SANDWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING
WITH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUGUST 19, 2020
VIA ZOOM CALL

TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF SANDWICH
AUG 31 2020
4:03 PM
RECEIVED & RECORDED

School Committee Members Present: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Dr. Miller,
Mr. Pell, Mr. Fisher

Board of Selectmen Members Present: Mr. Miller, Mr. George, Mr. Sampson, Mr. Holden,
Mr. Hctor

Members Absent:
Administration Present: Ms. Wiklund, Mr. Dunham

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mr. DiGiacomo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and stated that this meeting is being held
via ZOOM and is being recorded. You may view the meeting by live stream at this time on
Sandwich Community TV.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC FORUM: None

NEW BUSINESS:
- To hold interviews, nominations and appointments for the Open Seat of the
  Sandwich School Committee:
  Mr. Di Giacomo gave an overview on how the interviews will be conducted tonight. With
  a 3 minute or less statement read by each candidate, then the school committee and board
  of selectmen may ask questions to each candidate.

  The M.G. L. Chapter 41, Section 11 was read by Mr. DiGiacomo:
  Section 11. As used in this section, the term "vacancy" includes a failure to elect. If a
  vacancy occurs in any town office, other than the office of selectman, town clerk,
  treasurer, collector of taxes or auditor, the selectmen shall in writing appoint a person to
  fill such vacancy. If there is a vacancy in a board consisting of two or more members,
  except a board whose members have been elected by proportional representation
  under chapter fifty-four A, the remaining members shall give written notice thereof,
  within one month of said vacancy, to the selectmen, who, with the remaining member or
  members of such board, shall, after one week's notice, fill such vacancy by roll call vote.
  The selectmen shall fill such vacancy if such board fails to give said notice within the
time herein specified. A majority of the votes of the officers entitled to vote shall be
necessary to such election. The person so appointed or elected shall be a registered
voter of the town and shall perform the duties of the office until the next annual meeting
or until another is qualified.
Interviews begin:

- **Mr. Schermerhorn, 16 Wing Blvd West, Sandwich:**
  An opening statement was made by Mr. Schermerhorn who has been retired for 5 years and was a former teacher of the Sandwich Public Schools. He has no agenda, just to be part of a team to service students and town as well as to bring understanding of situations to the community. I am up for the role.

Some Questions:

- Mr. Fisher had two questions:
  - Why did you not run for this position in the last election?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: It was not the right time for me last May as I had the responsibility to care for my mother.
  - When was the last time you were in a school and why?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: I was at the High School last fall watching sports and still have contact with teachers.
    Mr. George:
  - How would you do the reopening of the schools?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: I would have kids back in school and safely, as well as the staff. I like the hybrid model which holds kids accountable and where they have interaction which is important. I want the kids in front of me if I am the teacher.
    Ms. Bader:
  - Your opening speech was well written, could you tell us what you do now?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: This is the second summer I have not worked, 1st time unemployed. I have many activities that keep me busy.
  - What were your teaching years?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: I taught from 1989 - 2015 and no teaching after that time.
    Mr. Holden:
  - Have you volunteered or been a part of a town board?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: I was on the Conservation Committee and helped create the Cape Cod Challenge Club etc.
    Mr. Holden:
  - Terrific intro speech. Are you aware of the Anti-Discrimination policy endorsed last week?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: Yes and I agree with the idea.
    Ms. Bader:
  - The field of applicants with us tonight for the open seat are 4 white men. There is a lack of diversity in this town and people think this is a problem, what are your thoughts?
    Mr. Schermerhorn: We can address this problem and the book To Kill a Mockingbird was taught when I was a teacher and hope they still use this book.
Ms. Ames:
- Any concerns on the reopening plan?
  Mr. Schermerhorn mentioned he has not looked it over yet.

- Kevin Sareault, Old Farm Lane, East Sandwich:
  Mr. Sareault thanked the committee for this opportunity.
  Mr. Sareault is a retired Coast Guard Officer who moved to Sandwich for the
  school systems. After his work took him to other locations, he returned to
  Sandwich. A number of people in the community encouraged him to seek this
  position. This would allow him to serve the students of Sandwich, address the
  complex situations and use his skill sets needed for the school committee. If he is
  not selected tonight, he will run in 2021 and is committed to serve.

Some Questions:
- Mr. Pell: Thank you for your interest. On diversity, what you learned on
  base, how can this be transferred to Sandwich?
  Mr. Sareault: Honor and treat everyone with respect, that is the golden
  rule. Also accountability is a key component.
- Ms. Ames: Are you prepared as a school committee member to have
  conversations in the grocery store when approached?
  Mr. Sareault: Yes, this is not a unique experience to me and I will do my
  best to explain a school committee decision.
  Ms. Ames: What is the next big focus?
  Mr. Sareault: Budget impacts and to continue to execute a plan as Covid
  arises up and down. The plan will have to be further defined.
- Mr. Miller: For budgets, were you in a budget position?
  Mr. Sareault: I had an oversight responsibility over multi-million dollar
  budgets.
- Ms. Bader: What roles do schools play in the Anti-Racism hiring or in
  town over all?
  Mr. Sareault: For schools, respect, honor & devotion to one another
  regardless. To increase diversity, look at schools to consider this when
  hiring.
- Mr. Fisher: Could you prioritize teachers, students and taxpayers. (1,2,3)?
  Mr. Sareault: Cannot really say 1,2,3, it is really the issue at hand and
  would way the pros and cons to make the decision.
- Mr. Hoctor: What is your past experience on any boards or as a
  volunteer?
  Mr. Sareault: I have been involved with other boards as well and feel very
  strongly for this position.
Mr. Aboltin, 5 Little Hog Pond Lane, Sandwich:
Mr. Aboltin stated he has been involved in Education for many years and has lived in Sandwich his entire life, with a history of teaching on Cape. I have 20 years in the classroom and I have always wanted to seek to be part of the school committee. With Covid, this was the time I wanted to be involved now. I absolutely plan on running in 2021 if not selected tonight. Finding common ground between the school committee and board of selectmen is key.

Some Questions:
- Mr. Fisher: You are anxious to run in 2021, why not last year?
  Mr. Fisher: Prioritize Teacher, Student, Taxpayers?
  Mr. Aboltin: I didn’t run last time as I was not ready and not a good fit at that time. This is a much better time now and will be able to balance it. This is an impossible question to answer on priority but if I had to, it would be students, teachers, taxpayers.
- Mr. Hoot: Have you been on any boards or as a volunteer?
  Mr. Aboltin: This would be my first time on a Sandwich board and have always been active in the towns where I have worked.
- Ms. Bader: Do you feel the lack of diversity is an issue in our community and how do we address it?
  Mr. Aboltin: I am curious what Sandwich teaches for history. There is more than one side to how we learn. Sandwich does need to be more diverse.
- Mr. Pell: Being with the Brockton School, how can we change diversity here?
  Mr. Aboltin: Through School Choice and a I.D. Program.
- Mr. Fisher: How long have you taught in Brockton?
  Mr. Aboltin: Brockton for 1 year and Nauset 4-5 years

Todd Friedenberg, 21 Viking Lane, Sandwich:
Mr. Friedenberg is retired and he will bring his experiences to the school committee which will be helpful. He will not come in and change anything that the school committee has accomplished and would support the board. Work on reducing spending and recalibrating resources. Strong believer to keep my head in the windshield and not the rear view mirror.

Some Questions:
- Mr. Fisher: When was the last time you were in a school?
  Mr. Friedenberg: Have a daughter in school so over the last 3 years have been into school for conferences/events.
  Mr. Fisher: Prioritize these, students, teachers, taxpayers?
  Mr. Friedenberg: It would be students first and then teachers and taxpayers in a close second, would have to be on a case by case basis.
- Mr. Hoot: Are you on any boards or volunteer?
  Mr. Friedenberg: No boards at all, time limited.
• Ms. Ames: What are the next 2 or 3 biggest challenges?
  Mr. Friedenberg: Nothing bigger than Covid but technology and if there
  is enough bandwidth at SHS or for students at home.
• Dr. Miller: What is the primary responsibility of the School Committee
  and the Superintendent/Administrative Team?
  Mr. Friedenberg: School Committee runs the school and Superintendent
  runs the school under the school committee.
• Ms. Bader: What do feel are the issues with the lack of diversity in our
  community?
  Mr. Friedenberg: Plenty of diversity in Sandwich now and other areas as
  well. Many types of families today and we could do a better job of
  teaching diversity.

Mr. DiGiacomo extended a thank you to the four candidates and three seats will be available at
the next election in May.

We will now proceed to the nominations and Mr. DiGiacomo outlined the process and stated we
do have a majority of members present here.

Mr. Sampson expressed a thank you to the candidates for stepping forward to take on and offer
to do this role. This shows a willingness to serve.

Ms. Bader stated that she wishes this decision was easier, as you all were very impressive.

Nominations:

1. Mr. Fisher nominated Mr. Schermerhorn
   Second by Mr. George

2. Mr. DiGiacomo nominated Mr. Sareault
   Second by Dr. Miller

3. Ms. Ames nominated Mr. Friedenberg
   Second by Dr. Miller

4. Ms. Bader nominated Mr. Aboltin
   Second by Mr. Sampson

Voting on #1 Mr. Schermerhorn:
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Mr. Fisher, Mr. George, Mr. Sampson, Mr. Pell
Nay: Dr. Miller, Ms. Bader, Ms. Ames, Mr. Hoctor, Mr. Holden,
Mr. Miller, Mr. DiGiacomo
4-7-0 Vote Fails
Voting on #2  Mr. Sareault:
Roll Call Vote:  Aye: Dr. Miller, Ms. Bader, Mr. Hoctor, Mr. Holden, Mr. Miller, Mr. DiGiacomo
Nay: Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell, Ms. Ames, Mr. George, Mr. Sampson
6-5-0 Vote Passes with majority

Mr. Sareault has been voted to fill the school committee open seat.

Mr. DiGiacomo extended a thank you to all for coming and very much appreciate your time.

OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR: None

PUBLIC FORUM: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CLOSING REMARKS:
Mr. Sareault extended a thank you to the other candidates and I look forward to serving with the school committee as well as serving the students and community.

Ms. Ames extended a thank you to all four candidates. Please stay involved and run in may, we need more people.

Dr. Miller stated her appreciation to all the applicants and hope you stay involved.

Mr. Holden added thanks to the candidates and respect for the committee and school department as a whole.

ADJOURNMENT:
Ms. Ames moved to adjourn at 8:30pm. Second by Mr. Pell.
Roll Call Vote: Aye: Mr. DiGiacomo, Ms. Ames, Ms. Bader, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pell, Dr. Miller, Mr. Miller, Mr. George, Mr. Hoctor, Mr. Sampson, Mr. Holden
11-0-0 Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned and the next school committee meeting will be held on August 26, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Holly Lenk
Holly Lenk
School Committee Secretary

DOCUMENTS USED AT MEETING
None

Minutes Approved by School Committee of August 26, 2020
Holly Lenk