Winchester Board of Education
Type of Meeting: Special Meeting Minutes
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024, @ 6:00 pm
Location: Town Hall – Hicks Room

Meeting Facilitator: Nora Mocarski, BOE Chair

Jeannette Brodeur, Shane Centrella, Salvatore Lovetere, Jonathan Morhardt, Sondra Strubhar, Renata Waldron, and Elizabeth Whitney

I. Call to order - 6:04 PM

II. Roll call: Jeannette Brodeur, Sondra Strubhar, Nora Mocarski, Elizabeth Whitney, Renata Waldron, Shane Centrella, Jonathan Morhardt. Salvatore Lovetere is absent.

Salvatore Lovetere joined the meeting at 6:12 PM.

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

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

Candidate: Seth Roy

1. In addition to your WBOE obligations, you may be asked to serve on the Gilbert Corp. Is this something you would have an interest in doing, and are you familiar with the relationship between the two entities with regard to educating our students?

   - Yes, I am more familiar with the relationship since my interest in becoming a board member and attending meetings.

2. What motivated you to apply for the position of Board of Education member?

   - After I went to the board of education meeting.
   - There is a very slim relationship with the people in our town who serve on the Board and the Board of Selectmen, and the people who work in the school system and would like them to have a better understanding of their responsibilities/roles.
   - I think everyone is doing the best that they can. I am involved with the kids in this town and try to do my best for the kids. I would like to be a part of the decisions for these kids.

3. If you are selected, what do you personally hope to accomplish during your time as a board member?

   - Create a good and creative place for our kids to learn.
   - Bring our kids more athletic programs.
   - I believe we can do better, and I would like to be a part of that change.

4. We often have to make difficult decisions as a board and even as an individual. How have you resolved conflicts in a group you have worked with in the past?

   - What was the best decision for our company
   - How would it benefit our company
DECIDE whether it was ethically right or financially the right decision.

QUESTION: Do you have financial experience?

● I do not have a Finance degree, but both my degrees and my current job involve financials.

5. What is your understanding of the legal and ethical responsibilities of a member of the Board of Education?

● I would always work for the Board of Education, the town of Winsted, and the school system.
● I would not commit any crimes and would conduct myself ethically.

6. What do you see as the biggest challenges our school district faces?

● The biggest challenge, I believe, is kids coming out of COVID.

7. Do you have any questions for us?

● Wanted to know if the Board is involved with kids.
● Does the Board attend basketball games or school plays?
● Every decision we make affects the kids.
● It is important the kids know the BOE members are here for the kids.

Candidate Tara Sundie

Shane Centrella Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:50 PM for the purpose of the interview with Tara Sundie for the Vacant Winchester Board of Education Position.
2nd - Jonathan Morhardt
Vote: 8, 0

Salvatore Lovetere Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:21 PM
2nd - Elizabeth Whitney
Vote: 8, 0

Shane Centrella left the meeting at 7:22 PM

Shane Centrella returned to the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Candidate Alison Pierce

1. In addition to your WBOE obligations, you may be asked to serve on the Gilbert Corp. Is this something you would have an interest in doing, and are you familiar with the relationship between the two entities with regard to educating our students?

● Yes, I am extremely familiar with and interested in mending the relationship between the two.
● It is best to make friends and get to the goals together.
● Yes, I would like to serve on the Gilbert Corp.

2. What motivated you to apply for the position as a Board of Education member?

● I have been in town for 10 years and have a child in the school system.
● I do think it is important that people have knowledge on the Board.
● My skills and abilities would be useful to the town and help to provide a better education for the kids.
3. If you are selected, what do you personally hope to accomplish during your time as a board member?
   ● Making community members feel comfortable
   ● I can communicate and be transparent about how the system works.
   ● My goal is to share knowledge with the Board and be a good resource

4. We often have to make difficult decisions as a board and even as an individual. How have you resolved conflicts in a group you’ve worked with in the past?
   ● Keep the end goal in mind.
   ● What is the mission?
   ● Is the decision going to get us to the goal?
   ● Work backward and work collaboratively.

5. What is your understanding of the legal and ethical responsibilities as a member of the Board of Education?
   ● Adequate and safe
   ● Schools are equally funded
   ● We hold the superintendent to task
   ● Authorizing policies

   QUESTION: Do you have financial experience?
   ● Yes, I do. Our general budget is 33 million.
   ● Budgets
   ● 57 grants every year
   ● Oversee 5 staff members in the business office, 15 staff members in facilities, 30 staff members in housekeeping
   ● We outsource transportation and food service. Sodexo is used for food service.

6. What do you see as the biggest challenges our school district faces?
   ● We don’t have a tax revenue
   ● We don't have opportunities to do things.
   ● We are not a complete school district.
   ● Our board is limited.
   ● Since we have Melony Brady-Shanley, we attract better talent and have seen growth and better test scores.
   ● We need to make a collaborative effort with the town.
   ● Tough dynamic, and we do the best that we can

7. Do you have any questions for us?
   ● No questions.

   B. Discussion of candidates to fill the vacant position on the Board.
   Salvatore Lovetere Motion to move to Executive Session at 7:42 PM to discuss the possible election to fill the vacancy on the Winchester Board of Education
   2nd - Jonathan Morhardt
   Vote: 8,0
Salvatore Lovetere Motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:01 PM
2nd - Sondra Strubhar
Vote: 8,0

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

Round 1
Ballot for the vacancy position on the Winchester Board of Education to replace Cheryl McGlynn who resigned effective February 27, 2024

Salvatore Lovetere, Alison Pierce
Jeannette Broduer, Alison Pierce
Sondra Strubhar, Alison Pierce
Nora Mocarski, Tara Sundie
Elizabeth Whitney, Alison Pierce
Renata Waldron, Alison Pierce
Shane Centrella, Alison Pierce
Jonathan Morhardt, Alison Pierce

First vote, Alison Pierce
Second vote, Alison Pierce
Third vote, Alison Pierce
Fourth vote, Alison Pierce
Fifth vote, Alison Pierce
Sixth vote, Alison Pierce
Seventh vote, Alison Pierce
1 vote, Tara Sundie

7 to 1

Alison Pierce is the Board Member

V. Adjourn - Motion Sondra Strubhar, 2nd Renata Waldron
Vote: 8, 0 at 8:09 PM

Minutes submitted by Barb Aurell

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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.