MINUTES
WEST WARWICK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER
1 WEBSTER KNIGHT DRIVE
WEST WARWICK, RI 02893
5:00 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 Dennis Peacock
School Committee Attorney Present:	Aubrey Lombardo
Administrators Present:	Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Leah Bessette, Director of Secondary Schools Kristen Hinson, Principal - West Warwick High School Cheryl Langevin, Director of Financial Operations Jeffrey Langlais, Assistant Director of Facilities and Transportation Frank Mealy, Director of Information Technology Jessica Perry, Co-Director of Student Services Keith Remillard, Director of Achievement & Accountability Data Philip Solomon, Director of Human Resources
Recording Secretary:	Michelle Colozzo

1. Open Session

Open Session

Mr. Colon opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call

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

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) **Director of Human Resources**
2) **Director of Facilities & Transportation**
3) **Assistant Director of Facilities & Transportation**
4) **Network/Systems Manager**
5) **Assistant Principal - John F. Deering Middle School**

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY GLEN TERILLI 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) **Director of Human Resources**
2) **Director of Facilities & Transportation**
3) **Assistant Director of Facilities & Transportation**
4) **Network/Systems Manager**
5) **Assistant Principal - John F. Deering Middle School**

Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Dennis Peacock, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

4. Motion to Close Executive Session

MOTION

Motion to Close Executive Session

MOTION MADE BY DENNIS PEACOCK THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Dennis Peacock, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

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

Open Session - 5:30 P.M.

Mr. Colon opened this portion of the meeting at 5:38 P.M.

6. Roll Call

Roll Call

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

7. Reading of Mission Statement

Reading of Mission Statement

Mr. Terilli 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

Motion to Seal Executive Session Minutes

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SEAL THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES. Motion

seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

10. Student Representative

Student Representative

Kylie Lavallee, Treasurer of the Senior Class at West Warwick High School, reported on upcoming events and activities at West Warwick High School including the following:

- This Friday, the Student Council will hold the first blood drive of the year.
- Homecoming Spirit Week is quickly approaching.
- The Homecoming Pep Rally will be at the end of the week.
- The Homecoming Dance will be in the back parking lot of the high school on October 3rd. Tickets will be on sale soon.
- The Tri-M Society Annual Food Truck Night will take place on October 10th at 4 P.M. in the West Warwick Civic Center Parking Lot.

11. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Report:

a) First Public Forum on Redistricting
b) Groundbreaking Ceremony at Maisie E Quinn School
c) JPAL Update

Dr. Michael Whaley, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, gave the report from Superintendent Tarasevich who was not able to attend the meeting.

a) The first public forum will be held on Wednesday, September 30th, at 6 P.M., at Greenbush Elementary School.

b) The groundbreaking ceremony at Maisie E. Quinn School will be Saturday, September 26th, at 10 A.M. That will be the official

groundbreaking, but we have been in full construction mode all summer.

c) Many of you were at the opening of JPAL. We are finishing up the punch list over time. Janet and Amanda are doing a great job getting people up and running and all the things for opening up a new school.

12. Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

Discussion/Approval: Consent Agenda

a) School Committee Open Session Minutes: August 12, 2026

b) School Committee Executive Session Minutes: August 12, 2026

c) Contracts

1) **Ocean State Academy (7 contracts)**
2) **The Groden Center, Inc.**
3) **J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center Pathways Strategic Teaching Center (2 contracts)**
4) **Paul V. Sherlock Center (contracts)**
5) **BeWell Therapy Collaborative**
6) **Thundermist Health Center School Physician**

d) Resignations:

1) **Best Buddies Advisor - West Warwick High School - Effective 8/24/26: Jimmy Gibbins**
2) **Mock Trial Director - West Warwick High School - Effective 8/1/26: Brenda Johnson**
3) **Speech Language Pathologist - Maisie E. Quinn School - Effective 9/11/26: Katie Oduyingbo**
4) **Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 7/16/26: Elizabeth Taylor**
5) **Teacher - West Warwick High School - Effective 8/1/26: Logan Shunney**
6) **Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 9/11/26: Denise Kelly**

7) **Assistant Boys Soccer Coach - West Warwick High School - Effective 8/14/26: Paulo Frias**
8) **Softball Coach - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 8/4/26**: **Danielle Bishop**
9) **Teacher Assistant - John F. Deering Middle School - Effective 7/29/26: Jeffrey Simpson**
10) **Teacher Assistant - Jason M. Pisano Academy for Learning - Effective 8/14/26: Jessica Selby**

e) Payment of Bills

f) Home Instruction Plans

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the Consent Agenda Items a.-f.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY DENNIS PEACOCK THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS a-f. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

13. Financial Update

Financial Update:

a) Monthly Financial Report for the Period 07/01/2025 through 06/30/2026
b) Monthly Financial Report for the Period 07/01/2026 through 07/31/2026
c) Monthly Financial Report for the Period 08/01/2026 through 08/31/2026
d) Disbursement Detail Listings for FY 2026: $153,771.43

Mrs. Cheryl Langevin, Director of Financial Operations, gave a financial update including the following:

- The preliminary budget surplus was $487,000. Since she prepared that report, it is looking more

like $350,000 because we had to cover a grant deficit of $130,000.

- As of July 31, 2026, we have utilized 6.6% of the FY 27 adopted expenditure budget.
- As of August 31, 2026, we have utilized 6.6% of the FY 27 Adopted Expenditure Budget.
- Disbursement Detail Listings were included in the school committee packet.

The School Committee thanked Mrs. Langevin for her report.

14. Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Electronic Devices Policy

Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Electronic Devices Policy

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the second reading of the electronic devices policy which was put forth to comply with the federal law on cell phones.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY. Motion seconded by Dennis Peacock. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Glen Terilli, Dennis Peacock, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

15. Discussion/Approval: Removal of Policy

Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: Removal of IV.D.8. Bring Your Own Device Policy

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the second reading of the removal of IV.D.8. Bring Your Own Device Policy which is being replaced by the electronic devices policy. To comply with the new law, we need to replace the Bring Your Own Device Policy. Some

kids were using their own laptops so we put in place a process to transfer them to school issued devices.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF THE REMOVAL OF IV.D.8. BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE POLICY. Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Dennis Peacock, Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

16. Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: V.A.22. Home School Policy

Discussion/Approval: Second Reading: V.A.22. Home School Policy

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the second reading of V.A.22. Home School Policy.

Attorney Lombardo said you may or not be aware that there were complaints about the R.I.D.E. requirement that families enroll in the district. She said we were able to meet with the homeschool association and work out something to comply with R.I.D.E. that works for homeschool families. There was great collaboration with the homeschool association; this is a win: we are in compliance and we will know who is getting homeschooled, but we will also have families who feel comfortable with the process.

Dr. Whaley said Keith did a great job working through Aspen and coming up with a solution that works for everyone.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY GLEN TERILLI THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SECOND READING OF V.A.22. HOME SCHOOL POLICY. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Dennis Peacock, Angela Coburn, Rene Coutu, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

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

Discussion/Approval: Out-of-State Field Trip Request: West Warwick High School Grades 9-12 Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Concert Chorale to New Orleans, Louisiana, May 17-20, 2027

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/ approval of the out-of-state field trip request for West Warwick High School Grades 9-12 Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Concert Chorale to New Orleans, Louisiana, May 17-20, 2027.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY DENNIS PEACOCK THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP FOR WEST WARWICK HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-12 WIND ENSEMBLE, CONCERT BAND, AND CONCERT CHORALE TO NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, MAY 17-20, 2027. Motion seconded by Angela Coburn. The following members voted in the affirmative: Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

18. Acceptance of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

Acceptance of Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement: Teacher Assistant - John F. Horgan Elementary School - Effective 8-20-26

Dr. Whaley recommended that the school committee accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement from Lynn Kilkenny, Teacher Assistant at John F. Horgan Elementary School, effective August 20, 2026. She was hired in 1998; she was coming up on 28 years of service. Mr. Colon said thank you, Lynn.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY RENE COUTU THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT FROM LYNN KILKENNY, TEACHER ASSISTANT AT JOHN F. HORGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EFFECTIVE

AUGUST 20, 2026. Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

19. Announcement of New Hires

Announcement of New Hires

Dr. Whaley announced the names of people who are new to the district.

WWTA New Hires, Transfers, and Awarded Positions

1. World Language Teacher - West Warwick High School - **Hadjila Guesmi** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
2. Library Media Specialist - John F. Deering Middle School - **Megan Velasquez** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
3. Social Studies Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - **Nathan Bennett** - Effective 9/14/2026
4. Assistant Coach Boys Soccer - West Warwick High School - **Richard Hart** - Effective 9/1/2026
5. LTS Special Education Teacher - John F. Deering Middle School - **Jessica Spizzirri** - Effective 9/14/2026
6. Head Coach Cheerleading - West Warwick High School - **Ariana Witherspoon** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
7. Director of Facilities and Transportation - Administration Building - **Barry Desruisseaux** - Effective 9/16/2026
8. Director of Human Resources - Administration Building - **Derrick Randle** - Effective 9/16/2026

Council 94 New Hires, Transfers, and Awarded Positions

1. Teacher Assistant - John F. Deering Middle School - **Logan Randall** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year

2. Teacher Assistant - John F. Horgan Elementary School - **Matthew Bass** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
3. Teacher Assistant - Maisie Quinn School - **Elissa DeLuca** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
4. Supervisory Assistant - Greenbush Elementary School - **Christine Mendozzi** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
5. Bus Monitor - Property Services - **Austin Briggs** - Effective 9/8/2026
6. Bus Monitor - Property Services - **John Waters** - Effective 9/14/2026
7. Technology Support Technician - Administration Building - **Dawson Enright** - Effective 9/21/2026
8. Teacher Assistant - Maisie E. Quinn School - **Keiry Wolstenholme** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
9. Principal Secretary - Wakefield Hills Elementary School - **Jeri-Lynn Silva** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year
10. Supervisory Assistant - John F. Deering Middle School - **Kristen Kilduff** - Effective 2026-2027 School Year

20. Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract

<u>Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contracts</u>:

a) Director of Human Resources

Dr. Whaley recommended there be a discussion of the administrative contract for Derrick Randle, Director of Human Resources. Dr. Whaley said we are enthusiastic about him joining the team; we feel he will be an asset to the district leadership team, and we are looking forward to him being with us.

<u>MOTION</u>

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT FOR DERRICK RANDLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES. Motion seconded by Dennis Peacock. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Glen Terilli, Dennis

Peacock, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

b) Director of Facilities and Transportation

Dr. Michael Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the contract for Barry Desruisseaux, Director of Facilities and Transportation. Dr. Whaley said again, Barry was a very strong candidate who we think will bring a lot to the team. We feel Barry will be a great addition.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY GLEN TERILLI THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT FOR BARRY DESRUISSEAUX, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, Rene Coutu, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

21. Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract Amendments

Discussion/Approval: Administrative Contract Amendments

a) Assistant Director of Facilities and Transportation

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be discussion/approval of the administrative contract amendment for Jeffrey Langlais, Assistant Director of Facilities and Transportation.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY GLEN TERILLI THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR JEFFREY LANGLAIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION. Motion to table seconded by Dennis Peacock. The following members voted in the affirmative to table: Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, Dennis Peacock, Glen Terilli, and Luis Colon. Motion to table unanimously passed.

b) Network/Systems Manager

Dr Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the administrative contract amendment for Timothy Spatz, Network/Systems Manager.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR TIMOTHY SPATZ, NETWORK/SYSTEMS MANAGER. Motion seconded by Glen Terilli. The following members voted in the affirmative: Rene Coutu, Dennis Peacock, Glen Terilli, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

c) Assistant Principal - John F. Deering Middle School

Dr. Whaley recommended that there be a discussion/approval of the administrative contract amendment for Christopher Barbosa, Assistant Principal at John F. Deering Middle School.

MOTION

MOTION MADE BY ANGELA COBURN THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR CHRISTOPHER BARBOSA, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT JOHN F. DEERING MIDDLE SCHOOL. Motion seconded by Rene Coutu. The following members voted in the affirmative: Dennis Peacock, Glen Terilli, Rene Coutu, Angela Coburn, and Luis Colon. Motion unanimously passed.

22. Audience of Citizens

Audience of Citizens

Melissa Robb addressed the school committee regarding the Homeschool Policy.

Ms. Robb said there was great collaboration, and they really felt heard and felt they heard the administration's concerns. She said it will make it

very clear for families and future families and administrators. Ms. Robb said it was very positive, and they are so grateful.

23. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rene Coutu, Vice-Chairperson

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Michelle Colozzo, Recorder