



Dear Jo-Ann,

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

**LAST NIGHT WAS GREAT (see the media coverage below)  
...BUT THE WORK ISN'T DONE!!!**

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

**Warwick City Council Meeting  
7:00 pm  
Warwick City Hall  
City Council Chamber  
3275 Post Road**

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

We are confident that the school committee understands the value of the Warwick Mentor Program thanks to our amazing mentors and supporters who turned out at last night's meeting. The cut is still in place so there is still more work to do.

### **PLEASE join us tonight at the Warwick City Council meeting.**

They ultimately have the ability to approve additional funding to Warwick Schools....it's imperative that they understand the impact on our kids and community! Your presence will make the difference!

Like last night, there will 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 pro-

nouns.

**4) Respect the Council, its members, and its rules.** Please remember councilors 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 Council and the School Committee figure out how to fund the programs that are crucial for our kids.

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

## **Media Coverage of the fight to Save The Warwick Mentor Program:**

[WPRI 12 & Fox Providence Eyewitness News!](#)

[ABC 6](#)

[The Providence Journal](#)

**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  
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