MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 23, 2023
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
1 WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893
5:45 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 Gina Adams, Principal, John F. Horgan Elementary School Greg Gonsalves, Director of Human Resources Greg Kortick, Athletic Director Jessica Hassell, Principal, West Warwick High School Christopher Mann, Director of Facilities & Transportation James Monti, Director of Educational Reform, Compliance, and Technology Jessica Perry, Director of Special Education Services Joseph Spagna, Director of Financial Operations Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Recording Secretary:	Michelle Colozzo
1. Open Session	**Open Session** Mr. Colon opened the meeting at 5:50 P.M.
2. Roll Call	**Roll Call** The following members were present: Mr. Colon, Mr. Coutu, Mrs. St. Amand, Mr. DiMartino and Mrs. Coburn.
3. Motion to go into Executive Session	**Motion to Go Into Executive Session according to RI General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (a),**

a) **Sessions Pertaining to Collective Bargaining: Discussion: Contract with West Warwick Teachers' Alliance RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2)**

b) **Personnel: Discussion: Administrative Contract: Assistant Facilities Director RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)d**

c) **Personnel: Discussion: Layoffs: Classified Staff RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)**

d) **Legal Advice: Owners' Project Manager re: School Construction**

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ACCORDING TO RI GENERAL LAWS 42-46-4 AND 42-46-5, SUBSECTION (a)

a) **SESSIONS PERTAINING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DISCUSSION: CONTRACT WITH WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2)**

b) **PERSONNEL: DISCUSSION: ASSISTANT FACILITIES DIRECTOR RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)**

c) PERSONNEL: DISCUSSION: LAYOFFS: CLASSIFIED STAFF RIGL 42-46-4(a)(1)

d) LEGAL ADVICE: OWNERS' PROJECT MANAGER RE: SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

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

4. Motion to Close Executive Session

Motion to Close Executive Session

5. Open Session – 6:30 P.M.

Open Session – 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Colon opened this portion of the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

6. Roll Call

Roll Call

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

7. Reading of Mission Statement

Reading of Mission Statement

Mrs. St. Amand 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.

8. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Coutu led the Pledge of Allegiance.

9. Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEAL THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.

MOTION

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.

10. Student Recognition

Student Recognition

The School Committee recognized and awarded certificates to the members of the West Warwick High School Girls' Basketball Team for winning the state championship.

11. Staff Recognition

Staff Recognition

The School Committee recognized Greg Kortick, Athletic Director, for receiving the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Distinguished Service Award.

The School Committee recognized Norma Vera, Teacher Assistant, for her quick thinking and life saving action in performing the Heimlich Maneuver on a student who was choking.

12. Student Representative

Student Representative

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

- Junior Prom
- AOF: Annual Bank of Newport Financial Literacy Fair
- Music Department Spring Concert
- CTE Awards Breakfast
- Athletic College Signing Day
- Decision Day
- Spring Blood Drive
- Diversity Presentation
- PSAT/SAT/GSA Testing
- School Safety
- Diversity Committee
- GSA
- College Planning
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Spring Events

13. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson's Report

None.

14. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report: School Updates

Mrs. Tarasevich gave an update including the following topics:

- The town's budget passed at the all day referendum last week so that is great news. She thanked Joe Spagna in particular; he crunches numbers every day but the job

doesn't get easier, so she wanted to acknowledge that.

- It was the 20th anniversary of the station fire. This weekend there was a celebration in honor of the 20th anniversary. The students from the FO & M program built a beautiful monument for the memorial. Mrs. Taraevich thanked teachers Sean Doyle and Mike Shunney and the students. Mrs. Tarasevich said she also wanted to acknowledge Christina Pimental who lost her uncle; she played a big part.

15. Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

a) Open Session Minutes: April 17, 2023
b) Executive Session Minutes: April 17, 2023
c) Payment of Bills: $1,959,146.74
d) Home Instruction Plans

MOTION

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

16. Financial Update

Financial Update

a) Monthly Financial Report for Period 4/1/23 through 4/30/23

Mr. Spagna said as of April 30, 2023, we have utilized 73% of the budget. He said as you see in

his report, he did outline five major categories running significantly over budget:

- State transportation: $563,000
- Vocational education tuitions: $350,000
- Charter school tuitions: $90,000
- Special education placements: $486,000
- Dual enrollments: $32,000

Mr. Spagna said while the overruns are concerning, we are confident that savings being projected in salaries and benefits of approximately $660,000 due to unfilled positions, spending controls in place as of April 1st and the full funding of state aid, will minimize or even eliminate these cost overruns.

b) Voucher Detail Listings
c) School Lunch Deficit

The current negative balance, as of May 15, 2023, is $88,048.59. This averages to approximately $14,675 per month in unpaid meals and is an increase of 93% when compared to the balance on May 8, 2020. The school lunch equivalent is 25,520 meals.

17. Presentation: District Plan

Presentation: District Strategic Plan

Dr. Whaley gave a presentation on the district strategic plan.

18. Discussion/Approval: 2023-2024 Elementary School Handbook

Discussion/Approval: 2023-2024 Elementary School Handbook

19. Discussion/Approval: 2023-2024 John F. Deering Middle School Handbook

Discussion/Approval: 2023-2024 John F. Deering Middle School Handbook

20. Discussion/Approval: 2023-2024 West Warwick High School Handbook

Discussion/Approval: 2023-2024 West Warwick High School Handbook

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee table Items 18, 19, and 20.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE ITEMS 18, 19, AND 20. Motion seconded by Susan St. Amand. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Susan St. Amand, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

21. Discussion/Approval: Contract Between West Warwick School Committee and West Warwick Teachers' Alliance

Discussion/Approval: Contract Between West Warwick School Committee and West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, AFT Local # 1017, AFL-CIO, September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2026

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee approve the contract between the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, AFT Local # 1017, AFL-CIO, September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2026.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE, AFT LOCAL # 1017, AFL-CIO, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 - AUGUST 31, 2026.

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

22. Discussion/Approval: Rhode Island Department of Education School Building Authority Capital Fund Memorandum of Agreement Amendment #1

Discussion/Approval: Rhode Island Department of Education School Building Authority Capital Fund Memorandum of Agreement Amendment #1

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the Rhode Island Department of Education School Building Authority Capital Fund Memorandum of Agreement Amendment #1.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY CAPITAL FUND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENT #1. 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.

23. Discussion/Approval: Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Discussion/Approval: Out-of-State Field Trip Request: John F. Deering Middle School Honors Band Grades 6-8 to Band Competition at East Longmeadow High School and Six Flags, May 26, 2023

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the out-of-state field trip

request for the John F. Deering Middle School Honors Band Grades 6-8 to Band Competition at East Longmeadow High School and Six Flags, May 26, 2023.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST FOR THE JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS BAND TO A BAND COMPETITION AT EAST LONGMEADOW HIGH SCHOOL AND SIX FLAGS, MAY 26, 2023. 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.

24. Approval: Maternity Leave Requests

Approval: Maternity Leave Requests:

a) K-4 Reading Specialist - Greenbush Elementary School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee approve the maternity leave request of a K-4 Reading Specialist at Greenbush Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST OF A K-4 READING SPECIALIST AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Susan St. Amand. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, Susan

St. Amand, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

b) Special Education Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee approve the maternity leave request of a Special Education Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST OF A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Joseph DiMartino. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

25. Discussion/Approval: Statutory Leave of Absence Requests

Discussion/Approval: Statutory Leave of Absence Requests:

a) Grade 2 Teacher - John F. Horgan Elementary School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the statutory leave request of Kathleen Winslow from the position of Grade 2 Teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE STATUTORY LEAVE REQUEST OF KATHLEEN WINSLOW,

GRADE 2 TEACHER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. 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.

b) Special Education Teacher - Greenbush Elementary School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee approve the statutory leave request of Jennifer Bouchard from the position of Special Education Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE STATUTORY LEAVE REQUEST OF JENNIFER BOUCHARD FROM THE POSITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. 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.

26. Acceptance of Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

Acceptance of Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement:

a) Special Education Teacher - John F. Horgan Elementary School - Effective 7/1/23

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose

of retirement from Deborah Bryan Coble, Special Education Teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School, effective July 1, 2023.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM DEBORAH BRYAN COBLE, SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

b) Kindergarten Teacher - Greenbush Elementary School - Effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Alyson Dupre, Kindergarten Teacher at Greenbush Elementary School, effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year..

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM ALYSON DUPRE, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR. 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.

27. Acceptance of Resignations

Acceptance of Resignations:

a) Grade 5 Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee accept the resignation from Rebecca L. (Bannon) Callanan from the position of Grade 5 Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, effective at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM REBECCA L. (BANNON) CALLANAN FROM THE POSITION OF GRADE 5 TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR. 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.

b) Bus Monitor - West Warwick Public Schools - Effective 4/27/23

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee accept the resignation from Maria

Mondesir, Bus Monitor for the West Warwick Public Schools, effective April 27, 2023.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM MARIA MONDESIR, BUS MONITOR FOR THE WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EFFECTIVE APRIL 27, 2023. Motion seconded by Joseph DiMartino. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, Susan St. Amand, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

c) Unified Basketball Advisor - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective at end of 2022-2023 school year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee accept the resignation from Sabrina Galva, Unified Basketball Advisor at John F. Deering Middle School, effective at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FROM SABRINA GALVA, UNIFIED BASKETBALL ADVISOR AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR. 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.

28. Announcement of New Hires

Announcement of New Hires

Mrs. Tarasevich announced the following new hires:

- Assistant Director of Facilities: **Andrew Simas -** Effective TBD
- Jump Start to Kindergarten Program - John F. Horgan Elementary School: **Tracy Thornbury** & **Gina Richards** (effective 8/15 - 8/18/23); Wakefield Hills Elementary School: **Brooke Kelly, Sharon Jochmann & Diane Tourangeau** (effective 8/15 - 8/18/23); Greenbush Elementary School: **Kelly Hersey, Mary Flynn-Bergeron & Tricia Colon** (effective 8/15 - 8/18/23)
- Summer Program for ESL and MLL - Elementary level: **Tracy Thornbury, Sharon Jochmann, Maria Depalma**; Secondary level: **Elizabeth Gilkenson** (effective 6/20 - 6/22/23)
- Full Time Teacher Assistant SC Floater for Therapeutic Program Level 2 - John F. Deering Middle School: **Nicole Babin** (effective 4/25/23)
- Part Time Teacher Assistant Kindergarten Floater - Wakefield Hills Elementary School: **Justin Chaffee** (effective 5/5/23)

29. Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract

Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract: Assistant Facilities Director

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the administrative contract for Andrew Simas, Assistant Facilities Director.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT FOR ANDREW SIMAS, ASSISTANT FACILITIES DIRECTOR. 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.

30. Discussion/Approval: Layoffs: Classified Staff

Discussion/Approval: Layoffs: Classified Staff

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the layoffs of classified staff.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE LAYOFFS OF CLASSIFIED STAFF. Motion seconded by Joseph DiMartino. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Susan St. Amand, Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

31. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

Michele Landrie, a parent of a high school student, addressed the school committee, regarding her concerns about the layoffs of classified staff.

Sean Doyle, President of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, addressed the school committee, regarding the Landrie parents' support of the West Warwick Public Schools, the classified staff, the appointment of Andrew Simas,who had been one of his students, and the Facilities Operations and Management students' participation in the memorial for the Station Fire victims.

32. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING. 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.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan St. Amand, Clerk

Michelle Colozzo, Recorder