

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Special Meeting Minutes

Date: February 3, 2024, @ 9:00 am

Location: Town Hall – Blue Room

Meeting Facilitator: Nora Mocarski, BOE Chairman

Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Jonathan Morhardt, and Shane Centrella

I. Call to order @ 9:00 am

II. Roll call: Nora Mocarski, Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Jonathan Morhardt, and Shane Centrella

Nora Mocarski explained the interview and ballot process.

This candidate will be in office until the next municipal election in 2025.

Nora Mocarski received Shayne Deschamps' resignation letter on January 16. The Board has 30 days to fill the position, which will be February 14.

Our goal is to find a candidate that we all agree upon and will be positive for our community.

We will vote on the candidate on Monday, February 12, and then the candidate will be sworn in on Tuesday, February 13, at Town Hall.

Nora Mocarski reviewed the interview questioning process.

III. Possible Executive Session - Interview and possible selection of a candidate to fill the vacant position on the Board.

1. Interview candidates to fill the vacant position on the Board.

**First Candidate: Lydia Bird**

- The candidate was asked if they wanted their interview in Executive Session or Open. Open

1. What motivates you to want to become a BOE member

- Student at UCONN
- Graduated from The Gilbert School in 2020.
- Contribute my part to make schools better.

2. In your view, what is the role and responsibility of a BOE? Primary work of BOE?

- Improve the schools in general.

- School should be a place where students feel safe and happy.
- Create programs where students can succeed and grow.

3. What attributes are essential for a successful BOE

- Strong leadership is very important.
- I have had many leadership roles in the past, along with public speaking.
- Enabling the community to grow.

4. What is your vision for education in this community?

- Have kids be excited and happy to go to school
- Have kids who want to continue their education.
- Opportunities to grow in this community.
- Learn and grow as an individual.

5. In your view, what is the biggest challenge, and what we are doing right?

- Preparing children to go to college
- Putting a support system into place for kids who don't take the college route and offer them other opportunities
- Trade School Fairs
- The school system has a great sense of community.
- Great school spirit.

6. We generally meet twice a month, every month except July. Do you have sufficient time/energy to devote to this position?

- Yes, I have the time and energy to devote to attend meetings
- Interested in being active in community events

7. We have three standing committees, Finance, Curriculum, and Policy - and an ADHOC committee. Would you be interested in joining?

- Would be happy to join all committees
- My special experience would be for the Curriculum Committee since I have a unique perspective being in the school system as a student.

7a. In addition, we have the Gilbert Corp. Would you like to join the Gilbert Corp?

- Yes

#### QUESTION TO THE BOARD:

What is the process of the board meetings and agenda, and how does a typical meeting go?

Nora Mocarski explained the meeting process and gave examples regarding replacing gym floors, solar panels, and a new reading program.

Nora Mocarski also explained the role of the Board.

QUESTION: Please explain your experience with public speaking and content creator

- I have given speeches at different events.
- I'm a content creator and have a platform on social media
- Ability to work with different brands, one on one with different brands.
- Run a social media page for a medical facility in Avon.
- I see myself staying in Winsted and doing business consulting.

**Second Candidate: Elizabeth Whitney**

The candidate was asked if they wanted their interview in Executive Session or Open. Open

1. What motivates you to want to become a BOE MEMBER?

- Born in Winsted
- I have 3 kids in the public schools
- Ran BASE
- Very active with the kids in town

2. In your view, what is the role and responsibility of a BOE? Primary work of BOE?

- Support education in town and give the right path for our kids.
- Support the town and ensure kids get the best education possible.

3. What attributes are essential for a successful BOE?

- Members need to care about our youth in town.
- Get involved in our schools.
- If you do not know what is going on, then you really do not have a say.

4. What is your vision for education in this community?

- As of right now, we are on the right path.
- We need more growth

5. In your view, what is the biggest challenge, and what are we doing right?

- The biggest challenge is more and more kids coming into this town, and we need to navigate the growth.
- Schools need to communicate more and navigate the challenges together for growth.

6. We generally meet twice a month, every month except July. Do you have sufficient time/energy to devote to this position?

- Yes, I like to stay busy
- Enjoy being involved
- Initiated the Trunk or Treat at BASE

7. We have three standing committees, Finance, Curriculum, and Policy - and an ADHOC committee. Would you be interested in joining?

- Yes, the Curriculum committee. I have a strong background.

7a. In addition, we have the Gilbert Corp. Would you like to join the Gilbert Corp?

- Yes

I am very interested in this position. I would love to see changes in the SEL programs.

**Third Candidate: Seth Roy**

The candidate was asked if they wanted their interview in Executive Session or Open. Open

1. What motivates you to want to become a BOE MEMBER?

- I have four children in the school system.
- I see struggles with funding and fundraising
- My wife is a paraprofessional at the Pearson Middle School
- I want all children to be able to participate in programs.

2. In your view, what is the role and responsibility of a BOE? Primary work of BOE?

- Oversee the funding
- Input on curriculum
- Provide guidance for the kids

3. What attributes are essential for a successful BOE

- Honest, not just loyal to a party
- Key to voting and staying true to the kids.
- Schools should be safe, and kids should be able to grow.
- Personal integrity and what is right for our kids.

4. What is your vision for education in this community?

- Put in place programs that would assist in getting back on track pre-COVID.
- Teachers need to be supported to get students back on track.
- Give teachers the tools to bring back our kids to the national level.

5. In your view, what is the biggest challenge, and what are we doing right?

- Access to extracurricular programs.
- We are such a strong community.

6. We generally meet twice a month, every month except July. Do you have sufficient time/energy to devote to this position?

- Yes, I have the time

7. We have three standing committees, Finance, Curriculum, and Policy - and an ADHOC committee. Would you be interested in joining?

- Would like to be on the Curriculum committee

- Wouldn't be opposed to any of the other committees
- Team player

7a. Would you join the Gilbert Corp?

- Unique opportunity to be a part of that committee

Do you have any questions?

QUESTION for the BOARD

How is your relationship with the board, schools, and the town? Board members should be integrated with the community. Have a better understanding of what is going on.

Each board member gave a little of their background experience on the board.

Shane Centrella left the meeting at 10:54 am.

2. Discussion of candidates to fill the vacant position on the Board.

MOTION to adjourn

First Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Jonathan Morhardt, U

IV. Adjourn @ 11:03 am

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BYLAWS state:

As soon after this deadline as is practical, the Chairman shall place on the agenda of a posted regular or special session of the Board an item titled "Interview and possible selection of a candidate to fill the vacant position on the Board. For the purposes of this and subsequent meetings, a quorum of the Board shall be a majority of the remaining Board members.

Each candidate will be interviewed using a standard format.

The Board may meet in executive session for some or all of this process, provided, however, that each candidate shall have the right to have his or her portion of the interview process held in open session and may elect to do so by advising the Board of that fact at the time of the interview.

Following the interviews, the Board may discuss the candidates, which may be in executive session. The Chair may call an end to the discussion, and if there is only one candidate, the Board, by voice vote, may elect such candidate. If there is more than one candidate, the Chair shall distribute ballots containing the name of each candidate and identifying the member vacancy to be filled. Each Board Member will sign his or her ballot and will vote for one candidate or may abstain from voting. In the event of a tie, the Board shall discuss the candidates and re-vote by another written ballot. In the event the tie continues for three votes, the Board Chair shall select the candidate to fill the vacancy from among those candidates submitting an application.