



NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO	
Newton School Committee Members	
WARD	
I	Rajeev Parlikar
II	Christopher Brezski
III	Anping Shen
IV	Tamika Olszewski- Chair
V	Emily Prenner
VI	Paul Levy
VII	Kathy Shields -Vice Chair
VIII	Cove Davis

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT Minutes

- Date:** February 7, 2023
- Location:** School Committee meeting, Education Center, 100 Walnut St., rm 210
- Time:** 5:00 pm
- Members: (I/R):** Kathy Smith **(I)**, Shen **(I)**, Olszewski **(I)**, Prenner **(I)**, Shields **(I)**, Parlikar **(I)**, Brezski **(I)**, Levy **(R)**, Davis **(I)**, Mayor **(I)**
- Students Remote (R):** Currid **(ab)** , Nabeshima **(ab)**, Zeng **(ab)**, Liu **(ab)**, Harthorne **(ab)**
- Staff (I/R):** **Toby Romer (ab)**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; **Ayesha Farag (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, **Renee McCall (ab)**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, **Liam Hurley (ab)**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial, and Administrative Officer, **Casey Ngo Miller (ab)**, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services, **Martine Albama (ab)**, Director Human Resources **Jill Murray (I)** General Counsel,
- Others (I/R):** HYA Consultants Aresta Johnson **(R)** and Jeff Melendez (R)

Call to order at 5:15 pm. The Chair asked Aresta and Jeff to walk the Committee through the next step in the process.

Aresta – Explained that the members will use the Delphi. Which she’ll explain when we get to that point. She explained how the matrix works. The finalists are scheduled on Mon/Wed & Thurs. She gave an overview of what will happens on Friday, deliberation day. You will have filled out the matrix at the meeting. After we get the matrix scores will look at the pros/cons. It’s ok if this process takes a little time. Want to come to a consensus at that time.

Questions/comments – will be collecting feedback from community and staff. Need a place to process/consolidate the feedback. Emily will process the feedback and present it to the Committee on Friday. The Committee is asking for questions in advance from the community. Same questions will be asked of all.

Aresta then explained what is involved in the background motor vehicle, financial, background done through the Illinois office. The background check will come to the Chair – signed a sub-contract to receive the file. If something comes up will hold an Executive Session. Background check takes 7-10 days should be done by Wednesday of next week.

Mayor – usually committees converge on a person –advice from HYA – if this group has strong opinions what’s your advice for handling a divide.

Aresta – the deliberation will be important – 5-4 vote may give the candidate pause. These candidates are looking to be supported.

Kathy – It’s your obligation to listen and not become entrenched. Consensus doesn’t have to be unanimous.

Tamika – frame our comments in the positive. Be respectful when interviewing.

Aresta – listed the items included in the background check.

Questions for Superintendent Candidates Interviews

Jeff and the Committee reviewed the questions that were submitted ahead of time.

Question: Are we asking the questions live.

Aresta – yes you will be given a script – and a schedule.

Question – permission for a follow up?

Aresta – no, not until the 3rd part – the final 20 min.

Question: With 9 members and only 20 minutes that doesn’t leave a lot of follow up.

Tamika – will moderate

Chris – concerned about the compressed time of the follow – up. Can we extend the time to 40 minutes.

Tamika – is this even feasible

Mayor – steal 20 minutes from their entry plan and add it to the follow up at the end.

Comments – need a commitment from each of us to be concise. Be careful we don't have a ton of questions for one and not much for another.

Concise means different things

- ask a short question
- Stick to asking questions and not making statements
- Sharp succinct questions or will be confusing
- Shouldn't be asking gotcha questions – ask questions that allow them to tell us about themselves
- There's a skill - a skilled communicator can navigate

Review of questions continued

Will the candidates be able to ask questions of the Committee?

Yes, only if there is time left.

Response time – limit – 6 minutes

The consultants will finalize the questions and distribute them before they are used.

Roll Call

Ward 1 Y

Ward 2 Y

Ward 3 Y

Ward 4 Y

Ward 5 Y

Ward 6 Y (remote)

Ward 7 Y

Ward 8 Y

Mayor Y

The Chair stated that we concluded the posted business.

Adjourned at 6:33 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 5/23/23

School Committee Secretary