MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 8, 2024
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
1 WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893
6:00 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:	Andrew Henneous
Administrators Present:	Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools Lisa Cash, Director of Financial Operations Elizabeth Furtado, Principal, John F. Deering Middle School Greg Gonsalves, Director of Human Resources Kristen Hinson, Principal, West Warwick High School Christopher Mann, Director of Facilities & Transportation James Monti, Director of Educational Reform, Compliance and Technology Keith Remillard, Director of Elementary Schools and Federal Funding Philip Solomon, Director of Secondary Schools Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent
Recording Secretary:	Michelle Colozzo

1. Open Session

Open Session

Mr. Colon opened the meeting at 6:00 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

<u>Motion to Go Into Executive Session according to RI General Laws 42-46-4 and 42-46-5, Subsection (a),</u>

a) Council 94 Negotiation Updates 42-46-5(a)(2)

b) Discussion: Administrative Contract: Assistant Director of Financial Operations RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

c) Discussion: Administrative Contract: Principal - John F. Horgan Elementary School RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

d) John F. Deering Middle School Investigation Update

e) Discussion: WWTA Memorandum of Understanding / Personnel RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

<u>MOTION</u>

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) COUNCIL 94 NEGOTIATION UPDATES RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2)

b) DISCUSSION: ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS RIGL 42-46-4(a)(1)

c) DISCUSSION: ADMINISTRATIVE

CONTRACT: PRINCIPAL - JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

d) JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL INVESTIGATION UPDATE

e) DISCUSSION: WWTA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING / PERSONNEL RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)

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.

Attorney Henneous stated that any individual to be discussed has already been notified.

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 6:39 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

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.

8. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Coburn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

9. Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

MOTION

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

10. Student Representative

Student Representative

Grace Black, Vice-President of the Class of 2025, reported on recent and upcoming events/activities at West Warwick High School, including the following:

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Newly Formed PTO
- Junior Prom
- Senior Prom
- National Honor Society
- International Honor Society
- Student Council Blood Drive
- Spirit Week

11. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson's Report

None.

12. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report
End of Year School Updates and Calendar Events

Mrs. Tarasevich said graduation will be held on Friday night, June 7th.

The Town Financial Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, May 21st, at 6 P.M.

Mrs. Tarasevich said she will defer the rest of her time to later on in the agenda for the school building committee update.

Mr. Colon said the lights at the state house should be black and orange for graduation.

13. Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

a) **Open Session Minutes: April 10, 2024**
b) **Executive Session Minutes: April 10, 2024**
c) **Payment of Bills: $1,925,153.94**
d) **Home Instruction Plans**
e) **Acceptance of Resignation: Full Time Teacher Assistant Self-Contained Functional Academic Floater - West Warwick High School - Effective 4/22/24**

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS a-e. 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.

14. Financial Update

Financial Update

a) Monthly Financial Report for Period 4/1/24 through 4/30/24

Mrs. Cash said as of April 30th, we have utilized 70.6% of the FY 24 adopted budget.

b) Voucher Detail Listings

The voucher detail listings total $1,925,153.94.

c) Community Eligibility Program (CEP)

The community eligibility program at the time of the printed report was at $5,900 in surplus; with the final submission, it was actually at $8300 in surplus for the month–the CEP program is doing very well.

Mrs. Tarasevich stated that Lisa has hit the ground running and has done a phenomenal job in her new role and her former role.

15. Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Tarasevich said tonight we have Chris Spiegel, the OPM for the school building project. We have a presentation regarding the architect selection and we will have a special school committee meeting at 8:30 on Monday morning for official approval.
Chris Spiegel gave a presentation including the following topics:

- RIDE Process
- Stage II Approval
- Designer Approval

- Next Steps
- Open Discussion Q & A
- Stage I - Identify Needs
- Stage II - Develop a Solution

Mr. Spiegel said we need necessity of construction approval from R.I.D.E. which allows you to be reimbursed–West Warwick will be reimbursed for 67% of the cost.

Mr. Spiegel spoke about the bid process for the architect. He said seven firms responded and of those, five were recommended to move forward to interviews. He said all of them did a fantastic job with their presentations, and ultimately the decision of the committee was Tecton Architects. The school building committee then recommended approval of Tecton Architects to this committee.

Mrs. Tarasevich said she wanted to give a shout out to Chris Spiegel. She said the South Kingstown bond just passed yesterday.

Mr. Colon thanked Chris Spiegel for his presentation.

16. Discussion/Approval: SD DD CD of High School Gym & Auditorium Roof Replacement

Discussion/Approval: SD DD CD of High School Gym & Auditorium Roof Replacement

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the SD DD CD of the high school gym and auditorium roof replacement

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SD DD CD OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GYM & AUDITORIUM REPLACEMENT. 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.

Mrs. Tarasevich thanked Chris Mann for his perseverance on this project; he worked really hard to get this straightened out with R.I.D.E.

17. Discussion/Action WWTA Memorandum of Understanding / Personnel

Discussion/Action: WWTA Memorandum of Understanding / Personnel

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/action of the WWTA Memorandum of Understanding / Personnel.

MOTION

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

18. Acceptance of Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

Acceptance of Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

a) Social Worker - Wakefield Hills Elementary School - Effective Final Day of the 2023-2024 School Year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Marie Drumm, Social Worker at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective the final day of the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM MARIE DRUMM, SOCIAL WORKER AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE THE FINAL DAY OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. 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.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Marie has been with the district for many, many years. She is a wonderful person, a wonderful social worker. She also brought in her therapy dog, Bailey, who is wonderful.

b) Grade 4 Teacher - John F. Horgan Elementary School - Effective Final Day of the 2023-2024 School Year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Amy Horne, Grade 4 Teacher at John F. Horgan Elementary School, effective the final day of the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM AMY HORNE, GRADE 4 TEACHER AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE THE FINAL DAY OF THE

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. 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.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Amy Horne has been with the district for many, many years. She is a phenomenal educator and a true advocate for kids who really advocated for play based learning.

19. Discussion/Approval: Elimination of Teacher Assistant Position - Effective at the end of the 2023-2024 School Year

Discussion/Approval: Elimination of Teacher Assistant Position - Effective at the end of the 2023-2024 School Year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the elimination of a teacher assistant position, effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ELIMINATION OF A TEACHER ASSISTANT POSITION, EFFECTIVE AT THE END OF THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu and Joseph DiMartino. The following members voted in the affirmative: Susan St. Amand, Joseph DiMartino, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

20. Announcement of New Hires

Announcement of New Hires

Mrs. Tarasevich announced the following new hires:

- Wizards Learn Saturday School Program - John F. Deering Middle School- **Mathew Silva**, **Jennifer Pine** (effective 4/27/24-6/8/24)
- Wizards Learn Saturday School Program - West Warwick High School - **Carol-Ann Silvestri**, **Julie Brodeur** (effective 4/27/24-6/8/24)
- Principal - John F. Horgan Elementary School - **Elizabeth Furtado** (effective 2024-2025 school year)
- Wizards Learn - John F. Deering Middle School - **Matthew Silva**, **Michelle Denommee** (effective 4/29/24 - 6/14/24)
- Involuntary transfer - Teacher - Special Ed/Self-Contained, Emotional Support/ Therapeutic Program - GATE - from John F. Deering Middle School to Maisie Quinn School - **Nicole Babin** (effective 2/19/24)
- Assistant Director of Financial Operations - **Keith Kelliher** (effective 5/22/24)

21. Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract

Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract: Assistant Director of Financial Operations

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with enthusiasm that there be a discussion/approval of the administrative

contract for Keith Kelliher, Assistant Director of Financial Operations.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY SUSAN ST. AMAND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT FOR KEITH KELLIHER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS. 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.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Keith's resume is impressive; he comes to us from the State of Rhode Island, the Department of Administration.

22. Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract

Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract: Principal - John F. Horgan Elementary School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with enthusiasm that the school committee approve the administrative contract of Elizabeth Furtado, Principal of John F. Horgan Elementary School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT OF ELIZABETH FURTADO, PRINCIPAL OF JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Colon said he is very happy that Mrs. Furtado decided to stay with us.

23. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

Mr. Mann said that a couple of weeks ago there was a bomb scare behind Dreamland at the storage facility, and we were called to bring a bus and take them to the high school. He said that Dreamland brought us this poster today as a thank you with the children's handprints.

Mrs. Tarasevich said as always, Chris didn't flinch when he got the call to help. That speaks to West Warwick; that's what we do here. Mrs. Tarasevich complimented Chris Mann on a nice job.

24. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING. 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.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan St. Amand, Clerk

Michelle Colozzo, Recorder