

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The School Committee has been advised by the Mayor that the City will no longer participate in mediation over the 2018-2019 School Year budget, nor will he entertain any mediation for the 2019-2020 budget other than sports and clubs. This destructive position would require the Committee to take the following actions:

1. For 2018-2019: The Committee would be forced to illegally withdraw 4 million dollars from a pension fund. The Mayor has been advised by a tax attorney retained by the Committee, as well as the Auditor General, that such a withdrawal is illegal and would result in a full re-payment of the monies, plus interest and penalties.
2. For 2019-2020:
  - a. The following cuts will directly and negatively impact students, staff, teaching and learning. These cuts need to be addressed before, or in conjunction with, sports and clubs. This list is not all-inclusive, but simply representative of what is happening to the district.
    - i. All textbooks have been cut / no textbooks will be purchased (this includes e-books and other digital media).
    - ii. All classroom Teacher Assistants in Grades 1 and 2 have been cut.
    - iii. All custodial hours have been reduced by 12%.
    - iv. All Middle and High School Assistance Counselors positions have been cut (these positions are part of a statewide program utilized in all public schools to educate students on the perils of substance abuse and to provide assistance and support to students and families in crisis).
    - v. Eliminated four maintenance staff who are critical to the operation.
    - vi. 90% of all technology hardware has been cut, jeopardizing the district initiative to provide Chromebooks for all Middle and High School students.
    - vii. All teacher professional development and workshops have been cut.

These cuts are devastating to the district and the community. We implore the Mayor to come to the table to discuss the budget for both 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 for the benefit of the students, employees and all Warwick constituents.

Karen Bachus, Chairperson  
Warwick School Committee

Philip Thornton, Superintendent  
Warwick Public Schools