



Dear Jo-Ann,

SAVE THE WARWICK MENTOR PROGRAM!!!

UPDATE: There has been a change to the agenda for tonight's Warwick City Council Meeting. The School Department will no longer be presenting its school performance audit or making its latest request for additional funding at tonight's meeting!

The following statement was released by the City Council President and School Committee Chair a short time ago:

The City Council President and School Committee Chairperson have jointly agreed to postpone Monday Night's presentation of the School Department's audit. This joint postponement will allow the Mayor, the City Council President and School Committee Chairperson the opportunity to meet in an attempt to resolve this complicated situation. A meeting between representatives of each party has been scheduled for September 24, 2018. The presentation before the City Council has been mutually rescheduled to October 1, 2018.

City Council President, Steven Merolla
School Committee Chairperson, Bethany Furtado

You can still join us at tonight's meeting to support full restoration of the funding for the Warwick Mentor Program during the open comment period.

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

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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