

> Warwick Special Education Advisory Committee May 13, 2009 Meeting  
> Minutes  
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> Attendance: Eve Bisard, Jessica Schad, Sharon Terzian, Cindy Roberts,  
> Delia McDermott, Dr. D'Agostino, Paul Cannistra, Kara Theriault, Kim  
> Moulton, Kristen Batchelor, Susan Fay, Susan Rooney, Joan Germain, and  
> Derek Thayer  
>  
> Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Eve Bisard. Eve made a  
> motion to accept the last meeting minutes.  
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> School Committee Update - Paul Cannistra gave an update on the School  
> Committee. He indicated that the next City Council meeting will be on  
> June 1st and that the indication is that the City Council will be  
> mandating level funding of \$164 million although the School Committee  
> is asking for a 3.3% increase.  
> If level funding is the case, then \$4 million would have to be cut  
> from this year. The School Committee was hoping that they would be  
> able to take on the debt service for Pilgram's roof - but in light of  
> level funding, they may have to walk away from taking it on. This  
> would still leave a budget gap of \$750,000 - \$800,000 to trim next year.  
> Paul Cannistra also let the committee know that Greene elementary  
> school was the school that was voted to close and that Family Consumer  
> Sciences will not be part of the budget.  
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> Eve then discussed the responses that were received pertaining to  
> ongoing WSEAC memberships. Annie Johnson, Pam Goes and Dorrie Carter  
> indicated that they were stepping down as voting members of the  
> committee. That opens up some spots for new members. Mary Townsend  
> submitted her application for membership and the committee voted its  
> approval. Dr. D'Agostino will present Mary's application at the next  
> School Committee meeting.  
> Eve then indicated that no more nominations have come in for the  
> 2009-2010 positions for Co-Chair and Secretary. The Committee

will

- > vote during the June 10th meeting.
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- > Director of Special Education Report: Eve began the section by
- > discussing the West Warwick Independent Living Apartment Program.
- > Joan Germain got Eve in touch with the Director and will go to observe
- > the program. Dr. D'Agostino indicated that it might be beneficial to
- > do program exchanges with West Warwick to utilize some of their
- > programs and vice versa. The next question for Dr. D'Agostino was about ESY.
- > He indicated that ESY will be utilizing Drumrock for students in early
- > childhood up to potentially grade 3, using WICKS for grades 4 - 6, and
- > Winman for Jr. High and High School students. They are still going to
- > refer students to the Park and Rec. program and the YMCA Trailblazer's
- > program for socialization goals and needs for students up to age 12.
- > For those students over 12 yrs old, Warwick is implementing a twice a
- > week program to work on social goals by practicing social situations.
- > Susan Rooney also talked briefly about the drop in tutoring option
- > which would be working for 1 hour on specialized skills. Dr.
- > D'Agostino discussed that he is still waiting for the application for
- > the stimulus money. It has to be earmarked for specific needs such as
- > professional development.
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- > State Update: Sharon Terzian updated the Committee about the Medicaid
- > waiver - she indicated that work groups are being formed and that
- > anyone can participate in a work group. She indicated that she is
- > participating in the Katie Beckett work group and one of the points of
- > discussion is cost sharing which translates to parents/guardians
- > having to pay towards services.
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- > Public Comment: Several members expressed concern over APE (adaptive
- > physical education) and that the instructors have not been attending
- > IEP meetings. Why would this be if they have identified goals? They
- > were concerned that this might be a systemic problem. Cindy

Roberts

- > raised a concern that the program that her daughter will be
- > transitioning into is not integrated and it doesn't even take
- place in
- > the gym. Jessica informed the committee about her experience with
- APE
- > and indicated that an evaluation was never done and that she
- waited
- > two months for goals and once the goals were presented, that they
- were
- > unacceptable. Dr. D'Agostino indicated that he would look into
- this.
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- > Next Meeting: June 10th, 2009 at 7:00pm.
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- > Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.
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- > Respectfully Submitted,
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- > Kara Theriault