

Select Board / School Committee Joint Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Present:

Select Board: Chair Mark Gold, Marie Angelides, William Low, Richard Foster

School Committee: Chair Armand Wray, Vice Chair Bronwyn Monahan, Clerk Ryan Kelly

Also Present: Supt. Marty O'Shea, Town Manager Stephen Crane, Administrative Assistant Dianne Georgantas

Interviewees: Ms. Gianna Allentuck, Dr. Susan Bell, Mr. Jamie Hensch, Ms. Marcie Kearing, Mr. William Knowlton

Absent: Mr. Thomas Lachiusa

Audience: seven (7)

At 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 Select Board Chair Mark Gold called the Select Board/School Committee joint meeting back to order from the February 25, 2019 joint meeting. This meeting is a continuation of the February 25th meeting.

Mr. Gold explained to the viewing audience that this was the second night of interviews to fill the 4 vacant School Committee seats. On Monday, February 25th the Select Board and remaining School Committee interviewed 5 applicants and during this continuation of that meeting, the joint boards interviewed the remaining 5 candidates. The Select Board and remaining members of the School Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 5th at 5:30 to vote to fill the seats. He also explained the process of applicants picking a letter (F-J) to determine interview order. The candidates were all emailed the information on the interview process and voting procedure.

Each applicant selected, by drawing from a brown paper bag, a piece of paper on which was printed the letters F, G, H, I, and J representing one letter for each applicant. The applicants were interviewed in alphabetical order according to the letter they picked as follows:

F – Marcie Kearing

G – Susan Bell

H – Jamie Hensch

I – William Knowlton

J – Gianna Allentuck

School Committee and Select Board members drew numbers to determine the order they would pose questions to the candidates on February 25th. The order remained the same:

1 – Mr. Armand Wray

2 - Mr. Mark Gold

3 – Mr. Ryan Kelly

4 – Mr. Thomas Lachiusa

5 – Ms. Bronwyn Monahan

6 – Mr. Richard Foster

7 – Mr. William Low

8 – Ms. Marie Angelides

(These numbers also represent the REVERSE order in which School Committee and Select Board members will vote for their preferred applicants on Tuesday, March 5th)

Each applicant was given up to three minutes to provide an introduction and/or presentation as to why he or she applied for the appointment. Each applicant was then questioned by each of the members of the combined School Committee and Select Board in numerical order. After each board member had an opportunity to ask one question (and any follow up question) of the applicant, a second round of questioning began, in the same order as the first. Questioning of the applicant continued in order until there were no further questions from the Board members.

- F. **Ms. Marcie Kearing**, moved to Longmeadow in 1993. Initially, Ms. Kearing was a stay at home mother who volunteered at the schools. After going back to school, she got her teaching certification and taught for the Longmeadow Public Schools for 12 years in kindergarten, and grades 1 & 3. Ms. Kearing currently works in the West Springfield Public Schools for the past 4 years. Ms. Kearing feels she offers a unique perspective of being a parent of 3 Longmeadow High School graduates and she knows the challenges of working in the system. The recent issues with the School Committee and the Superintendent saddened her and she feels we need a period of healing. She said that the people who volunteer to serve this Town have the best interest of the Town at heart. Ms. Kearing is considering running for a one-year position in June.

First round of questions: Mr. Foster had no question.

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no further questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides no further questions.

Fourth round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides no further questions.

Fifth round: No questions.

Dr. Susan Bell, grew up in Stockbridge, MA and moved to Longmeadow about 6 years ago. She served for 17 years in public education in a variety of roles, but most recently as Superintendent of Schools in Windsor Locks, CT. Dr. Bell left her position for a position with Mastery Transcript Consortium which allowed her more flexibility with her family. She disclosed her affiliation with the organization and assured the Select Board and School Committee that if LHS ever considers membership in MTC she would recuse herself from all discussion and/or vote. From her work she sees Longmeadow has many of the same challenges as many communities around the country. Dr. Bell would like to continue the work she has been a part of over the last 3 weeks with her recent placement on the School Committee.

First round of questions: Mr. Foster had no question.

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, had no questions.

Fourth round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fifth round: No questions.

- G. **Mr. Jamie Hensch**, 50 Eastham Ln, 4 children in the system, 1 at Williams Middle School, and 2 at Center School and 1 more who will enroll soon. Mr. Hensch said he attended the School Committee meetings recently and has filled out paperwork for both 1 and 3 year terms. He will make a determination later this week on which term he would like to pursue. Mr. Hensch's background is currently as a financial advisor but prior to that he was vice president at C&S Wholesale Grocers. He also has experience in Division 1 Athletics as an athlete and then Asst. Athletic Director for his alma matter. He made decisions in his career to allow him to have more time with his children and community. He volunteers on youth basketball and lacrosse in Longmeadow. Mr. Hensch said he would bring his ability to bring people together to the Committee and offer stability and professional fiscal oversight. He would like to see that students learn financial well-being and physical and social fitness for our students balances with STEM.

First round of questions: Mr. Foster had no questions

Second round: Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides no questions.

Fourth round: No questions.

- H. **Mr. William Knowlton**, 23 Edward Circle, has lived in Longmeadow for almost 13 years. He is a middle school educator for 24 years in East Longmeadow Public Schools. He is here with a sense of gratitude for the Town and the School Department, as his son is a happy student in LPS. He is very aware of the budgetary constraints in Longmeadow. Mr. Knowlton would like to bring

stability to the School Committee and with his background in education he feels he would be an asset to the Committee. Mr. Knowlton was unsure whether he would seek election in June. Mr. Knowlton said he would like to see the District bring forward programs that connect students with other students outside of our town to foster relationships with more diverse students.

First round of questions:

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: No questions.

- I. **Ms. Gianna Allentuck**, 53 Westmoreland Ave., has 2 children attending the Longmeadow Public Schools in Williams Middle School and Longmeadow High School. She has lived in Longmeadow for 12 years. Ms. Allentuck stated that her reason for her interest in serving on the School Committee is that she is holding herself accountable to her promise made last November that she would apply for a vacant seat. She is a school adjustment counselor in Springfield Public Schools as well as the President of a local non-profit serving underprivileged youth. Ms. Allentuck would like to dedicate herself to working on behalf of the students by recognizing that each member of the Committee brings a unique perspective. She acknowledged that she is an educational leader in her school district and an active facilitator and feels she could provide balance and connect perspectives on the Committee. Ms. Allentuck is interested in running for a 1-year position on the Committee. She would like to see more opportunities for Longmeadow students to obtain experiences outside of the walls of the High School and leveraging community resources may be a way of doing that. Possibly working to provide students with internships.

First round of questions: Mr. Foster had no questions.

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: Mr. Kelly, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fifth round: No questions.

Mr. Gold noted the Select Board has their regular meeting scheduled for Monday, March 4th at 7:00 pm and the Select Board and School Committee will meet again on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 5:30 pm to appoint four of the applicants to fill the four (4) vacancies on the school committee. The voting will take place in the reverse order of questions asked. There will be a roll call vote for appointment.

Mr. Gold thanked all ten applicants for interviewing over the last 2 days.

Mr. Low made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was four (4) in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Georgantas

Documents: Agenda – February 26, 2019
School Committee Vacancy Selection Procedure dated September 2011

Applications:

Gianna Allentuck
Susan Bell
Jamie Hensch
Marcie Kearing
William Knowlton