

Dear Friends, Mentors, and Supporters,

All of us at MENTOR Rhode Island are sad, devastated, heartbroken AND ANGRY.

We were blindsided by the news that, on Tuesday night at the School Committee Meeting, our entire funding for the Warwick Mentor Program was cut from the budget. As you know, mentoring is not a "nice to have" program. It is a "need to have" program which gives support to the young people we serve. Currently there are 160 mentor/mentee pairs ranging from 2nd grade through high school.

How do we tell these children that their mentors, people they have relied on week after week, year after year in some cases, are unable to continue? I am outraged. I hope you are, too.

Will you please help us to advocate for the reinstatement of these funds?

Our program has been in existence and funded by the school department since 1990; it is the foundation of our organization. Thirty years of history and amazing results for Warwick kids.... I cannot find the words to express the disappointment and devastation we are feeling.

Please reach out to our elected officials to express your thoughts:

School Committee members	Phone	Email
Bethany Furtado, Chair	401-737-2354	bethany.furtado@warwickschools.org
Eugene Nadeau	401-463-8742	eugene.nadeau@warwickschools.org
Karen Bachus	401-732-3757	karen.bachus@warwickschools.org
M. Terri Medeiros		terri.medeiros@warwickschools.org
David Testa	401-626-1084	david.testa@warwickschools.org

City Council members

Richard Corley	401-481-5436	rkcorley@corleyassociates.com
Jeremy Rix	401-263-5559	rixforwarwick@gmail.com
Timothy Howe	401-215-0632	Howe.Ward3@gmail.com
Edgar Ladouceur	401-447-7181	ed.ladouceurri@yahoo.com
Donna M. Travis	401-738-9774	Donna.M.Travis@warwickri.com
Stephen P. MacAllister	401-287-1813	smcallister4@gmail.com
Joseph Gallucci	401-487-6224	joegallucciward8@cox.net
Steve Merolla, President	401-739-2900 x306	smerolla@merollalaw.com
Mayor Joe Solomon	401-738-2004	mayorsoffice@warwickri.com

If you are a mentor, please share YOUR story with these officials! You are so important in the life of your mentee and to the success of the Warwick Mentor Program.

We have an emergency meeting of our Board of Directors on Monday, July 30th. We will formulate our next steps and contingency planning at that time. I will update you as soon as we have some answers.

How do we tell 160 vulnerable kids that they aren't a priority? We need your help!

Please reach out TODAY. It matters for our kids.

With gratitude for all you do,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo-Ann", written in a cursive style.

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

P.S. If you have any thoughts on other ways you may be able to help, please do not hesitate to reach out.