MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2022
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
1 WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893
7:00 P.M.

This meeting was called to order by Luis Colon, Chairperson.

Members Present:	Luis Colon, Chairperson Rene Coutu, Vice-Chairperson Susan St. Amand, Clerk Joseph DiMartino Angela Coburn
School Committee Attorney Present:	Aubrey Lombardo
Administrators Present:	Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools Leah Bessette, Principal, Wakefield Hills Elementary School Lisa Cash, Assistant Director of Financial Operations Greg Gonsalves, Director of Human Resources Jessica Hassell, Principal - West Warwick High School Christopher Mann, Assistant Director of Facilities James Monti, Director of Educational Reform, Compliance, and Technology Jessica Perry, Director of Special Education Services Keith Remillard, Director of Elementary Schools and Federal Funding Joseph Spagna, Director of Financial Operations Kenneth Townsend, Director of Facilities, Project Management, and Transportation Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Recording Secretary:	Michelle Colozzo

1. Open Session

<u>Open Session</u>

Mr. Colon opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call

The following members were present: Mr. Colon, Mrs. Coutu, Mrs. St. Amand, Mr. DiMartino, and Mrs. Coburn.

3. Reading of Mission Statement

Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Coutu read the Mission Statement of the West Warwick Public Schools:

The West Warwick Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, is dedicated to providing all learners with access and opportunity to a challenging comprehensive education while developing 21st Century Skills in a safe, personalized learning environment.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Coburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Student Representative

Student Representative

Kieton Nunes reported on recent and upcoming events and activities at West Warwick High School, including the following:

- Professional Development Day
- Student Council activities
- Restorative Session
- Hour of Code
- National Honor Society activities
- Prepare RI Information Session
- College Focus for Seniors
- Upcoming Events

6. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson's Report

None.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report

a) Music Department Recognition
b) Horgan's Gold Ticket Winner

Mrs. Tarasevich reported on the following topics:

- Music Department Recognition
- Horgan's Gold Ticket Winner

8. Election of Officers

Election of Officers

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO TO NOMINATE LUIS COLON TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn and Susan St. Amand. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO TO NOMINATE RENE COUTU TO BE VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. Motion seconded by Luis Colon. The following members voted in the affirmative: Susan St. Amand, Angela Coburn, Luis Colon, Joseph DiMartino, and Rene Coutu. Motion unanimously passed.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY LUIS COLON TO NOMINATE SUSAN ST. AMAND TO BE CLERK OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. MOTION SECONDED BY ANGELA COBURN. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Luis Colon, and Susan St. Amand. Motion unanimously passed.

9. Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

a) **Open Session Minutes: November 16, 2022**
b) **Executive Session Minutes: November 16, 2022**
c) **Payment of Bills: $1,678,232.77**
d) **Home Instruction Plans**

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

10. Financial Update

Financial Update

a) **Monthly Financial Report for Period 11/1/22 through 11/30/22**

b) **Voucher Detail Listings**

c) **School Lunch Deficit**

Mr. Spagna said as of November 30th, we have utilized 28.8% of the FY 23 budget.

Mr. Spagna noted we are seeing some significant increases in expenditures in state transportation, vocational, charter and special education out of district placed students this year that we will be watching closely.

11. Discussion/Approval: 2023 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Discussion/Approval: 2023 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the 2023 school committee meeting schedule.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 2023 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE. Motion seconded by Susan St. Amand. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

12. Discussion/Approval: Memorandum of Agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Education

Discussion/Approval: Memorandum of Agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Education for the 21st Century Technology and Furniture Fund SBA Capital Fund

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Education for the 21st Century Technology and Furniture Fund SBA Capital Fund.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY AND FURNITURE FUND. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, Susan St. Amand, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

13. Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Revision of Policies

Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Revision of Policies

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the second reading of the revision of the following policy:

a) III.B.1. Human Capital Management

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY:

a) III.B.1. Human Capital Management

Motion seconded by Joseph DiMartino. The following members voted in the affirmative: Susan St. Amand, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the second reading of the revision of the following policy:

b) III.Y. Volunteer Policy

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE REVISION OF THE FOLLOWING POLICY:

b) III.Y. Volunteer Policy

Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Susan St. Amand, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

14. Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Review of Policy

Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Review of Policy: III.X. Bloodborne Pathogens

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the second reading of the review of policy: III.X. Bloodborne Pathogens.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE REVIEW OF POLICY: III.X. BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Susan St. Amand, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

15. Approval: Parental Leave Request

Approval: Parental Leave Request: Grade 2 Teacher - Greenbush Elementary School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee approve the parental leave request of a Grade 2 Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PARENTAL LEAVE REQUEST OF A GRADE 2 TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Susan St. Amand. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Joseph DiMartino, Susan St. Amand, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

16. Acceptance of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

Acceptance of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement: Nurse 1:1 - Wakefield Hills Elementary School - Effective 12/31/22

Mrs. Tarsevich recommended that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Eileen Palazzo, Nurse 1:1 at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective December 31, 2022.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM EILEEN PALAZZO, NURSE 1:1 AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2022. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

17. Announcement of New Hires

Announcement of New Hires:

Mrs. Tarasevich announced the new hires:

- Social Studies Teacher - HS Alternative & 1 MS Elective - Maisie Quinn School: **Lindsay Richards**

- Special Ed. Resource Gr. 7 Collaborative Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School: **Rana Iafrate**

- Elementary Occupational Therapist - .50 Wakefield Hills Elementary School and .50 John F. Horgan Elementary School: **Hilary Conners**

- Grade 2 Special Ed. Inclusion Teacher - Wakefield Hills Elementary School: **Nicole Gemma**

- Full-Time Teacher Assistant SC Building Floater for Therapeutic Program - Greenbush Elementary School: **Nicholas Soucy**

- Full-Time Human Resources Confidential Clerk - Administration Building: **Kayla Duarte**

18. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

Sean Doyle, President of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, addressed the school committee. He said on behalf of the Alliance, it's very nice to see the same faces after November as before, and he is looking forward to working

collaboratively. He wished everyone health, prosperity, and enjoyment during the holidays.

19. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Susan St. Amand, Rene Coutu, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan St. Amand, Clerk

Michelle Colozzo, Recorder