

Agawam School Committee
Minutes – March 21, 2017
Special Meeting

Chair, R. Cohen, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Doering School auditorium.

Present: A. Bonavita, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, S. Reed, W. Rua, & R. Clickstein

R. Cohen began by stating that the purpose of the meeting is to interview three candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Clickstein who reviewed the interview procedure, noting that each candidate will be afforded 1-hour to meet with the Committee.

At the conclusion of the review, Mr. Bonavita said he will explain to each candidate that he had eye surgery earlier that day. Therefore, Mr. Clickstein will assist him by reading his questions and noting the scores for each candidate.

Next, Mr. Clickstein inquired who would notify the candidates regarding the selection of the two finalists.

After a brief discussion, on a motion made by A. Bonavita, 2nd by C. Mineo, the Committee, via roll call, voted to have the Committee's secretary, Mrs. Juzba, contact the candidates on March 22nd to notify them about who has been selected as the two finalists.

Vote: 7 - 0

Mr. Clickstein then announced that he had placed a reference letter for one of the candidates at each of their places. R. Cohen also announced that information about an upcoming Granger School fundraiser was also put at their places.

Next, the Committee reviewed the rating system as well as the writing prompts of each candidate.

At the conclusion of that review, Mr. Clickstein escorted the first candidate, Dr. Gina Flanagan, into the auditorium.
Time: 6:30 p.m.

R. Cohen welcomed Dr. Flanagan, principal of East Longmeadow High School, and explained the following interview procedure:

- Candidate's opening remarks
- 14 School Committee questions (2 questions each)
- Candidate asks questions
- Candidate's closing remarks

Committee members then introduced themselves to Dr. Flanagan, who thanked the group for giving her the opportunity to interview for the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Agawam Public Schools.

After explaining that he had eye surgery earlier that day, A. Bonavita said Mr. Clickstein would be reading both of his questions, which were followed by questions from W. Rua, R. Cohen, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, and S. Reed.

At the conclusion of those questions, Dr. Flanagan was offered the opportunity to ask the Committee questions. She began by asking what would be an area of extreme concern on which to focus. Answering for the Committee, Chair R. Cohen said, safety, technology, meeting standards, public input, and reaching the designation of a Level One district, as the district is now at Level Two. She then asked what the students' biggest strengths are. R. Cohen stated athletics, music program, Academic A, community service, respectfulness, and pride in their school. Her third and final question asked where does Agawam need to grow in Technology. Mr. Mineo answered the district hopes to be able to provide 1 to 1 technology equipment for students within the next 3 years.

Dr. Flanagan then gave her closing remarks.

Time: 7:20 p.m.

Next, Mr. Clickstein escorted the second candidate, Mr. Steven Lemanski, principal of AHS, into the school auditorium.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

R. Cohen welcomed Mr. Lemanski, then proceeded to review the interview procedure with him.

Next, Mr. Lemanski gave the Committee his opening remarks noting that Agawam is a great place to learn and grow.

At the close of his opening remarks, Committee members questioned Mr. Lemanski beginning with Mr. Clickstein who was reading on behalf of Mr. Bonavita, followed by W. Rua, R. Cohen, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, and S. Reed.

After questions concluded, Mr. Lemanski was asked if he had any questions for the Committee. Not having any questions, he proceeded to give the Committee his closing remarks stating that he has a great deal of knowledge about the school system and would be honored to serve as its Superintendent of Schools.

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Clickstein then escorted the third and final candidate, Dr. Allison LeClair, Assistant Superintendent, into the school auditorium.

Time: 8:45 p.m.

Once again, R. Cohen reviewed the interview procedure with Dr. LeClair who thanked the Committee saying she feels honored to be considered for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Beginning with the questions of Mr. Bonavita and read by Mr. Clickstein, the Committee continued with those of W. Rua, R. Cohen, B. Burbank, D. Juzba, C. Mineo, and S. Reed.

At the close of those questions and provided with the opportunity to ask questions of the Committee, Dr. LeClair declined due to the lateness of the hour.

In her closing remarks, Dr. LeClair stated that she has been fortunate to have been involved in all aspects of the position of Superintendent of Schools due to the tutelage of Mr. Sapelli.

Time: 9:40 p.m.,

Upon the conclusion of the three candidate's interviews, the Committee deliberated on which two finalists should be brought forward for a second interview. In addition, comment sheets from the audience were collected and will be reviewed prior to the second set of interviews. Mr. Clickstein said that he will scan the comment sheets and send them to the Committee members via email.

The following scores were announced for each candidate by each Committee member:

<u>Candidate #1</u>	<u>Candidate #2</u>	<u>Candidate #3</u>	
40	56	55	- W. Rua
34	57	46	- D. Juzba
36	59	59	- S. Reed
40	44	38	- B. Burbank
41	50	51	- C. Mineo
42	52	51	- A. Bonavita
<u>41</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>44</u>	- R. Cohen
274	372	344	

Then, on a motion made by W. Rua, 2nd by D. Juzba & A. Bonavita, the Committee, via roll call, voted to move forward Mr. Steven Lemanski and Dr. Allison LeClair as the two finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Vote: 7 - 0

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Clickstein reminded the Committee that a special meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, March 30th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Doering School Auditorium to develop the final, in-depth questions for the second round of interviews with Mr. Lemanski and Dr. LeClair. He explained that each Committee member will develop only one question utilizing the sample questions provided by MASC. Mr. Clickstein also said that he will send the public comment sheets to the Committee right away.

There being no further business, on a motion made by D. Juzba, 2nd by S. Reed & W. Rua, the Committee voted to adjourn.

Vote: 7 - 0

Time: 10:00 p.m.