

## MINUTES – WAYLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Special Joint Meeting – June 20, 2023

A Special Joint Meeting of the Wayland School Committee and the Select Board was held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 8:00 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 8:02 p.m., E. 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 (remote), Adam G. Gutbezahl, Carol B. Martin, and William D. Whitney) attended the meeting. Town Manager Michael McCall and Assistant Town Manager John Bugbee were present as well.

Select Board Chair Whitney described the process for filling the vacancy and noted that one candidate, C. Gruber, was not available at the previous meeting due to military service when each of the other four (4) potential appointees were interviewed. C. Gruber was asked to address the Committee and the Select Board.

C. Gruber provided an opening statement addressing his intent and qualifications for joining the School Committee. The Committee members and the Select Board proceeded to ask questions of C. Gruber as they did at the previous meeting with the other four (4) applicants. C. Gruber noted he has three children in the Wayland Schools and wants to share his passion for the schools with everyone. He noted that he has been vocal over the past two years making sure that the public was aware of what was happening in the schools. He noted that he does not have an agenda and believes he can bring the community together to move forward in a positive direction. He highlighted his experience as a life long educator, school committee member in another town, and involvement in search committees and building committees among others. He sees the Committee's priorities to include hiring and supervision of the superintendent and feels he has a shared passion with the School Committee members. C. Gruber would consider running in the next election. He is interested in looking at SpEd and test return policies.

Members of both the Committee and the Select Board discussed the process that the group would follow with respect to nominating a candidate for appointment.

E. Grieco nominated, seconded by C. Rodrigo, J. Downs to be appointed to the School Committee and cited her prior experience on the School Committee. E. Mueller nominated, seconded by A. Brensley, S. Acharya to be appointed to the School Committee and cited her experience on the PTO.

The Select Board and Committee members thanked all of the candidates for their time and discussed the two nominations that were made.

E. Gibbons expressed that she hopes to see all of the candidates run in the next election for open seats and gave support for J. Downs, specifically in light of the need for stability and institutional knowledge. A. Brensley and T. Fay expressed that they would support the majority of the School Committee. T. Fay expressed support for J. Downs citing her prior experience. A. Gutbezahl expressed that he was torn, as he would also support the majority of the School Committee and he noted J. Downs opted not to run for re-election and the committee could benefit from change and a new perspective. C. Martin expressed the need for long-term stability and preferred the appointment of someone who would be willing to run for another term. W. Whitney expressed support for J. Downs to assist with transition in the School Department.

E. Grieco moved, seconded by E. Gibbons, to appoint J. Downs to the vacant seat on the School Committee for a term expiring with the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Roll Call Vote: YEA: A. Brensley, T. Fay, E. Gibbons, E. Grieco, C. Martin, C. Rodrigo, W. Whitney. NAY: A. Gutbezahl, E. Mueller. ABSENT: None. ABSTAIN: None. Approved 7-2-0.

### **2. Adjournment:**

Upon a motion duly made by E. Gibbons, seconded by E. Grieco, the School Committee voted unanimously (4-0) to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

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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