



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

MaryJo Livingstone Humanities Center & Zoom

February 29, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

(approved 3/7/24)

Members In Attendance: Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw, Vice Chair; Mary-Ellen Devine, Secretary (via ZOOM); Kathy Curran; Danielle Graziano

Members Absent: Tracey Nardone, Chair; Steven Buccigross, Mayor Hedlund,

Also Present: Robert Wargo, Superintendent; Melanie Curtin, Assistant Superintendent; Brian Smith, Assistant Superintendent

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Vice Chair outlined the public interview process. Candidate order was selected at random. Opening statements, response to questions as well as closing remarks are 2 minutes and order will be rotated as questions continue. Ms. Curran will monitor time.

10 letters of interest were received for the vacant seat of Mr. Buccigross effective 3/1/24. 5 candidates were selected for a public interview this evening.

Interview Candidates for the Open Seat on School Committee

Opening Statements:

Ashley Dickerman

As a mom of 4, member of Seach Parent Council, Former educator in Brockton (did student teaching under Katie Owen at WHS) shared her skills and passion for education and getting involved.

Alecia Pierce

As a mom of 2 and Director of Facilities and Real Estate for the Animal Rescue League of Boston shared her skills and procurement management experience. She added that her skills align with the goals and strategic plan of the district.

Dana Scott

As a dad of 3 (2 children on IEPs) and educator shared his experience, his representation in the community, training and passion for safe schools and serving the community.

Allegra Marrone

As a mom of 2 Seach students and special educator in Revere shared her experience and passion for public education, equity and inclusion, and providing the best education which students deserve in safe schools.

Jacqueline Principi

As an educator in a neighboring community shared her experience and passion to serve, collaborate, and providing safe, inclusive, and nurturing environments

Mrs. Curran asked the candidates: What is the most important role and/or responsibility a School Committee member has?

Ms. Dickerman

Spoke on school committee being a bridge of what the community needs; between educators, the community and town.

Ms. Pierce

Spoke on transparent communication

Mr. Scott

Spoke on policy development and communication

Ms. Marrone

Spoke on holding the students to highest of standards

Ms. Principi

Spoke on team work and working together for the students

Ms. Graziano asked the candidates: What do you see as the biggest challenge facing WPS in the next few years?

Ms. Pierce

Spoke on working to gain the confidence back of families so that students feel safe going to schools

Mr. Scott

Spoke on community confidence and properly staffing with qualified educators

Ms. Marrone

Spoke on student population and staffing adequately to meet the needs of the diverse population

Ms. Principi

Spoke on having permanent policies in place to assist educators and staff

Ms. Dickerman

Spoke on retaining staff and meeting the needs of the diverse population

Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw asked the candidates: What strategies would you as a school committee member use to foster effective communication with the Weymouth community?

Mr. Scott

Suggested an Community Outreach Coordinator to streamline communication

Ms. Marrone

Suggested social media and email list serve, and texting

Ms. Principi

Suggested school committee members attend events

Ms. Dickerman

Suggested fostering relationships and streamlining communication as well texts

Ms. Pierce

Suggested pre planning of events to gain more attendance and using technology and push notifications

Closing statement:

Ms. Marrone

Shared her thanks for the opportunity and her belief she could have a great impact for the people of Weymouth

Ms. Principi

Shared her thanks for the opportunity and her commitment and eagerness to serve and collaborate

Ms. Dickerman

Shared her thanks and appreciation for the opportunity

Ms. Pierce

Shared her appreciation and her ability to add value and will to make change

Mr. Scott

Shared his thanks for the opportunity and his advocacy for safe and inclusive learning environments as well as his dedication to collaboration

Motion by Mrs. Curran to table the candidate vote for the open school committee seat. Seconded by Ms. Graziano. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Next School Committee Meeting:

Regular Meeting & Public Hearing of FY25 School Committee Budget & School Choice: Thursday, March 7, 2024 - 7:00pm

The Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm on the motion by Mrs. Curran and seconded by Ms. Graziano. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary-Ellen Devine
Secretary