

BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Joint Meeting with the Brookfield Board of Selectmen

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brain Oxman, Chair/Secretary Brookfield School Committee
Marie Pecore, Committee Member Brookfield School Committee
Stephen J. Comtois II, Chair Brookfield Board of Selectmen
Nicholas Thomo, Member Brookfield Board of Selectmen
Linda Lincoln, Member Brookfield Board of Selectmen

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Erin Nosek, Superintendent; Gary Brunell, applicant for vacancy; Jeffrey Landine, applicant for vacancy

Following a number of agenda items specifically related to the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Oxman called the school committee meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Mr. Oxman noted that the purpose of the meeting is to jointly appoint a school committee member to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Barbara Wilson, effective September 12, 2014.

The Committee and the Board of Selectmen recognized that there is no need to further interview the candidates as detailed information was provided by both candidates at the joint meeting of September 11, 2014, when both were candidates for a previous vacancy.

VOTE: Roll call: B. Oxman – Mr. Landine
 M. Pecore – Mr. Brunell
 N. Thomo – Mr. Brunell
 L. Lincoln – Mr. Brunell
 S. Comtois – Mr. Brunell

Mr. Oxman asked Mr. Thomo why he has decided to change his vote when two weeks ago he voted for Mr. Landine. Mr. Thomo stated that he re-read Mr. Brunell's letter and thinks he would be the best fit. He cites his reasons as his 20 years of living in the town.

At 6:10 p.m. the School Committee adjourned their meeting to the town hall kitchen for discussion.

Mrs. Pecore recommended bringing forward for a vote the topic of PARCC vs. MCAS for the Brookfield Elementary School. Mr. Oxman expressed concern and reluctance to bring another agenda item forward, specifically one of this magnitude, since it was not posted in advance and the public, including teachers and the Principal, would not be in attendance.

Conversation ensued and the Committee was informed that a new agenda had been posted for public view by the Town Clerk at 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Pecore explained that she had sent a note to Mr. Oxman asking for this topic to be added to the agenda in an email on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 10:08 p.m. Mr. Oxman noted that he did not read the email until Monday and felt that since the agenda had already been posted there was insufficient time to repost so that the public could be made aware of the topic to be discussed. Following much conversation it was

noted that an agenda item was brought forward by a member and that it is believed that the topic needed to be addressed regardless of the timing of the posting.

Mrs. Pecore moved, seconded by Mr. Brunell, to rescind the previous vote for 2015 PARCC testing at the Brookfield Elementary School.

Discussion:

Mr. Oxman explained his rationale for wanting to go with PARCC for 2015. He explained that since 2015 was a “hold harmless” year, the testing would provide the children at Brookfield Elementary School a “leg up” by having the opportunity to take the test without ramifications, in anticipation that PARCC might well become a mandated test in Massachusetts in 2016. He further explained that he is not an expert in these areas but has confidence in the folks that are paid full-time in Brookfield, specifically the teachers, Principal, and Superintendent, who are all in support of PARCC over MCAS for 2015.

Mr. Oxman expressed concern that neither Mrs. Pecore nor Mr. Brunelle has spoken with any of the educators in the district regarding the PARCC assessment. Mrs. Pecore expressed her comfort in her belief that PARCC is not best for students. Mr. Brunell indicated that he also was comfortable in his beliefs.

Following additional discussion the Chair called for a vote.

VOTE: In favor of rescinding the vote for PARCC testing in 2015 – Mrs. Pecore, Mr. Brunell
 Opposed to rescinding the vote for PARCC testing in 2015 – Mr. Oxman

Motion carries 2-1.

Mr. Pecore moved, seconded by Mr. Brunell, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Oxman
Chair/Secretary