

Winchester Board of Education

Type of Meeting: Special Meeting Minutes

Date: February 12, 2024, @ 6:30 pm

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 @ 6:31 pm
- II. Roll call: Nora Mocarski, Jeannette Brodeur, Salvatore Lovetere, Cheryl McGlynn, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, Jonathan Morhardt, and Shane Centrella
- III. Possible Executive Session - Interview and possible selection of a candidate to fill the vacant position on the Board.

1. Interviews of candidates to fill the vacant position on the Board.

Candidate: Laura Marino

1. What motivates you to want to become a BOE member
  - I have concerns and questions, and my energy should be put towards something positive, such as getting involved with the town.
  - Be a part of improving any school system so it can generate well-educated children.
  - Concerns are around the health and well-being of the children and how they are handled in the school system.
  - Want to learn more about the process and programs.
2. In your view, what is the role and responsibility of a BOE? Primary work of BOE?
  - Is to make sure the curriculum is right.
  - Making sure the children have a safe environment.
  - Reviewing budgets, policies, and maintaining a good school system for the children.
3. What attributes are essential for a successful BOE?
  - Vision of the future.
  - Cannot change the past and have to have a vision and work towards that vision.
  - Community relationships.
  - Focus on the achievements of the children and not the failures. Work as a team.
4. What is your vision for education in this community?
  - Laura wrote a vision for the board of education and read it to the Board.
5. In your view, what is the biggest challenge, and what are we doing right?
  - As a board, you have your challenges, and I don't know what they are. Do you work as a team?
  - When you have disagreements, how do you work together?
  - Important to bring in different views from different people.

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 a lot of time and would like to give to the community.
7. We have three standing committees, Finance, Curriculum, and Policy - and an ADHOC committee. Would you be interested in joining?
  - I would be willing to go where I am needed and best suited.
- 7a. In addition, we have The Gilbert Corp. Would you like to join the Gilbert Corp?
  - I don't know enough about the Gilbert Corp, but if my experiences benefit, then of course.
8. Do you have any questions?

How do each of you contribute to the Board?

- What is going to be most beneficial for the kids?
- I am a business owner in town, and I bring my experience on how to problem solve and where we can find the right decisions.
- I have different abilities, and I'm able to look through those eyes. I want the town to develop into the best town it can be.
- I have some fresh views on how the possibility of the system can be improved. I add a new fresh face to the Board.
- I've been a teacher for 30 years in social studies, which gives me an insight on how to teach kids.
- I work in the public school system as a Special Education teacher and like to be a part of the community and get involved. I really care about the students of Winsted.
- I bring different perspectives to the Board. How can we get the children of Winsted the best education?
- I love the town and love the people. I work in Construction. I bring a common everyday sense to the Board and look at things from a different angle.

MOTION to move to Executive Session to discuss the selection of a candidate to fill the vacant position on the Board of Education at @6:58pm

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, U

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

MOTION to come out of Executive Session at 9:10 pm

First: Sondra Strubhar, Second: Jeannette Brodeur, U

IV. Election of candidate to fill the vacant position on the Board.

- Nora Mocarski, Elizabeth Whitney
- Jonathan Morhardt, Elizabeth Whitney
- Jeannette Brodeur, Elizabeth Whitney
- Cheryl McGlynn, Lydia Bird
- Shane Centrella, Elizabeth Whitney
- Salvatore Lovetere, Elizabeth Whitney
- Sondra Strubhar, Laura Marino
- Renata Waldron, Elizabeth Whitney

Nora Mocarski announced that Elizabeth Whitney is the new board member.

MOTION to adjourn

First: Cheryl McGlynn, Second: Salvatore Lovetere, U

V. Adjourn @ 9:15 pm

---

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.