was all set, drove our numbers significantly up for this month. We're still under budget though. The snow overtime and other expenses related to the blizzard of 2026 are not reflected in this finance report. Those were just paid out last week, so they didn't make the cutoff. However, at this point, we are tracking all of the expenses related to the blizzard, overtime, and snow removal services separately as these expenses should be reimbursed by FEMA. We provided our YTD total

projection to Chief Michael from the Fire Department of approximately $226,800, as he he was requested by the state to provide the information if it is determined that the state does not qualify for reimbursement by FEMA those expenses will then be allocated over to the general fund and as well all of our trucks took a beating from this storm so we've also got some stuff repairs that are going into the general fund as well awesome quick line items I just wanted to point out our Legal Services account 53402 is trending in the right direction for this year as compared to last year at this time $115,000 compared to $214,000 last year at this time so that's that's what we want to see transportation I don't want you to get too excited when you see the year to date expenses as compared to last year as there are some invoices that have not been processed yet I can tell you that the transportation invoices are closely scrutinized by Carl McGovern every single month and and I can report that as of last month our displaced students so the homeless students who are transported on Statewide we are trending in the right direction is that as well so we have less students as compared to the same time as last year so that's all good electricity and natural gas for keeping an eye on those lines while we will likely go over the budget amount for electricity there will be funds in the natural gas line item that that will be used to cover any of the overages in that line item and finally so for the deficit for year-end we are closely monitoring that and we're looking at all revenues all avenues to maximize revenues and reduce expenses for the remainder of the year any questions

Mr. Testa - the snow removal overtime was always rolled into the regular overtime budget right? So that's why it showed zero? Mr. Enos - correct.
Mr. Wiggins - Thank you Mrs. Higgins to you and your team for all you did during the blizzard and for getting us back in school.
Ms. Hazelwood - thank you all for your hardwork
Mrs. Kirby-Chapman - thank you
Mr. Galligan - Mr. Enos, I heard you say that the $226,000 expense relative to the blizzard also included the heavy equipment that we brought in, correct? Mr. Enos - correct. Mr. Galligan - overtime snow removal, heavy equipment, hired a company to remove snow from schools roofs.

4. Discussion/Update: District Health Insurance Provider - Pass - the finance office will continue to work on this and collect more information

5. Discussion/Update: Superintendent Update

I, too, would like to thank Donna Higgins, Phil Ricchiuti, Eric Houle and the WISE members for all they did during the snow storm. I would also like to thank Donna and Kevin for their coordination with the capital projects vendors who also helped out with the snow removal. Thank you to the Transportation team for all you did for the first day of school monitoring roads making sure any issues were brought to Donna's attention.
March is a busy month for the district and we're working closely with the elementary and secondary offices on staffing for the FY26 school year. Working on budget prep for FY27. We have state testing, competitions, events, SkillsUSA competitions. The schools are working through completion of Survey Works so they will be ready for the April 10th deadline.
Finally, I would say there are an awful lot of athletic events taking place. Ally Patten of Pilgrim HS won the New England wrestling and will be competing in the nationals in two weeks.
We have some great things happening in the district. Our students are shining, which is a direct result of the hard work of our teachers, staff members and administrators.
Mr. Galligan - in addition to Mrs. Higgins and her team who did a fantastic job, I do want to applaud Superintendent McCaffrey. This was his first major crisis in his role as Superintendent and he kept my colleagues and I well informed, as well as the community. Made thoughtful decisions on a daily basis and always put the safety of the students first.

6. Discussion/Update: CTE Open House - Frank Galligan Director of the Warwick Area Career and Technical Center
Enrollment for the 26/27 school year is extremely strong. At this point in the application cycle, more than half of our programs are already filled to capacity and waiting lists have begun. This level of demand undoubtedly reflects the growing recognition among students and families that Career and Technical education provides meaningful hands-on pathways to both college and career success. While many of our programs are already full, limited space remains available in several areas for interested students, including aviation, computer engineering and drafting, electronics, and business. Moreover, our lifesaver EMT and studio 107 programs are fully enrolled at the senior level, though limited seats remain for juniors who are interested in joining those pathways. In addition, our 9th grade exploratory program, which allows freshmen to rotate through and experience several of our technical programs during the fall semester, is now completely full for next year. Given the growing interest in career and technical education across

Warwick, we are also excited to share that our program offerings will expand to 17 in the fall with the addition of a new environmental science program. This program will be led by Mr. Gregory Row, a science teacher from Pilgrim High School, whose program proposal recently received high remarks during the initial review process with the Rhode Island Department of Education. Mr. Rose's program will give students the opportunity to work directly with scientists and researchers in the field, focusing on data collection and analysis of aquatic life in and around the state of Rhode Island. Students will also build, launch, and track a mini sailboat to analyze atmospheric and oceanic conditions in partnership with the University of Rhode Island. The goal of the program is to teach students how to study air and water conditions related to environmental issues while building a strong research foundation connected to the future of renewable energy and environmental science careers. Interest in this new program is already strong and we encourage any freshman or sophomores interested in environmental science to apply. While word of mouth support has always served our programs well, we are also making a greater effort to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of our students and faculty. In addition to utilizing social media and local newspapers this year, we recently launched two radio commercials as well as an email ad campaign that have been airing during the morning and evening commutes to further promote Warwick's successes. A few weeks ago, our culinary students earned two gold medals at the Rhode Island High School Culinary Arts, Food Service, and Hotel Management Competition. These students compete as part of the ProStar program, demonstrating their culinary and management skills in front of industry professionals while competing for statewide recognition and industry exposure. Because of their success, they will be traveling to Baltimore, Maryland next month to represent Rhode Island at the national competition. To support their upcoming trip, several fundraisers are being organized. The first will be taking place this Friday, March 13th, from 5 to 8:00 p.m. at the Runway Sports Bar and Grill on Post Road in Warwick. And a second fundraiser will be held on Tuesday, April 14th at the convention center in downtown Providence. We're very proud of these students and are grateful for the community support that will help them showcase the very best of Warwick on the national stage. I would also be remiss if I did not congratulate and thank chefs Neiosce and Irons for their support of our students and their ongoing instructional leadership and guidance at this time. Looking more broadly across the school, all of our career and technical programs will be advancing to state level competitions this month with Skills USA. Skills USA is a national partnership of students, teachers, and industry leaders dedicated to preparing students for careers in skilled, technical, and service occupations while promoting leadership, professionalism, and technical excellence. Students who advance from the state level competitions have an opportunity to compete on the national level, which we have had in the past, in Atlanta, Georgia this June. The generosity and involvement of our city through numerous fundraisers, including the annual golf tournament in June helped to make these opportunities possible. Our students and instructors have been working extremely hard in preparation, and we're excited to see them represent Warwick. Likewise, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr. Christopher Biano and Mrs. Jill Sherle, our two faculty co-advisers for Skills USA, for all their support and hard work. Finally, while I could spend much more time highlighting the incredible work happening across all of our programs, nothing compares to seeing it in person. I would like to personally invite the committee and members of the community to our spring open house tomorrow evening, Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. starting in the Tollgate High School auditorium. Guests will have the opportunity to tour our facility, meet our students and instructors, and see firsthand the innovation, creativity, and Warwick pride that defines us. People are welcome to call us any time to arrange for a visit to learn more about our programs. You can also find us online simply by googling career in tech education in Warwick and we should come up right at the top of the list.

7. Discussion/Action: Approval for request for Robotics Team to attend out-of-state field trip - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Mr. Testa - public doesn’t appreciate it enough. Mr. Galligan - thrilled we did radio ads. There is a lot of good stuff going on in this district and it is all student based. For too long, people enjoyed kicking the WPS

8. Discussion/Action: Formal request to the Commissioner of Education regarding waiver of snow days - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

9. Discussion/Action: Approval of 2026 Rhode Island Student Survey (RISS) - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Ms. Hazelwood - I have gotten a lot of feedback from middle school, parents in my district do not want to see their kids given this survey. Motion we present this survey to 9 and 10, not 6, 7 and 8, seconded by Mrs. Kirby-Chapman
Mr. Testa - students can opt out of this, correct? Mrs. Murray - yes.
Mr. Wiggins - as a father of two teenagers that have gone through these types of surveys and speaking with them, I didn't feel they were uncomfortable or taken back by any of the questions. If you are able to opt out. It's always good to hear from students on all levels on this survey from 6th grade through.
Mrs. Kirby-Chapman - it's the problem that parents have the option to opt out. If we have a tough time getting parents to sign report cards, at a 6th grade level
Ms. Hazelwood - I do not think it is appropriate to ask a child that age if they would consider killing themselves without having discussion. It's a self reporting document without discussion and at that age, it's a lot. You are asked these kinds of questions in a counseling session, not on a chromebook. Not considering the mental health of the child. No Social Worker would ask these questions. There is more to it than just collecting data.
Mr. Galligan - I have gone back and forth on this. I am going to support Ms. Hazelwood's motion because it is a happy medium. I acknowledge Mrs. Kirby-Chapman.

All in favor on the motion to amend to present this survey to 9 and 10, not 6, 7 and 8

Motion Passes (4-1)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Wiggins Nays: Testa

10. Discussion/Action: Formal Request for Increased Contributive Support for VOWS, Inc. - PASS. We received a formal request from VOWS. We will account for this in the FY27 budget.

11. Discussion/Action: Acting Director of Capital and Construction Projects - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

12. Discussion/Action: Central Office Staff Contract Terms - Moved by Mr. Wiggins, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood. Motion to accept recommendation of the administration Mr. Testa, seconded Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

13. Discussion/Action: Termination of Central Administrative Position Contract - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazaelwood and Mr. Wiggins

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

14. Discussion/Action: Education Consultant Contract - Moved by Mr. Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazaelwood and Mr. Wiggins

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

15. Discussion/Action: Approval FY26 March Expenditures - Change Orders - Moved by Mr.Testa, seconded by Mr. Wiggins and Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

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

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

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

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

c. Bid Awards - Moved by Mr.Testa, seconded by Ms. Hazelwood

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Public Comment

Mary Townsend - Three positive things, thank Mr. Testa, Superintendent McCaffrey, all the School Committee Members and Frank Galligan for talking about all the good things that are going on in WPS.
Thank the School Committee Members for supporting Ms. Hazelwood's motion. I believe our younger children are confused. They're confused about a lot of things, but they need support and conversation, not questions on a piece of paper for them to start writing these things down.
Friday was Maintenance Appreciation Workers Day - thank you to our custodial and Maintenance staff at Warwick Public Schools.

Jacob Madore - Warwick resident, Warwick graduate, and a Warwick educator. Last month, I came up here to shine light on the robotics team, on the culinary program, on the middle school restoring programs. All risks were forced in the state, beating schools that some families unfortunately send their children to over Warwick. Just this past month, the Toll Gate academic decathlon team competed this past month and they beat every school in the state with the exception of Wheeler and East Greenwich. So they beat Hendricken, they beat North Providence, North Kingstown, South Kingstown, Pontagansett, Cranston West, all the hubs of CTC Pathways they beat. And if anyone thinks that this is a fluke, this is the second year in a row that they've done that.

Darlene Netcoh - Echo Mrs. Townsend and thank the maintenance department, they stayed overnight at the schools without heat and electricity but they did their jobs and they did them well. Thank you to the Superintendent for hiring outside companies to come in with the heavy equipment to clean this mess.
It's that time of the year where students are choosing schedules for next year. One of the Department Heads wanted to come speak tonight about scheduling, particularly AP classes. A number of the AP sections that had previously run with a low number of students are not running.

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. - Nothing to docket

Future Meetings

WSEAC - Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - 6:00PM
Building Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 31, 2026 - 7:30AM
Fiscal Subcommittee Meeting - Monday, April 6, 2026 - 3:00PM
Policy Subcommittee Meeting - Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - 4:30PM
Monthly School Committee Meeting - Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 5:30PM
Health & Wellness Subcommittee Meeting - Thursday, May 14, 2026 - 4:30PM
Community Outreach - Monday, March 23, 2026 - 5:30PM at Warwick Public Library - Room 113 - Added

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

Motion Passes (5-0)
Ayes: Galligan, Hazelwood, Kirby-Chapman, Testa, Wiggins

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM