

Warwick Community Outreach Educational Committee
Minutes for November 2, 2015

Members Present: Karen Bachus (co-chair), Sarah Callahan, Nathan Cornell (co-chair), Ed Ladouceur, William McCaffrey, Darlene Netcoh (clerk), Kathleen Usler

- I. Opening:** Ed Ladouceur made opening remarks and explained how this committee was formed
- II. Call to Order:** Nathan Cornell officially called the meeting to order. He explained the purpose of the committee and stated that the committee would follow *Robert's Rules of Order*. He also introduced the members of the committee and stated the bodies they represent.
- III. Discussion: School Committee/City Council/Teachers' Union Relations**
 - A.** William McCaffrey stated that we have a new superintendent now. When this committee was initiated there was a different climate. He said that the new superintendent is meeting with stakeholders.
 - B.** Kathleen Usler agreed with Mr. McCaffrey and said that she hopes that this committee will open up communications and ideas. The members of this committee will have different views and ideas. She represents parents and hears their opinions wherever she goes. She said we can move forward if we look for good things and come together.
 - C.** Mr. Cornell stated that his goal is to get stakeholders to work together to find solutions.
 - D.** Mr. Ladouceur said that one of the reasons he was willing to put this committee through the council was there has been a lack of transparency and communication and no connection between the entities.
 - E.** Mr. McCaffrey reported about his visits to other career and technical schools. He said that in Warwick our teachers do a great job and that we can compare to anyone. Warwick students are well-served.
 - F.** Ms. Usler said that she agreed and that the only reason we are here is for the students. She said that all we want is success for the students.
 - G.** There was a discussion about getting out the word about the career and technical center. Many people stated the importance of the programs at the CTC.
- IV. Discussion: Consolidation**
 - A.** Consolidation will help in some ways and hurt in others.
 - B.** There is an issue right now with the career center and the feeder schools. All career center students will attend Toll Gate, as they did in the past. However, some Pilgrim students have indicated that they do not wish to leave Pilgrim.
 - C.** The school committee did not give enough consideration to the "campus model" that SMMA proposed. The school committee should have at least talked to the city about the possibility of a bond issue.
 - D.** There was a discussion about GBP, senior paper, senior project, and e-mentoring.
 - E.** There is a concern about a social injustice issue regarding consolidation.
 - F.** The schools are being compressed, but the administration and administration buildings are not being compressed.

- G. There was a discussion about the consolidation committees and the lack of parents, students, and teachers on them.
- H. There was a discussion about redistricting and the plan to send all of the Vets feeder elementary schools except Park to Pilgrim.
- I. There was a discussion about the scheduling of classes.
- J. There was a discussion about the school buildings that need repairs inside of them and the building of new fire stations in the city. Karen Bachus stated that the school committee has not been able to build new buildings because it does not have all of the bond money and has to pay the debt service on the money that has been released. Mr. McCaffrey stated that no schools have been built due to the state. The state has held back money. There was further discussion about the bond money.
- V. **Discussion: Student Participation in School Affairs**
 - A. Mr. Cornell wants to create a united body—"Warwick's Student Congress."
 - B. There was a discussion about the possibility of such a committee.
- VI. **Information and Proposals from Committee Members**
 - A. Ms. Bachus mentioned the VOWS Golden Chopstick Auction.
 - B. Mr. Ladouceur said that this committee should identify the real problems and promulgate solutions. We should find out what teachers and students think. Ms. Usler added that we should also find out what parents think.
- VII. **Public Comment**
 - A. One member of the public recounted her grandson's difficulty in school. She said that the guidance counselors should do a better job of telling students about the career center and realize that not everyone is going to go to college.
 - B. Eugene Nadeau of the school committee said that many things need clarification. He said that the school committee has to vote on the school committee representative on this committee. Mr. Ladouceur read for the record the resolution that formed this committee. He read the composition of the committee and stated that as part of the resolution, he as the sponsor of the resolution does the appointing of committee members. He does not need any recommendations. He only needs volunteers to appoint.
- VIII. **Next Meeting:** December 2, 2015
- IX. **Adjournment:** 7:40 PM