

Joint School Committee Meeting  
March 18, 2015  
Nauset Regional Middle School, Cafeteria

Present for the Committees:

Region: Ed Lewis, John O'Reilly, Ed Brookshire, Sarah Blackwell (4:10 p.m.), Chris Easely, Jayne Fowler, Sue Skidmore, and Chris Galazzi (4:59 p.m.)

Brewster: David Telman, Claire Gradone, Brenda Cazeault, Marie Enochty and Laurie Gilmore

Eastham: Ann Crozier, Joanne Irish, Mary Lou Sette, Judy Lindahl, Amy Handel

Orleans: Josh Stewart, Gail Briere, Ginger Marks, Han Schumacher

Wellfleet: Jan Plaue, Betsy Pontius, Maratha Gordon, Jill Putnam, and Mort Inger

Call to Order

Chair Plaue called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Plaue outlined the process that would be used at the meeting. Each candidate would be interviewed by the Joint Committee for about 45 minutes with a question and answer period. After the break there would be a discussion and vote. She emphasized the importance of a general discussion to review each candidate. She announced a majority vote was needed by the Region (5 out of 9) and a majority was needed by Union 54 (7 out of 12). She indicated that the Committee may or may not go into Executive Session to discuss a contract.

Chair Plaue expressed gratitude to the Superintendent Search Committee and to Dr. Patricia Grenier for a job well done. She felt the committee recommended three wonderful candidates.

Joanne Irish, Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee thanked voting members; Mort Inger Gail Briere, Ed Lewis, John O'Reilly, Brenda Cazeault and non-voting members; Ann Caretti, Mark Mathison, and Tracey Vanderschmidt for all the time and effort that they put into the process. She especially thanked Dr. Patricia Grenier for her guidance throughout the process.

4:07 p.m. The Joint School Committee interviewed Dr. Stephen Russell. He gave a brief opening statement, shared some personal information, and gave a brief history of his career in education. The Committee asked questions pertaining to the budget increase, sustaining budgets, declining enrollment, Preschool and Kindergarten, priority keeping students' first, plan for the first 90 days on the job, unique region composition, collaboration in the district, greatest accomplishment, testing and evaluations, technology plan, experience with building renovations, communication, and leadership style.

Mr. Russell thanked the Committee for the opportunity and indicated he enjoyed talking about schools, education, and kids. Chair Plaue invited him to remain for the other interviews, to which he declined.

5:00 p.m. The Joint School Committee interviewed Mr. Kyle Riley. He gave a brief opening statement, shared some personal information, and gave a brief history of his career in education. The Committee asked questions pertaining to the budget increase, sustaining budgets, declining enrollment, Preschool and Kindergarten, K-12 curriculum, unique region composition, unfunded mandates, support for teachers, collaboration in the district, plan for the first 90 days on the job, school calendar, bussing options, testing and evaluations, technology plan, communication, and leadership style.

Mr. Riley thanked the Committee for the opportunity and Chair Plaue invited him to remain for the other interviews, to which he declined.

5:45 p.m. The Joint School Committee interviewed Mr. Thomas Conrad. He gave a brief opening statement, shared some personal information and gave a brief history of his career in education. The Committee asked questions pertaining to myths about the high school getting everything, the uniqueness and diversity of the school committees, Preschool and Kindergarten, evaluation process, accreditation, elementary school needs, leadership style, empowering teachers, noteworthy accomplishments, communication, school choice, concerns for the high school, and transportation costs.

6:30 p.m. The Committee recessed.

7:05 p.m. The Committee reconvened. Chair Plaue led a discussion about the three candidates inviting members to share strengths and weaknesses of each candidate in a general discussion. Members of the Search Committee shared their thoughts from visiting the schools of each candidate.

Members of the Committee thanked everyone on the Search Committee for bringing forward three very good candidates.

### **UNION 54 VOTE**

Motion:

On a motion by Amy Handel, seconded by Jill Putnam, it was voted unanimously, to appoint Tom Conrad as the next Superintendent of the Nauset Public Schools, pending contract negotiations.

### **REGION VOTE**

Motion:

On a motion by Ed Lewis, seconded by Chris Galazzi, it was voted unanimously to appoint Tom Conrad as the next Superintendent of the Nauset Public Schools, pending contract negotiations.

7:35 p.m. Dr. Patricia Grenier asked that the Committee take a five minute break to call the candidate to make sure he would accept the position, which is standard protocol. The Chair called Mr. Conrad and offered him the position.

7:40 p.m. Chair Plaue indicated the Mr. Conrad accepted the position with great joy, pending contract negotiations.

She indicated that a negotiations team comprised of the Chair of the Joint School Committee (Jan Plaue), the Chair of Union 54 (Ann Crozier), and the Chair of the Region Committee (John O'Reilly) will negotiate a contract with Mr. Conrad. She indicated that there was no need for an Executive Session as the Search Committee advertised the salary range. She also indicated that because Mr. Conrad is a new Superintendent it will be good to have Dr. Hoffmann mentor him in his new role.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Amy Handel, seconded by Claire Gradone, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Tefft

(Packets with resumes were sent to the committee members from the Cape Cod Collaborative)