
RECORD OF THE BROOKLINE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON **MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019** AT 5:30 PM IN THE WALSH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL. STATUTORY NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

School Committee Members Present: Ms. Schreiner-Oldham (Chair), Ms. Federspiel (Vice Chair) (by phone), Dr. Abramowitz (by phone), Ms. Charlupski, Ms. Ditkoff, Ms. Monopoli, Mr. Pearlman, and Ms. Scotto. School Committee Members Absent: Mr. Glover. Also present: Mr. Bott (for the executive session), Ms. Normen, Mr. Lummis, and Ms. Coyne.

Ms. Schreiner-Oldham called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. She announced that Ms. Federspiel and Dr. Abramowitz will be participating remotely, by phone.

1. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

By unanimous roll call vote at 5:30 PM, the School Committee entered into Executive Session, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21 (a) for the following purpose: Purpose 2: To conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to engage in contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically the superintendent of schools. Ms. Schreiner-Oldham announced that the meeting will reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the executive session. By unanimous roll call vote at 6:25 PM, the School Committee reconvened in public session.

2. OPEN SESSION

a. Discussion of Superintendent's Resignation

Ms. Schreiner-Oldham commented that the School Committee received Mr. Bott's letter of resignation on July 19, 2019. The School Committee's intention is to have a smooth orderly transition with overlap between Mr. Bott and the interim superintendent and with Mr. Bott being available to assist with the opening of school. Another executive session will be scheduled for August 1, 2019.

b. Deliberation and Possible Vote regarding the Procedure and Timeline for Engaging an Interim Superintendent

The School Committee discussed the process and timeline for hiring an interim superintendent. The School Committee discussed and considered public comment on the posting for the interim position. Discussion focused on the following:

- 1) whether the wording should *require* certain qualifications (consensus was that requiring certain qualifications might limit the pool of applicants; changed *must* to *should*).
- 2) the preferred number of years' experience as a superintendent (discussed five vs ten years; consensus was to include five plus years).
- 3) whether the interim superintendent should be able to apply for the permanent position (discussed the potential impact on the pool of candidates for both the interim and permanent position, the need to be transparent, and the desire for a thorough and broad

search process for the permanent superintendent that includes public input; a majority indicated that the interim superintendent will not be considered as a candidate for the permanent position).

4) whether the position should be for one or two years (discussed uncertainty on what will be needed, how the term might impact the pool, and the need to be transparent; appointment could be extended if necessary; consensus was to post for one year).

The School Committee and members of the public discussed the importance of attracting a large pool of qualified, diverse applicants (consider the wording and distribution of the posting; seek input from Ms. Richardson, Dr. Wornum, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, and the Massachusetts Association of School Committees).

The School Committee discussed establishing a preliminary screening committee to be comprised of Ms. Charlupski, Ms. Federspiel, Ms. Monopoli, and Mr. Pearlman. The screening committee will review applications and conduct interviews for the position of interim superintendent and make a recommendation to the School Committee.

The School Committee discussed the recommended timeline for hiring an interim superintendent: post the position as soon as possible, hopefully by tomorrow, July 23, 2019; application deadline two weeks later, August 6, 2019; interviews on August 8, 9, and 12, 2019; and a recommendation by August 19, 2019. Members of the public were encouraged to share the posting once it is finalized. The posting, process and timeline, and information on how to submit comments on the process and criteria will be posted on the Public Schools of Brookline website. It is anticipated that the School Committee will hold a discussion/interview in public session on August 19, 2019.

The School Committee will discuss the search process for a permanent superintendent (much more extensive than the process to fill the interim position) on August 1, 2019. Ms. Normen will update the 2015 request for proposals for a search firm to assist with the process.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schreiner-Oldham adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin E. Coyne, Executive Assistant
Brookline School Committee