

Select Board / School Committee Joint Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Present:

Select Board: Chair Mark Gold, Marie Angelides, William Low, Richard Foster, and Thomas Lachiusa
School Committee: Chair Armand Wray, Ryan Kelly, Bronwyn Monahan

Also Present: Supt. Marty O’Shea, Asst. Town Manager Paul Pasterczyk, Administrative Assistant Dianne Georgantas

Audience: 12

Select Board Chair Mark Gold called the Select Board joint meeting with the School Committee to order. Mr. Gold explained to the viewing audience the process for voting to appoint the new School Committee members. Candidates interviewed with the School Committee and Select Board during an open meeting on February 25th which continued until February 26, 2019.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Candidates for the vacant seats were:

- A. **Mr. Peter Landon**, 5 Meadowbrook Road has been a resident for forty-nine years. He was on the District Learning Team (DLT), the 2004 Charter Commission, the Town Finance Committee, Audit Committee and Pension Task Force. He currently has two (2) grandchildren in the Longmeadow Public Schools and his grown children are graduates from LHS. His wife is a retired LPS teacher. Mr. Landon stated he was interested in supporting the School Department budget and bringing back some normalcy to the School Committee. He would like to support the implementation of the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and get back to the keeping eyes on the child. He is thinking about running for a one-year term, but has not made that decision yet.
- B. **Mr. James Ryan**, 117 Crescent Road expressed his interest in renewing his bid to fill the interim seats on the School Committee. He is committed to public service and has served on public boards and councils in other communities prior to his move to Longmeadow. Mr. Ryan would like help to re-establish a culture of collaboration, innovation and success. Mr. Ryan is an educator in the Springfield Public Schools and is one of the co-founders of the Springfield Honors Academy where he teaches AP US History and AP World History. Mr. Ryan and his wife have not yet started their family, but plan to have their future children attend Longmeadow schools. By serving on the Longmeadow School Committee, Mr. Ryan believes he would be in a position to provide positive leadership and direction for Longmeadow schools in the short term and to provide the stewardship needed for continued success for years and generations to come.
- C. **Mr. Kevin Shea**, 64 Warwick St, introduced himself stating he moved to Longmeadow in 2002 and has 2 children in the Longmeadow Public Schools. His children attended Center School, Williams Middle School and are now in Longmeadow High School as a senior and sophomore. Mr. Shea said he owes a great debt to the Longmeadow Public Schools for the education his children received. He volunteered in the schools doing chemistry demonstrations and volunteering on field day. Mr. Shea said he is currently the president of the Longmeadow Softball Association and he works as the Director of the Science Department at Smith College. He looks forward to possibly serving on the School Committee and has filed papers with the Town Clerk to pursue a one-year position.
- D. **Mr. Kevin Ryczek**, 29 Tecumseh Dr., Graduated from Longmeadow High School in 1989 and has 3 children in schools, attending Longmeadow High School and Williams Middle School. He was a past member of the Finance Committee. Mr. Ryczek noted that he has been a member of the community for over 30 years, and feels he would be an asset to the School Committee because of his financial

background and his good communication skills. He said he was interested in running for a 3-year seat in the annual Town election.

- E. **Mr. William Timothy Mitchell**, 34 Greenacre Ave. moved to Longmeadow in August, 2018 and has a fourth grade son in Center School. He has a financial background and is a professor and associate chair at the University of MA, Isenberg Business School. He is in a stage in his life where he can get involved. He has little knowledge of what happened in recent months, thus he has no preconceived notions of what the issues were. He feels this is an opportunity for him to get involved in the community. He is interested in serving for a longer term and will be pulling papers this week. He reviewed the roles of a School Committee member and understands that he is here to representative the citizens of the community.
- 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.
- G. **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.
- H. **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.
- I. **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 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.
- J. **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.

School Committee and Select Board voted in the reverse order from the order members of School Committee and Select Board asked questions of the candidates during the interviews on February 25 and 26, 2019. Each person in the first round provided four candidate names for filling the four vacant seats. In the next round of voting, the lowest scoring candidates would be eliminated, as well as the candidates who garnered five votes or more, as five votes was the required number to receive for appointment.

Vote Order		Candidate	First Name	Last Name
1	Angelides	A	Peter	Landon
2	Low	B	James	Ryan
3	Foster	C	Kevin	Shea
4	Monahan	D	Kevin	Ryczek
5	Lachiusa	E	William Timothy	Mitchell
6	Kelly	F	Marcie	Kearing
7	Gold	G	Susan	Bell
8	Wray	H	Jamie	Hensch
		I	William	Knowlton
		J	Gianna	Allentuck

		Round 1							Round 2							Round 3												
		M. Angelides	W. Low	R. Foster	B. Monahan	T. Lachisua	R. Kelly	M. Gold	A Wray	Total	M. Angelides	W. Low	R. Foster	B. Monahan	T. Lachisua	R. Kelly	M. Gold	A Wray	Total	M. Angelides	W. Low	R. Foster	B. Monahan	T. Lachisua	R. Kelly	M. Gold	A Wray	Total
A				x						1																		
B		x	x		x					3		x			x													
C		x					x	x	x	4	x					x		x						x	x		x	5
D			x			x				2		x			x													
E				x	x			x		3			x	x			x								x			3
F						x				1																		
G		x	x		x	x	x		x	6																		
H		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	7																		
I		x								1																		
J					x		x	x	x	4	x		x	x		x	x	x										

After the first round of voting, Dr. Susan Bell and Mr. Jamie Hensch received sufficient votes for appointment to the School Committee. For the second round of voting, Mr. Landon, Ms. Kearing and Mr. Knowlton were eliminated from consideration for receiving the fewest votes. The Select Board and School Committee members voted for two candidate names in the second round. As a result of the voting, Ms. Gianna Allentuck received sufficient votes for appointment to the School Committee. For the third round of voting, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Mitchell were eliminated from consideration after receiving the fewest votes. The Select Board and the School Committee members then voted for one candidate in the third round. As a result of the votes in the third round of voting Mr. Kevin Shea was selected to fill a seat on the School Committee.

The selected candidates will serve for the remainder of the year until the Town Election in June, 2019.

Newly appointed School Committee members: Ms. Gianna Allentuck, Dr. Susan Bell, Mr. Jamie Hensch, Mr. Kevin Shea.

Mr. Gold thanked all the candidates for their time and interest in filling a seat on the School Committee. He asked the newly appointed members to make themselves available at Town Hall to be sworn in as soon as possible. He also advised the new members to complete the online training regarding Conflicts of Interest and the Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Wray thanked the Select Board on behalf of School Committee for their work throughout this process including the selection of an interim School Committee member last month. Mr. Wray also thanked all the candidates who applied for the vacant seats. Finally, Mr. Wray announced the School Department will be holding the bi-annual TIES (Technology in Education Showcase) on Thursday, March 7th 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Longmeadow High School.

Mr. Gold announced the Select Board is holding the FY20 Budget Forum on Thursday, March 14th Room A15. Ms. Angelides announced the upcoming VETS Talk on March 14th at the Community House.

Adjournment of the Joint Meeting:

Mr. Lachiusa made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 5:47 p.m. Mr. Foster seconded the motion. The vote was 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dianne Georgantas

- Documents:** Agenda – March 5, 2019
 School Committee Vacancy Selection Procedure dated September 2011
 School Committee interview schedule
 Vote Tally Sheet