

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE JOINT WITH
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: November 10, 2021
TIME: 2:56 PM

Present: Ms. Amy Checkoway, Chair
Ms. Meghan Moriarty, Secretary
Ms. Kate Bowen
Mr. Michael Crowley
Mr. Jamal Saeh

Also present: Select Board Chair Adam Dash, Vice Chair Roy Epstein and Select Board member Mark Paolillo, Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall and Town Clerk Ellen O'Brien Cushman.

[Open Joint Meeting with Select Board]

1. Call to Order

School Committee was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair, Amy Checkoway.

2. Discussion and possible vote on the timing, process and questions to ask of applicants regarding filling the current vacancy on the School Committee

Chair Checkoway announced that Andrea Prestwich submitted her resignation from the School Committee last week. The Select Board members thanked Andrea for her leadership through the past years.

Checkoway announced that no appointments will be made at this meeting, but there will be discussion about how to move the process forward, establish a timeline for how long the position will be posted and set dates for interviews. She said she would like to fill this position by Thanksgiving.

Mike Crowley said the last process worked well but it was time consuming due to the number of applicants. He said that he thinks it's important that the new member possess finance and budgeting acumen.

Mark Paolillo would like to leave it to the School Committee to decide the skill set they would like to see for Andrea's replacement.

Catherine Bowen thought they should ask that candidates supply a short introductory statement to help hasten the hiring process.

Meg Moriarty suggested that they produce a list of qualifications that the committee would like to see in a candidate if they plan to reduce the applicant pool prior to any interviews. She feels that it is important that the candidate has the time to participate. She feels it would also be helpful for the candidate to have some history of other service in the Town.

Amy Checkoway would like to see someone who is willing to jump into things. She sees this a great opportunity for someone who wants to have an impact in Belmont. She would like to see someone who is solution oriented with skills in union contract negotiations.

Jamal said he likes the idea of developing a list of preferred qualifications but does not want to dissuade anyone from applying. He's not sure if having served on other Town committees is an important requisite, but he thinks it's important to have other skills that are compatible with the School Committee needs.

Epstein thought the questions developed last year were very helpful. He thinks the rubric of preferred qualifications would not exclude people but would be helpful for general criteria. He would like to see a timetable and application questions developed for the interview process. He thinks the questions and timetable can be developed after the job is posted.

Kate felt that the process that was used for voting went well last time and suggested reaching out to some of the people who put their name in before.

It was agreed that the Select Board and School Committee will hold a short meeting on November 9th at 8 am to agree on questions to ask of applicants, and then interviews will be conducted on November 10 at 8 pm. Catherine Bowen would like to see each candidate produce a two-minute introduction and she prefers that all candidates be interviewed in one night. Dash suggested that, after the two-minute introduction, a vote be taken to cut down the pool. The final applicants would then be asked questions.

Amy said she would send Patrice Garvin the posting from last year.

Meg Moriarty encouraged people to reach out to the members of the School Committee with any questions.

The decision was made to post the application for the open position on October 26, 2021 with a deadline for said applications of November 8, 2021 at the close of business. A resume and statement of interest will be required of applicants. The Chairs of the Select Board and School Committee will work to come up with a list of questions for discussion at the joint meeting on November 9, 2021.

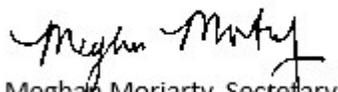
Motion to adjourn was approved by a quorum of School Committee members.

[End Joint Meeting with School Committee.]

3. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Meghan Moriarty, Secretary