



Dear Jo-Ann,

## **SAVE THE WARWICK MENTOR PROGRAM!!!**

### **JOIN US TONIGHT...**

**Warwick School Committee Meeting**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Warwick Veterans Middle School Auditorium**  
**2401 West Shore Road**

#### **THERE'S STRENGTH IN NUMBERS!**

We need a big turnout to show the school committee that the community is behind the Warwick Mentor Program. Without the restoration of funding, we will not be able to operate the program and 160 kids who need the support of a mentor will once again be left to wonder why they are not the priority.

There will also be a chance for our supporters to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

You don't have to speak, just being there is already a huge help, but if you do choose to speak we have a few tips to help you in the process.

- 1) Be succinct & stay on topic.** Most people will only have a couple of minutes to speak, so try to stay focused on why the program is important to you as a mentor, supporter, business partner, teacher, or parent; and why it is vital to your mentee.
- 2) Share a poignant story about your mentoring experience.** Many of us can recall the experience that opened our eyes to the power of mentoring. Those stories are usually powerful testimonials for the value of the program.
- 3) Maintain the confidentiality of your mentee.** If you're speaking about a specific mentee, please only refer to them by first name or as "my mentee" or appropriate pronouns.
- 4) Respect the committee, its members, and its rules.** Please remember committee members are people trying to serve the community and they are faced with extremely difficult decisions. In order to best use your 2 minutes, please focus on the benefits of the program and why it should be a top priority to be restored. As frustrating as this situation is, we want to remain poised and professional. Kindly omit personal attacks and do not demand answers to questions.

**5) Don't pit mentoring against another youth serving program.** We want the mentoring program restored. Of course, we believe it is a crucial program for our kids...but demanding the funding be restored at the expense of another program that benefits youth (sports, music, etc.) isn't in the kids' best interests either. Let the committee and the city figure out how to fund the programs that are crucial for our kids.

## **We hope to see you tonight...**

and don't forget the fight to the restore the Warwick Mentor Program continues **tomorrow night** when we take our case to the **Warwick City Council**.

**Warwick City Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 15, 2018**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Warwick City Hall Council Chambers**  
**3275 Post Road**

**Donate Now!!!**

With gratitude for all you do,

Jo-Ann Schofield, President & CEO

The MENTOR Rhode Island Board of Directors

and the entire MENTOR Rhode Island team  
401-732-7700

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