

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Warwick Teachers' Union Has Voted "No Confidence"
in Warwick School Committee Chair Bethany Furtado
and Warwick Schools' Superintendent Philip Thornton
and Will Let Them Know at the School Committee Meeting
on October 10, 2017**

Place: Toll Gate High School, 575 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI 02886

Time: 6:30 pm

Darlene Netcoh, President of the WTU, has announced that the Warwick Teachers' Union has taken the rare measure to vote "no confidence" in Warwick School Committee Chair Bethany Furtado and Warwick Schools' Superintendent Philip Thornton. The unanimous vote signifies that the Warwick teachers, the professionals who are in the classrooms and are witnessing the negative educational effects of the negligence of these two individuals, have waited long enough for Furtado and Thornton to do their jobs. As the leader of the WSC, Furtado is Thornton's boss and is responsible for overseeing him and ensuring that he provides an academically sound education for Warwick's children. Darlene Netcoh states, "Because Furtado has allowed Thornton to do whatever he wants, he has, among other actions, caused a disastrous secondary school consolidation; eliminated programs, such as Reading Recovery and elementary guidance; and violated contract language that would have ensured the appropriate placement of special education students and special education teachers in classes. Additionally, while he has eliminated teachers and classroom space for students, he has provided luxurious accommodations for his administrators in the newly renovated Gorton Administration Building, which Thornton and the WSC closed as a school because they said keeping it open was too costly." Netcoh further states that "Furtado has allowed Thornton, who costs the district close to a quarter of a million dollars, to create numerous administration positions, such as a Chief Academic Officer position at a cost of \$181,000, to do his job. Together Furtado and Thornton have now spent well over a half of a million dollars on law firms, and Furtado allowed Thornton to budget \$100,000 for a public relations firm to promote their agenda. If Furtado did the job Warwick elected her to do and Thornton did the job the WSC hired him to do, they would have no need for a public relations firm. Warwick teachers hope that their vote of 'no confidence' will encourage Furtado and Thornton to reverse course and act in the best interest of the students in Warwick and restore education in Warwick to the level of excellence it enjoyed before Thornton's arrival."