

JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD & SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Select Board Hearing Room, Town Hall, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

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

School Committee Members in attendance: Nicole Brandolini, Chair, Janice Lindblom, Vice Chair, Dr. Carey Borkoski, Peter Gates

Also in attendance Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Ms. Connolly made a motion at 6:33 p.m. to accept the agenda for April 25, 2023

Second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (9-0)

Ms. Brandolini called the School Committee meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Vegnani – yes

Mr. Goodrich – yes

Ms. Curran – yes

Ms. Canfield – yes

Ms. Connolly – yes

Ms. Brandolini – yes

Ms. Lindblom – yes

Dr. Borkoski – yes

Mr. Gates - yes

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

Mr. Vegnani explained the purpose of tonight's joint meeting to appoint a temporary school committee member. Everyone will have 3-5 minutes to speak. The Boards will complete a tally for their 1st choice at the end of the meeting. There will be a brief recess and Ms. Devin will count the tallies to see who will fill the seat. The Boards will vote to fill the position at the end of the meeting.

Temporary Appointment to fill the School Committee Vacant seat until the Annual Town Election on May 20, 2023. The School Committee would like to have each candidate answer one question. "Why would you like to sit on the Board with us through May 20th?" There will be a 3-5-minute cap on responses.

APPLICANTS (in alphabetical order):

- Richard Hebert, 21 Walnut Avenue, Scituate

Mr. Hebert saw there was a need for a short-term school committee member. He served on the school committee for 9 years and with that experience there would not be a learning curve. Ms. Brandolilni said May 1st and May 15 are the upcoming meeting. Mr. Hebert is available.

- Dr. Sheila Kukstis

Dr. Kukstis has lived here for 40 years and been in education longer than that. She has worked in public schools, private schools and charter schools. She is the VP of the Scituate Education Foundation. Dr. Kukstis would have to attend one of the meetings virtually and the other in person.

- Emily Murphy

Emily Murphy graduated Hingham Public Schools and is an honorary Town member but moved to Scituate a couple of years ago. She has worked in NYC as a public-school teacher. She moved to the private sector which allowed her exposure to all schools across the country. She is familiar with the challenges of administration, teachers, parents. She would like the teachers to have a voice in decision making. She would like to be a bridge to decision makers. Ms. Murphy is available May 1st and May 15th.

- Richard Taft

Richard Taft is running for school committee and deserves a point of view it does not have right now. He would like to see the school committee ask more questions why. He gave an example of asking why what we present to the school committee and the DOT is different. He likes to ask a lot of questions. He believes in the Why Method by asking why five times. It is not the school committee is bad they lack the skills that he has. Even it is only for a month he can contribute. Mr. Taft is available May 1st and May 15th. Mr. Taft sent a public records request in to get the answer to why the difference between test scores. Dr. Borkoski asked why he has not attended school committee meetings for public comment period. Mr. Taft said being on the committee he can provide a better-quality product by discovering the root cause and asking why. Mr. Vegnani said teamwork wise is that going to be a problem. Mr. Taft said when he was on the Capital Planning meetings he felt they produced a better product by asking why. Dr. Borkoski asked why he has not attended the school committee meetings to participate in the public comment time.

- Natalie Waggener, 457 Country Way

Ms. Waggener has lived in Scituate for 15 years and is a semi-retired veterinarian and has time to step up. She has a vested interest with two kids in the school system. She is interested in trying to expand the community's diversity and perspective and could bring

up different questions. She believes vigorous debate will bring up improvements for our kids. She is available May 1st and May 15th. Dr. Borkoski asked what her experience will bring to the school community. Ms. Waggener brings a voice to the voiceless. Ms. Brandolini said they do not have a background as teachers and they are open to discuss any concerns, comments, etc. to the school committee. Ms. Waggener would like to hear what the answers are to the public comments and questions. Ms. Curran said when she served on the school committee, the format is a frustrating process. Ms. Waggener suggests they open the meeting to public comment at the beginning and the end. Ms. Connolly said people sent in very thoughtful letters and it is appreciated the time they took to do this.

The Select Board & School Committee received ranking sheets for the five applicants to be considered for the interim position. The sheets were returned to the Executive Assistant to Tally for the vote. The tallies were returned and Richard Hebert was selected to serve on the School Committee in the interim.

Move to approve the interim appointment of Richard Hebert to the vacancy on the Scituate School Committee until the 2023 Annual Town Election. Motion by xx second by Ms. Cox Unanimous Vote (9-0)

Mr. Vegnani – yes
Mr. Goodrich – yes
Ms. Curran – yes
Ms. Canfield – yes
Ms. Connolly – yes
Ms. Brnndolini – yes
Ms. Lindblom – yes
Dr. Borkoski – yes
Mr. Gates – yes

OTHER BUSINESS:

Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. motion by Ms. Connolly second by Ms. Canfield Unanimous Vote (9-0)

**Mr. Vegnani – yes
Mr. Goodrich – yes
Ms. Curran – yes
Ms. Canfield – yes
Ms. Connolly – yes
Ms. Brandolini – yes
Ms. Lindblom – yes
Dr. Borkoski – yes
Mr. Gates – yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

List of Documents for the April 25, 2023 Joint Select Board & School Committee Meeting

Agenda

Applicant Documents submitted by:

- Richard Hebert
- Dr. Sheila Kukstis
- Emily Murphy
- Richard Taft
- Natalie Waggener

Tally Sheet

Select Board Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2023 Joint Select Board & School Committee Meeting

SELECT BOARD

Anthony V. Vegnani, Chair

Andrew W. Goodrich, Vice Chair

Maura C. Curran, Clerk

Karen B. Canfield

Karen E. Connolly

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Nicole Brandolini, Chair

Janice Lindblom, Vice Chair

Dr. Carey Borkoski, Secretary

Peter Gates