MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 12, 2025
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
1 WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893
6:30 P.M.

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

Members Present:	Luis Colon, Chairperson Joseph DiMartino, Clerk Dennis Peacock Angela Coburn
Member Absent:	Rene Coutu, Vice-Chairperson
School Committee Attorney Present:	Aubrey Lombardo
Administrators Present:	Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools Leah Bessette Director of Secondary Schools Lisa Cash, Director of Financial Operations Kristen Hinson, Principal, West Warwick High School Keith Kelliher, Assistant Director of Financial Operations Jeffrey Langlais, Assistant Director of Facilities Christopher Mann, Director of Facilities & Transportation Jessica Perry, Director of Student Services Philip Solomon, Director of Human Resources Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent
Recording Secretary:	Michelle Colozzo

1. Open Session

Open Session

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

2. Roll Call

Roll Call

The following members were present: Mr. Colon, Mr. DiMartino, Mrs. Coburn, and Mr. Peacock.

Mr. Coutu was absent.

3. Reading of Mission Statement

Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Colon 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

Mr. Colon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

Since there had been no Executive Session at this meeting, there was no action on this item.

6. Student Representative

Student Representative

The student representative was not present.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report: District/School Updates

Mrs. Tarasevich said she wants to acknowledge the very busy spring time of year.

- Winter sports were extraordinary, and it is important to acknowledge and we can talk about how we want to acknowledge them. Cheers to the kids and the coaches; a lot of time goes into coaching and for the students athletes, it's a lot of practice.

- Assessment season is upon us. She said she would like to use most of her time for the accountability report.

8. Accountability Presentation

Accountability Presentation

Mrs. Tarasevich said she gave a copy to the school committee.

Mrs. Tarasevich gave the accountability presentation including the following topics:

- How Points are Earned in the Accountability System
- 2024 WWPS Accountability Summary
- RICAS & SAT Results
- WWHS Report Card
- Deering Middle School Report Card
- Wakefield Hill Elementary School Report Card
- Horgan Report Card
- A Deeper Dive
- WWPS District Strategic Plan Priority Areas
- Accountability Follow Up
- District Needs Assessment
- District Action Steps

9. Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

a) Open Session Minutes: February 12, 2025
b) Executive Session Minutes: February 12, 2025
c) Special Joint Meeting with Town Council Open Session Minutes: February 12, 2025
d) Payment of Bills: $2,290,025.02
e) Home Instruction Plans

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS a-e. Motion

seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

10. Financial Update

Financial Update

Lisa Cash, Director of Financial Operations provided a financial update including the following:

- For the month of February, we have utilized 43% of our FY 25 adopted budget.
- The voucher detail listing totals $2.2 million.
- West Warwick began participating in December 2023. Our reimbursement percentage has increased from 54% to 74%.

11. Discussion/Approval: Budget Transfer

Discussion/Approval: Budget Transfer

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the budget transfer of $7,000 for the expansion tank at Wakefield Hills.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BUDGET TRANSFER OF $7,000. Motion seconded by Dennis Peacock. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

12. Discussion/Approval: Budget Amendment

Discussion/Approval: Budget Amendment

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the budget amendment to add the additional state funding received.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENT. Motion seconded by Joseph DiMartino. The following members voted in the affirmative: Dennis Peacock, Joseph DiMartino, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

13. Discussion/Approval: Transfer of Fund Balance Within School Capital Projects

Discussion/Approval: Transfer of Fund Balance Within School Capital Projects

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the transfer of fund balance within school capital projects.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE TRANSFER OF FUND BALANCE WITHIN SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS. Motion to table seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative to table: Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion tabled 4 to 0.

14. Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion of the school building committee update. She said as we said the last time, the Stage II has been submitted to RIDE. We are waiting for R.I.D.E. to review and we are expecting some feedback. The next immediate step is to put together a request for legislation, and at the town council meeting on the 18th, the Town Council will hopefully approve moving that forward.

15. Discussion/Approval: Bid Award: Upper Roof Replacement - West Warwick High School

Discussion/Approval: Bid Award: Upper Roof Replacement - West Warwick High School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the bid award for the upper roof replacement at West Warwick High School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE BID AWARD FOR THE UPPER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL. Motion to table seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative to table: Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion tabled 4 to 0.

16. Discussion/Approval: West Warwick High School Program of Studies 2025-2026

Discussion/Approval: West Warwick High School Program of Studies 2025-2026

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the West Warwick High School Program of Studies 2025-2026.

Mrs. Tarasevich said she wants to thank Kristen and Leah and everyone at the high school that helped work on this big project–a lot stays the same, but a lot changes too. Mrs. Tarasevich said it's a lot of work, and she wants to acknowledge that.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2025-2026.
Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn,

Dennis Peacock, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

17. Approval: Parental Leave Request

Approval: Parental Leave Request: Occupational Therapist - John F. Deering Middle School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that the school committee approve the parental leave request of an Occupational Therapist at John F. Deering Middle School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PARENTAL LEAVE REQUEST OF AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL Motion seconded by Dennis Peacock. The following members voted in the affirmative: Joseph DiMartino, Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

18. Discussion/Approval: Discretionary Leave Request

Discussion/Approval: Discretionary Leave Request: Physical Education/Health Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School

Mrs. Tarasevich said that this item was put on the agenda in error. There was no action on this item.

19. Acceptance of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

Acceptance of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement: Full-Time Self-Contained Inclusion Kindergarten Teacher Assistant Floater at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, Effective 6/13/25

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Della Lepore, Full-Time Self-Contained Inclusion Kindergarten Teacher

Assistant Floater at Wakefield Hills Elementary School, effective June 13, 2025. Mrs. Tarasevich said it is good for her, but it is a big loss for the district. Jessica Perry said Della is an incredible teacher assistant.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM DELLA LEPORE, FULL-TIME SELF-CONTAINED INCLUSION KINDERGARTEN TEACHER ASSISTANT FLOATER AT WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE JUNE 13, 2025 Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

20. Announcement of New Hires

Announcement of New Hires

Mrs. Tarasevich announced the following new hire: Speech Language Pathologist - John F. Deering Middle School: **Carla Woloohojian** - Effective 3/5/25

21. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

None.

22. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY JOSEPH DIMARTINO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion seconded by Dennis Peacock. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, Joseph DiMartino, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph DiMartino, Clerk

Michelle Colozzo, Recorder