



Dear Jo-Ann,

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

**Keep Mentoring top-of-mind at the next Warwick City Council Meeting as the School Committee makes their request for additional funding!!!**

**JOIN US...MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th...**

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

The School Committee will present to the City Council the findings of the school's performance audit and its latest request for additional funding from the city.

Note: Funding the mentoring program was NOT listed in the audit as being an essential item for the school department to meet its legal obligations to students.

**Show both the school committee and the city council that the funding for the mentoring program must be restored.**

There may be a chance for you 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 share your thoughts 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 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.

In the interim, we ARE launching the Warwick Mentor Program on schedule with our existing mentor/mentee pairs. Make no mistake about it, we are on thin ice financially by doing so... Will you please consider helping us bridge the funding gap! If/when we are fully restored we will set aside any excess funding (wouldn't THAT be nice?) to provide innovative opportunities for Warwick mentors and students!

**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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