



Weymouth

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weymouth School Committee

Meeting of the Whole

[ZOOM Meeting](#)

January 14, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

(approved 1/21/21)

Members In Attendance: Lisa Belmarsh, Chair; Tracey Nardone, Vice-Chair; John Sullivan, Secretary; Kathy Curran; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw; Carrie Palazzo; Mayor Hedlund

Members Absent: Mayor Hedlund

Also Present: John Brackett and Ed Gotgart from the Collins Center

The Meeting Came to Order At 6:01 pm.

It was stated that the regular school committee will be held after the focus group meeting at 7pm.

School Committee Superintendent Search Focus Group with Collins Center

Chair Belmarsh remarked that most focus groups are conducted in private however in compliance with open meeting the school committee focus group will be done publicly.

Mr. Brackett introduced himself and gave a summary of his background. He has teaching, principal and Superintendent experience in Michigan and in Massachusetts. Mr. Brackett most recently served as Superintendent in Sudbury and Interim Superintendent in Weston and Watertown. He also serves as a coach for new Superintendents after induction.

Ed Gotgart has extensive experience in central office administration as COO and former interim Superintendent in Framingham. He also has served as a liaison between the town/city and school in maintaining relationships. Mr. Gotgard is co-chair of the SBA.

Mr. Brackett outlined the process of the focus groups and the synthesizing of the information obtained from them. Skill set, characterizations and core values will be of focus. Data will be shared in report form not only with the school committee but with candidates as well.

Mr. Brackett inquired which personal characteristics, skill and experience, and core values the school committee would like for a candidate to possess.

- Able to be diplomatic/politically savvy with all constituencies in addition to faculty and staff
- Strong communicator
- Focus on learning (in the adult community too)
- Juggler of multiple responsibilities
- Able to develop trusting relationships to empower leaders/administrators
- Ensure oversight
- Confident in their ability to act-no wavering
- Listen to all opinions
- Visible in the community and accessible
- Potentially live in/close to Weymouth (as it is a time consuming position)
- Balance communication (too much vs. too little)
- Conversant and knowledgeable about teaching and learning (all levels)
- Innovative communicator
- Large district experience
- Experienced/seasoned administrator

It was reiterated that the current Superintendent is not lacking in any areas and that the district has been fortunate for her leadership and guidance through the years.

There will be a student focus group next week with a broad based snapshot of high school students.

Mr. Brackett asked for clarification to understand the current communication between the school committee and the Superintendent.

- School committee is hands on
- Regular check-ins and school visits
- Balanced trust between Superintendent and the committee (both ways)
- mutual understanding education is first and foremost
- think about potential outcomes of announcement (big or small)

Mr. Brackett advised that 560 surveys have already been received. Surveys received have been both in english and portuguese. Paper surveys will be available if needed.

Mr. Brackett inquired what issues there might be in the next 6-12 months that the new Superintendent would need to address.

- Remediation from Covid
- Morale for students and staff
- Budget
- Funding full day kindergarten
- Recalibration of curriculum
- working with the union and healing relations
- Navigating town relations
- Redistricting

Mr. Brackett inquired if the district would like a progressive or cautious approach moving forward.

Some opinion/thoughts of the committee:

- The district has some things to do to innovate to the next level
- Culturally responsible curriculum
- Get back to basics; for college prep and MCAS & SAT
- Race and ethnic disparity focus and resolution

The size of the district was remarked upon; 16th or 17th largest in the state. Having more information being communicated on what's being done, branding in the community was talked about. It was mentioned that the district is out performing the budget.

Mr. Brackett inquired about the district's points of pride, strengths to preserve.

- Team Sports
- Community pride and engagement
- A changing community with a diverse population
- The Johnson School (received many awards)
- The High School
- The Principals
- The New Chapman
- Alternate pathways and Chard St.

The survey link is available on the website:

<https://www.weymouthschools.org/district/district-information/pages/superintendent-search-information-and-documents>

Next School Committee Meeting:

Regular Meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2021 - 7:00pm

The Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm on the motion of Dr. Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Sherlock-Shangraw. Roll call vote - passed unanimously.

Documents Attached to These Minutes:

- none

Respectfully Submitted,



John Sullivan
Secretary