

# DEDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

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## MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2015

### MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT:

Tom Ryan, Chair

Susan Butler-Walko, Vice Chair

Mayanne Briggs

Kevin Coughlin

Rachel McGregor

Lisa Laprade

### MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Michael Welch, Superintendent

Samuel Rippin, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance

Location: 26 Bryant Street, Dedham, MA 02026

Mr. Ryan call the SC Meeting to order at 7:20p.m..

Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to interview candidates for open School Committee seat

Mr. Ryan stated that this vacancy is due to Jennifer Barsamian filed her resignation at the end of June, moving out of town.

After several postings for this position, three candidates have applied for this position. Mr. Butler stated that the applicants will appear in the order that their applications were received.

Questions sent to each candidate prior:

- How would you balance the needs of the schools with the tax payers concerns?
- Which sub-committee are you most interested in joining and why?
- Tell us about something the school committee has done recently that you were happy about and something you think they could have handled differently?
- When you hear "School Ed Model" what comes to mind and what do you believe is the School Committee's role in shaping the Ed Model for the district?
- How could the School Building Rehabilitation Committee (SBRC) and School Committee work more closely together and get the public engaged earlier on in the process when it comes to school building projects?
- Do you have any interest in running for this open School Committee seat next spring?
- How many kids do you have in the Dedham Public Schools (DPS)? What grade(s) will they be entering in the DPS this September?
- This position is only for a seven month term. What can you contribute in a meaningful way that will help the School Committee and administration reach their district goals?

- Describe your problem-solving and decision-making style, especially with problems and/or decisions that may be controversial among the district's stakeholders. Is there a specific example you can speak about? What did you learn from that experience?
- Dedham has talked about trying to work toward zero based budgeting. How familiar are you with this format and what advice could you lend?
- Policy is one of the three main focuses of the School Committee. What experiences do you have in Policy setting?
- What is your best attribute?
- If you could change one thing in the Dedham Public Schools what would it be?
- Some are pointing to family size trends and think we do not need 4 elementary schools. What is your feeling on keeping and supporting schools in the neighborhoods?
- What is your opinion on the proposal for a new ECEC? Standalone or joint?
- How should the district deal with declining enrollment?
- Education is the single biggest component of the town's budget. How do you balance the increased needs for educational services with resident concerns about ever-increasing property taxes?
- It seems the town has reached a crossroads with the decision for our next school building project. What vision do you have for our next steps?
- Dedham's schools have come a long way but there's still a little ways to go. What is your plan to bring Dedham schools into the top-tier in the state?

INTERVIEWS TOOK PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- Stephen Bilafer
- Sharna Small Borsellino
- Dimitria Sulllivan

Mr. Butler stated that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 for a joint meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee.

Mrs. McGregor motioned to adjourn, Mrs. Butler-Walko seconded, voted unanimous.