

MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Joint Meeting – June 5, 2023

A Special Joint Meeting of the Wayland School Committee and the Select Board was held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 7:30 P.M. in the Wayland Town Building.

Present (IN PERSON):

Erin Gibbons, Interim Chair

Ellen Grieco, Vice Chair

Erin Mueller

Christina Rodrigo

1. **Joint Meeting with the Select Board to Discuss and Possible Vote to Appoint a Temporary School Committee Member Due to a Recent Vacancy:**

At 7:31 p.m., Erin Gibbons called a meeting of the School Committee to order jointly with the Select Board to fill a vacancy on the School Committee. All members of the Select Board (Anne Brensley, Thomas J. Fay, Adam G. Gutbezahl, Carol B. Martin, and William D. Whitney) attended the meeting in person. Town Manager Michael McCall and Assistant Town Manager John Bugbee were present as well.

E. Gibbons described the process for filling the vacancy and noted that one candidate, Craig Gruber, was not available due to military service. There was discussion regarding the timing of selection of a candidate to fill the vacancy as well as what the statute and applicable policy require under the circumstances. M. McCall noted that there were no statutory requirements compelling the Select Board and School Committee to act within a specified timeframe regarding the appointment.

The Committee and the Select Board agreed to hear from the four (4) candidates (Sheetal Acharya, Kenneth Helvig, Jeanne Downs, Steven Glovsky) who were present and at a later time meet with Craig Gruber. There was discussion between the Committee and Select Board members with respect to how to engage with each of the individuals in a fair and equitable process for selection. Each of the four candidates present provided an opening statement and shared his/her/their intent and qualifications to join the School Committee. The Committee and Select Board members interviewed the candidates by each asking a question.

- S. Acharya spoke about her family's deep roots in Wayland, her involvement in the community and her many years of professional work in communications and change management. She noted that she could bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to the School Committee and is collaborative and creative. S. Acharya sees this year as an opportunity to make an impact with the biggest priority stabilizing administrative leadership. She noted it is important to challenge decisions, lead with empathy, and be collaborative yet an independent thinker. She has the time to commit and would think about running for School Committee in the future. She is interested in looking at issues around the DEI initiative.
- J. Downs spoke about her recent experience on the School Committee giving her a unique perspective of the schools. She wants to be helpful at a time of a great deal of change in the district. She noted her strengths include her existing relationships with school staff, town staff and town boards/committees as well as being collaborative and willing to listen. J. Downs sees administrative leadership and the budget as important priorities of the School Committee and would bring knowledge, history and context to the Committee to help move the district forward. She does not plan to run in the next election. She is interested in looking at HR policies for non-union personnel.
- S. Glovsky presented himself as the alternative. He is interested in the position (1) to look at what skills students leave Wayland with when they graduate and (2) to help those residents who do not have students currently in the schools want to stay in town and be represented on the School Committee. He noted that he will challenge when needed, provide solutions, and will take the time to get up to speed. S. Glovsky sees the Committee's biggest priority as stabilizing the administration, particularly the superintendent position and does not see himself running in the next election. He is interested in looking at teacher satisfaction outside of compensation.
- K. Helvig has three children in the district and wants to have a voice in what is happening in the schools, particularly with all the changes taking place. He wants to see the schools stay strong and noted his strength as a collaborative problem solver in his professional and volunteer roles. K. Helvig sees the superintendent and SpED hirings as important priorities. His style is to be prepared and committed and if appointed would consider running in the next election. He noted that the public face of the School Committee is important particularly when there are challenges in the district. He is Interested in looking at the application of technology in the schools.

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Both the Select Board Chair (William Whitney) and Interim Chair of the Committee (Erin Gibbons) agreed to table the decision to a future meeting at which time the Board and School Committee could interview the fifth candidate and ultimately make a selection for appointment to the vacant seat.

2. **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by Ellen Grieco, seconded by Erin Mueller, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Gibbons, Interim Chair
Wayland School Committee

Corresponding Documentation:

1. Agenda
2. Resumes/Statements of Interest for all 5 candidates for the vacant position:
 - a. Jeanne Downs
 - b. Craig Gruber
 - c. Sheetal Acharya
 - d. Kenneth Helvig
 - e. Steven Glovsky