MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 8, 2026
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
1 WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893
5:15 P.M.

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

Members Present:	Luis Colon, Chairperson Rene Coutu, Vice-Chairperson Angela Coburn Glen Terilli
Member Absent:	Dennis Peacock
School Committee Attorney Present:	Aubrey Lombardo
Administrators Present:	Karen Tarasevich, Superintendent of Schools Cheryl Langevin, Director of Financial Operations Christopher Mann, Director of Facilities and Transportation Frank Mealy, Director of Information Technology Keith Remillard, Director of Achievement & Accountability Data Philip Solomon, Director of Human Resources Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Recording Secretary:	Michelle Colozzo

1. Open Session

Open Session

Mr. Colon opened the meeting at 5:15 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call

The following members were present: Mr. Colon, Mr. Coutu, Mrs. Coburn, and Mr. Terilli.
Mr. Peacock was absent.

3. Motion to Go Into Executive Session

Motion to Go Into Executive Session according to RI General Laws §42-46-5, Subsection (a),

a) Discussion: RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)- Job Performance (All persons have been notified of their right for this to be heard in open session)

1) **Principal - Wakefield Hills Elementary School**
2) **Principal - Greenbush Elementary School**
3) **Assistant Principal - Greenbush Elementary School**
4) **Assistant Principal - John F. Deering Middle School**

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION ACCORDING TO RI GENERAL LAWS §42-46-5, Subsection (a),

a) Discussion: RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)- Job Performance (All persons have been notified of their right for this to be heard in open session)

1) **Principal - Wakefield Hills Elementary School**
2) **Principal - Greenbush Elementary School**
3) **Assistant Principal - Greenbush Elementary School**
4) **Assistant Principal - John F. Deering Middle School**

Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

4. Motion to Close Executive Session

MOTION

Motion to Close Executive Session

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

5. Open Session - 5:30 P.M.

Open Session - 5:30 P.M.

Mr. Colon opened this portion of the meeting at 5:31 P.M.

6. Roll Call

Roll Call

The following members were present: Mr. Colon, Mr. Coutu, Mrs. Coburn, and Mr. Terilli.
Mr. Peacock was absent.

7. Reading of Mission Statement

Reading of Mission Statement

Mrs. Coburn 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. Terilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

9. Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

MOTION

Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEAL THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES. Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members

voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

10. Superintendent's Report: District/School Updates

Superintendent's Report: District/School Updates

Mrs. Tarasevich said the July meeting is typically pretty short. We are in the middle of summer things. Property Services is doing the typical summer maintenance, repair, and getting ready for the next school year on top of a $71 million building project. Mrs. Tarasevich gave a shout out to Chris and his department; to say they are going above and beyond is an understatement.

Human Resources is still working on staffing. There is movement–leaves and retirements–which will help bring back people off the recall list. There is still some work to do, but we are confident we will have everything covered.

Other than that, it's just busy. Summer used to be a time to clean up desks and file cabinets, but it's not like that anymore. There is curriculum and professional development work going on; it just doesn't stop. She gave a shout out to everyone and said we are trying to make sure people take some vacation time to rest and rejuvenate before the start of the school year.

11. Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

a) School Committee Open Session Minutes: June 10, 2026
b) School Committee Executive Session Minutes: June 10, 2026
c) Contracts
  1) Renaissance
  2) Savvas
  3) LearnWell

4) **Lexia**
5) **Sargent Center Regional Resource Center**
6) **Holly's Closet**
7) **Speech Services Rhode Island LLC**

d) Resignations:

1) **Science Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 6/18/26**
2) **World Languages Teacher - West Warwick High School - Effective at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 School Year**
3) **Special Education Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 6/1/26**

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the Consent Agenda Items a.-d.3.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS a-d.3. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

12. Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Mrs. Tarasevich said we have met the requirement for the JPAL project to be substantially completed by June 30th, and the affidavit will go to RIDE by July 15th. She gives a lot of credit to the construction company Ahlborg and Left Field, the project manager. Mrs. Tarasevich said it is amazing to see every week how much more they get done, even in that heatwave last week.

Mrs. Tarasevich said we are working on the ribbon cutting scheduled for Sunday, August 23rd, at 1:00

P.M., and we will send out invitations. We will name it after Jason Pisano. It will be a great day to highlight students and student athletes.

The Quinn process has started, which is the biggest part of the project. They are doing demolition and abatement. One of the big next steps for Quinn is the notification to houses in the vicinity that abut the school property. These big machines literally rattle houses. Part of the construction process is to hire companies that monitor all of these things. They will go out to houses and take pictures in the event that there was damage caused by the vibration such as cracks in the foundation of a house. It is protection for the town and the construction company. That's underway. The town will send out notices to people in the vicinity of construction.

Work is underway at the high school; they have done some demolition, and the lockers are out.

At Horgan, they are still working on the design and placement of the elevator. The original thought was to relocate the elevator, but the dollar amount was too high. They are still looking at the placement, but construction will be cheaper than moving it.

Mrs Tarasevich said at the last building committee meeting, they talked about landscaping, primarily the front of the building being ready for the opening of school. Mr Colon said he took a tour of Payan Street. In the back, we want people to see that it's a work in progress and that it will be completed. He said there is not enough time for grass to grow, but they will try to make it look like a more finished product. A lot of people in the community may use the track or the basketball court.

13. Discussion/Approval: Submission of the F105 Project Completion form to RIDE for 30 Payan Street

Discussion/Approval: Submission of the F105 Project Completion form to RIDE for 30 Payan Street project

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the submission of the F105 Project Completion form to RIDE for the 30 Payan Street project.

Mrs. Tarasevich said we did meet the June 30th substantially completed deadline. Enough of the project is done that by the end of August, the building will be ready and school will open on time. Mrs Tarasevich said that this allows us to get reimbursement for what the district has already invested in the project. We have invested $1.3 million from the reserves, and we will get 64% of that reimbursed for this coming year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE F105 PROJECT COMPLETION FORM TO RIDE FOR THE 30 PAYAN STREET PROJECT. Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

14. Discussion/Approval: Discretionary Leave Request

Discussion/Approval: Discretionary Leave Request: Grade 6 Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective for the 2026-2027 School Year

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the discretionary leave request from Angela Slocum, Grade 6 Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, effective for the 2026-2027 school year.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE

DISCRETIONARY LEAVE REQUEST FROM ANGELA SLOCUM, GRADE 6 TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

15. Discussion/Approval: Position Elimination

Discussion/Approval: Position Elimination: Principal Secretary - Maisie E. Quinn School - Effective 7/3/26

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the position elimination of the Principal Secretary at Maisie E. Quinn School, effective July 3, 2026. Mrs. Tarasevich said this is just a formality; we had to eliminate the position to move it to Payan Street–no one is losing a job.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE POSITION ELIMINATION OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY AT MAISIE E. QUINN SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE JULY 3, 2026. Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

16. Acceptance of Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement

Acceptance of Resignations for the Purpose of Retirement:

a) Librarian - West Warwick High School - Effective 6/30/26

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Kelly Inman, Librarian at West Warwick High School, effective June 30, 2026.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Kelly has been with the district for 40 years, and she will be sorely missed–she is a wonderful person and great with the kids–but good for her.

b) IT Department Technician - West Warwick Public Schools - Effective 8/1/26

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Johnna Pare, IT Department Technician at West Warwick Public Schools, effective August 1, 2026.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Johnna has been with the district for 25 years and served many roles. When Mrs. Tarasevich was at the high school, she was support staff, and then she went to the IT Department and learned the job–she took it upon herself to take some courses. She will be greatly missed.

c) Grade 5 Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 8/21/26

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Monalyn Bernadyn, Grade 5 Teacher at John F. Deering Middle School, effective August 21, 2026.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Lyn has been with the district for 28 years, one of the people who is the heart and soul of the school–she cares about kids and the community and families. Congratulations to her.

d) Teacher Assistant - Maisie E. Quinn School - effective 9/4/26

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended with regret that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Gail Aldridge, Teacher

Assistant at Maisie E. Quinn School, effective September 4, 2026.

Mrs. Tarasevich said Gail has been in the district for 27 years, and she worked with her at the high school. She is a phenomenal person who chooses to work with the most challenged kids with the greatest needs. She will be greatly missed.

Mr. Colon said these people represent 120 years of institutional knowledge, and they will be missed. It's important to recognize their years of service.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM:

a) KELLY INMAN, LIBRARIAN AT WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 2026
b) JOHNNA PARE, IT DEPARTMENT TECHNICIAN FOR THE WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2026
c) MONALYN BERNADYN, GRADE 5 TEACHER AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2026
d) GAIL ALDRIDGE, TEACHER ASSISTANT AT MAISIE E. QUINN SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 4, 2026.

Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

17. Announcement of New Hires

Announcement of New Hires

Mrs. Tarasevich said as we decided a meeting or two ago, she will only be announcing new hires that are

new to the district. She said what is in the packet is a list of people who already hold positions in the district and have been recalled to positions or took a summer position.

WWTA New Hires, Transfers, and Awarded Positions

1. Social Studies Department Leader - Deering Middle School - **Jeffrey Parenteau** - Effective 26/27 SY
2. ELA Department Leader - Deering Middle School - **Susan Zahaykevitz** - Effective 26/27 SY
3. Math Department Leader - Deering Middle School - **Catherine Boutin** - Effective 26/27 SY
4. Grade 1 Teacher - Wakefield Hills Elementary School - **Danielle Turcotte** - Effective 26/27 SY
5. Recall: Grade 2 Teacher - Wakefield Hills Elementary School - **Alyssa Leech** - Effective 26/27 SY
6. Yearbook Co Advisor - West Warwick High School - **Tracy Le Fort** - Effective 26/27 SY
7. Student Council Advisor - West Warwick High School - **Julie Brodeur** - Effective 26/27 SY
8. PE Teacher - West Warwick High School - **Jessica Ouellette** - Effective 26/27 SY
9. LTS Music Teacher - West Warwick High School - **Ed Mudrak** - Effective 26/27 SY
10. Grade 8 Teacher - Deering Middle School - **Pamela Kershaw** - Effective 26/27 SY
11. PE Teacher - Wakefield Hills - **Jimmy Kyle Gibbons** - Effective 26/27 SY
12. Summer Wizards Guidance - All Schools - **Adam Satchell** - Effective 6/16/26
13. Summer Wizards Guidance - All Schools - **Christopher Torem** - Effective 6/16/26
14. Summer Wizards Academy Credit Program - West Warwick High School - **Joseph Biscelli** - Effective 7/6/26
15. Summer Wizards Academy Credit Program - West Warwick High School - **Kerrie Mott** - Effective 7/6/26

16. Summer Wizards Academy Credit Program - West Warwick High School - **Lynda Nikodem** - Effective 7/6/26
17. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Catherine Boutin** - Effective 8/18/26
18. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Kelly Hersey** - Effective 8/18/26
19. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Aimee Frias** - Effective 8/18/26
20. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Christina Frisone** - Effective 8/18/26
21. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Regina Houle** - Effective 8/18/26
22. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Kelly Gallo** - Effective 8/18/26
23. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Lily Golderese** - Effective 8/18/26
24. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Cheri Skurka** - Effective 8/18/26
25. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Tina Copley** - Effective 8/18/26
26. Incoming Grade 5 Program - Deering Middle School - **Denise Kelly** - Effective 8/18/26
27. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Lori Tashjian** - Effective 7/6/26
28. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Eugene Gallo** - Effective 7/6/26
29. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Alison Lagor** - Effective 7/6/26
30. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Kerrie Mott** - Effective 7/6/26
31. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Richard Marchetti** - Effective 7/6/26
32. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Carol-Ann Silvestri** - Effective 7/6/26

33. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Kristen Clark** - Effective 7/6/26
34. Summer Wizards Learn Academic Program - West Warwick High School - **Carol Buffery** - Effective 7/6/26

Council 94 New Hires, Transfers, and Awarded Positions

1. Principal Secretary - JPAL - **Meagan Traficante** - Effective 7/7/2026
2. Head Custodian - Maisie Quinn - **Jaime Payan** - Effective 8/17/2026
3. Secretary - Deering Middle School - **Rhonda Barner** - Effective 7/8/2026
4. Head Custodian - Horgan Elementary School - **Kevin Mann** - Effective 8/17/2026
5. Custodian - Admin Building / Middle School Custodian - **Walter Baena -** Effective 8/17/26
6. Principal Secretary - Wakefield Hills Elementary School - **Jeri-Lynn Silva** - Effective 7/20/2026

18. Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contracts

Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract Amendments:

a) Principal - Wakefield Hills Elementary School
b) Principal - Greenbush Elementary School
c) Assistant Principal - Greenbush Elementary School
d) Assistant Principal - John F. Deering Middle School

Mrs. Tarasevich recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the administrative contract amendments for:

a) Kathleen Winslow, Principal of Wakefield Hills Elementary School
b) Michelle Livsey, Principal of Greenbush Elementary School
c) Danielle Poirier, Assistant Principal at Greenbush Elementary School

d) Stephen Emerson, Assistant Principal at John F. Deering Middle School

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY GLEN TERILLI THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT AMENDMENTS OF:

a) KATHLEEN WINSLOW, PRINCIPAL OF WAKEFIELD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
b) MICHELLE LIVSEY, PRINCIPAL OF GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
c) DANIELLE POIRIER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF GREENBUSH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
d) STEPHEN EMERSON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

19. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

Mr. Robert Chiaradio of Westerly, Rhode Island addressed the school committee regarding the Title IX and Transgender policies/protocols including the following points:

- the Supreme Court decision of last week: 27 states were found not to be in violation of Title IX by not allowing boys to participate in girls' sports
- If those 27 states are not in violation of Title IX, then 23 states, including Rhode Island, are.
- The school committee must revise their policy V.A. 25 to comply with Title IX and the Supreme Court decision and to protect girls.

20. Adjournment

MOTION

Adjournment

MOTION MADE BY GLEN TERILLI THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rene Coutu, Vice-Chairperson

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Michelle Colozzo, Recorder