

Attleboro Public Schools
Attleboro, Massachusetts
School Committee Meeting
Monday, April 2, 2013
School Committee Conference Room - Attleboro High School
Minutes

Present: Michael Tyler, (At Large), Chairman, Brenda Furtado (Ward IV), Vice Chairperson, Barbara Craw, (At-Large), Secretary, Teri Enegren, (Ward I), William Larson, (Ward II), Christopher O'Neil, (Ward III), Frances Zito, (Ward V), Kenneth Parent, (Ward VI), and David Murphy, (At Large)

Also Present: Pia Durkin, Ph.D., Superintendent, Dave Sawyer, Assistant Superintendent, Tom Rose, Business Manager, Marisa McCarthy, Director of Special Education and Student Support Services, Keith Drucker, Student Representative, and Judy Nelson, Recording Secretary.

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 p.m.

Salute to the Flag: Mr. Tyler led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Notice of Electronic Recording: Mr. Tyler noted the meeting was being electronically recorded.

Finalist: Dr. Anthony Azar:

Mr. O'Neil briefed the committee on his visit to Dr. Azar's district. Mr. Murphy visited New Bedford and noted his impression was similar to Mr. O'Neil. Mr. Tyler asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Finalist: Kenneth Sheehan:

Ms. Furtado summarized her visit to West Warwick and gave the committee an overview of Mr. Sheehan's accomplishments. Ms. Furtado met with principals, teachers, and students.

Mr. Tyler also visited West Warwick and discussed Mr. Sheehan's work ethics and employee relationships.

A motion was made to appoint Kenneth Sheehan to the position of Superintendent of Attleboro Public Schools pending successful contract negotiations: Discussion:

Ms. Craw explained the responsibilities the committee had to the community and was impressed with Mr. Sheehan's knowledge of the trades/skills areas.

Mr. Larson explained he spent time with both candidates and voiced concerns with certain interactions. Mr. Larson noted the next Superintendent needs to mentor teachers to the next level.

Mr. O'Neil voiced concerns with possible personality conflicts. Attleboro is a diverse community and it is important to have a strong leader.

Mr. Parent commented on Mr. Sheehan's 33-years in public service, his budgetary know-how, and believes Mr. Sheehan is a forward-thinker. The Superintendent needs to be fiscally savvy.

Ms. Furtado commented on Mr. Sheehan's successes and his mentoring tactics. Attleboro needs to have someone with strong technology skills.

Ms. Enegren spoke with both communities. West Warwick has well-rounded students as a whole. Mr. Sheehan's leadership skills and qualities are important.

Mr. Murphy spoke about both candidates and certain reservations. Attleboro is at a critical juncture to either progress or regress. Mr. Sheehan appears to have a strong voice and ability to cultivate the necessary relationships. Mr. Murphy did not feel either candidate was qualified for the position, but would go along with the majority on the decision. Mr. Murphy felt two good candidates were brought forward, but were not the most qualified for the position and perhaps the committee should look for a more qualified candidate.

Mrs. Zito believes Mr. Sheehan is up to the challenge and will move Attleboro in the right direction.

Mr. Tyler voiced his opinion stressing the strengths of Mr. Sheehan. Mr. Tyler noted the search committee brought forward two viable candidates, but he felt Mr. Sheehan were the stronger of the two.

Ms. Craw noted the committee contacted MASC before developing this plan. The process was explained the she believes the search committee brought forward two worthwhile candidates. Ms. Craw thanked the Search Committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Zito:	Yes
Mr. Larson:	No
Mr. Parent:	Yes
Ms. Craw:	Yes
Ms. Furtado:	Yes
Ms. Enegren:	Yes
Mr. Murphy:	Yes
Mr. O'Neil:	No
Mr. Tyler:	Yes

Vote: 7-2 (Larson, O'Neil): Motion passes.

A motion was made to enter Executive Session to conduct strategies for negotiations with non-union personnel and not reconvene in Open Session:

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Zito:	Yes
Mr. Larson:	Yes
Mr. Parent:	Yes
Ms. Craw:	Yes
Ms. Furtado:	Yes
Ms. Enegren:	Yes
Mr. Murphy:	Yes
Mr. O'Neil:	Yes
Mr. Tyler:	Yes

Vote: 9-0: Motion passes.

The Committee will take a ten minute recess.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Craw, Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda dated 04-02-13