

**JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD & SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Scituate Senior Center, 333 First Parish Road, FL 1, Egypt & Minot Rooms  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

Select Board Members in attendance: Karen Connolly, Chair, Karen Canfield, Vice Chair, Andrew Goodrich, Clerk, and Anthony Vegnani

Ms. Curran was not able to attend the meeting.

School Committee Members in attendance: Michael Long, Chair, Nicole Brandolini, Vice Chair, Janice Lindblom, Secretary and Peter Gates

Also in attendance Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**Mr. Vegnani made a motion at 5:35 p.m. to accept the agenda for September 15, 2021**

**Second by Ms. Canfield Unanimous Vote (9-0)**

**Mr. Long called the School Committee meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Connolly - yes**

**Ms. Canfield - yes**

**Mr. Goodrich - yes**

**Mr. Vegnani - yes**

**Mr. Long - yes**

**Ms. Brandolini - yes**

**Ms. Lindblom - yes**

**Mr. Gates - yes**

Ms. Connolly said this is the third of three joint meetings of the Select Board and the School Committee to fill a vacant seat on the School Committee created by a member's resignation.

We are committed to an open, fair and respectful process and have taken the following steps to make sure this will happen.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 41, Section 11, the School Committee notified the Select Board in writing of a vacancy on the Committee due to a resignation. A Joint Committee of the Select Board and School Committee was formed to fill the vacancy and we set out a public process to prepare for a vote.

On August 5th, we notified the community of the opening on the School Committee through the Town and School websites, the local newspaper, and announcements at regularly scheduled town committee meetings.

We asked interested citizens to submit a resume and a letter of interest to the Town Select Board office. Eight people responded and we thank them for coming forward. In-person public

interviews were scheduled for two successive nights, September 8th and 9th at the Scituate Senior Center. Members of the Select Board and the School Committee asked questions of each applicant for thirty minutes.

In addition to the public interviews, we sent the applicants three questions to answer in writing by September 6th. All complied and all documents became available to the public on the Town and School websites on Friday, September 10. Our meetings were broadcast on Facebook live and were available the next day on Scituate Community Television (SCTV) YouTube channel.

After the public interviews, committee members were given a ranking sheet and asked to rank their choice of candidates from one to eight, with one being their top choice. Each member's sheet was returned to Lorraine Devin in the Select Board Office by end of business day on September 13. Ms. Devin compiled the results into one summary document which were distributed to Committee Members yesterday and who were asked to keep the results confidential until tonight's public discussion and vote. If appointed tonight, the applicant will serve the balance of the term until the upcoming Town Election in the Spring. In other words, whoever is appointed tonight will have to run for a full three-year term in a regularly scheduled election in the Spring of 2022. The seven applicants who are not appointed tonight, are of course, free to become candidates for the open seat at that time.

On behalf of the Joint Select Board/School Committee, I offer my deepest thanks to all of the applicants for the time and effort they have made in seeking to serve on the Scituate School Committee. Each of you has demonstrated a commitment to public service and a desire to contribute to the incredibly important work of educating our children. Our entire community is fortunate to have such good citizens.

Committee members have the Ranking Summary Sheet, so I would like to open the discussion.

Karen Canfield introduced herself. Ms. Canfield was on vacation and reviewed all written documentation and watched all the video interviews. Ms. Canfield said the skills, passion and commitment was so great there is no wrong decision. Ms. Canfield invited all to get involved in town business. Ms. Canfield will be voting tonight. When Ms. Canfield went through the applications she thought she had a clear idea and then when she heard directly from the interviewees she thought experience in education and the school environment was important. Proven leadership in the past was also important. It was not an easy decision.

Mr. Long reviewed all documentation and interviews to make his decision. He learned a lot from each candidate. Mr. Long thanked everyone for going through the process.

Mr. Goodrich had a very different perspective and has some deep policy concerns. He would like to get past divisive issues and address concerns in the classroom.

Mr. Gates thanked everyone for participating in the process. He did not have criteria for the candidates. We do not need any more division. We need to get moving in the right direction. He

chose who he felt would be the best fit for the committee and for the district. He also rated the well responded answers and interviews. His only concern is that in his mind he did not have criteria on what they were rating the applicants.

Mr. Vegnani thanked all the applicants as well. There were very different strengths with all the candidates. It was an interesting process.

Ms. Lindblom thanked everyone for throwing their hat in the ring. Each candidate and board member brought different perspectives.

Ms. Brandolini thanked all the candidates. Everyone had excellent background and experience. There are a lot of inside and outside politics on the school committee. She tended to rate people higher who had board and school experience. Understanding the dynamics of open meeting law and regulations that are required is important. Some understanding of Mass General Law was important to her. Bringing people together is important also.

In response to Mr. Gates, Ms. Connolly said once you add a list of boxes to check off you are not as open. It was left to the committee members to determine who they thought would be best. We were fortunate to get a lot of diverse group of people. Someone did rise to the top of the rankings. These were not votes they were rankings. Her objective was to make sure everyone was treated fairly and that everything was open to the applicants and the public.

Mr. Goodrich said his fear is the leading candidate not listening to what people have to say.

Mr. Vegnani said he heard the opposite when that candidate was talking. He did not get the impression that interactions and communications were being stifled.

Ms. Lindblom suggested Mr. Goodrich go back and watch the interaction to understand where the applicant was coming from. It is a fine line. There is more information Mr. Goodrich is not considering.

Mr. Long said the School Committee revised their public comment policy as a result of their discussions.

Ms. Canfield said Dr. Borkoski rose to the top of the list. Ms. Canfield saw the emphasis on trust, respect and civility in her application and interview. She is highly qualified. Ms. Canfield said she did not choose her as first although she was at the top of the list with the leadership perspective she brings.

Mr. Gates was the Chair at the time of the school committee that Mr. Goodrich is concerned with. The board looked into their public comment policy. The end result is their policy limited comment too much. The revised policy allows more public comment. Dr. Borkoski and Mr. Gates had several discussions regarding this. Mr. Gates believes her experience will complement

the board. Mr. Gates understands Mr. Goodrich's concern but he is not entirely concerned with it.

Mr. Goodrich said his top choices were Ms. Withrow and Mr. Generazio. He thinks they would be better choices.

Mr. Gates ranked Dr. Borkoski and Mr. Esch as both #1 candidates. He has concerns with anyone applying who has special interest with any other board. He feels confident she will step back from her position with STRIDE. Mr. Esch is affiliated with STRIDE but not on the board. He felt he would be an excellent candidate as well.

Mr. Vegnani finds it ironic they are picking apart the top candidate. There were a lot of excellent candidates.

1. Review of School Committee Vacancy Applicants (8):

- Dr. Carey Borkoski
- Thomas G. Esch
- Thomas Generazio
- Lee Harms
- Jennifer O'Neill
- Richard Taft
- Andrew J. Tibbetts
- Laurie Withrow

Both the Select Board and the School Committee members thanked the eight applicants for volunteering for this position. All eight candidates were excellent and had something different to offer. Ms. Connolly recommended they apply for other Boards & Committee's in the Town of Scituate. They are all free to run for the School Committee seat in the 2022 Annual Town Election.

2. **DISCUSS/VOTE** Appointment of School Committee Member

The majority of the board members would like to appoint Dr. Carey Borkoski to the open position on the school committee.

**Move to approve the interim appointment of Dr. Carey Borkoski to the vacancy on the Scituate School Committee for the term otherwise set to expire in 2022 until the 2022 Annual Town Election or until another person is qualified. Motion by Mr. Vegnani Second by Ms. Lindblom Vote in Favor 7 against 1 motion passes (7-1)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Connolly - yes**

**Ms. Canfield - yes**

**Mr. Goodrich - no**

**Mr. Vegnani - yes**

**Mr. Long - yes**  
**Ms. Brandolini - yes**  
**Ms. Lindblom - yes**  
**Mr. Gates - yes**

3. Discuss any other issues that may reasonably come before the boards

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

**Move to accept the meeting minutes for the Joint Select Board & School Committee meetings held on September 8<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Motion by Mr. Vegnani second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (9-0)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Connolly - yes**  
**Ms. Canfield - yes**  
**Mr. Goodrich - yes**  
**Mr. Vegnani - yes**  
**Mr. Long - yes**  
**Ms. Brandolini - yes**  
**Ms. Lindblom - yes**  
**Mr. Gates - yes**

4. Adjournment of Meeting

**Move to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. motion by Mr. Vegnani second by Ms. Canfield Unanimous Vote (9-0)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Connolly - yes**  
**Ms. Canfield - yes**  
**Mr. Goodrich - yes**  
**Mr. Vegnani - yes**  
**Mr. Long - yes**  
**Ms. Brandolini - yes**  
**Ms. Lindblom - yes**  
**Mr. Gates - yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

List of Documents for Select Board & School Committee Joint Meeting Minutes for  
September 15, 2021

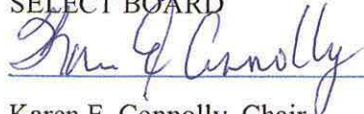
Agenda

School Committee Vacancy Applicants Ranking document

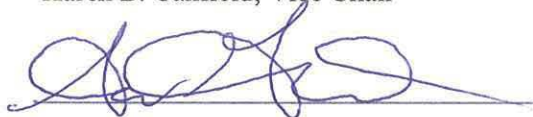
Minutes for September 8th and 9th, 2021 joint meetings

Select Board & School Committee Joint Meeting Minutes for September 15, 2021

SELECT BOARD


  
Karen E. Connolly, Chair

  
Karen B. Canfield, Vice Chair

  
Andrew W. Goodrich, Clerk


not in attendance

Maura C. Curran


  
Anthony V. Vegnani

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

  
Michael Long, Chair

  
Nicole Brandolini, Vice Chair

  
Janice Lindblom, Secretary

  
Peter Gates