

Select Board / School Committee Joint Meeting
Monday, February 25, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Room A15, 535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Present:

Select Board: Chair Mark Gold, Marie Angelides, William Low, Richard Foster, and Thomas Lachiusa

School Committee: Chair Armand Wray, Vice Chair Bronwyn Monahan, Clerk Ryan Kelly

Also Present: Supt. Marty O'Shea arrived 7:04, Town Manager Stephen Crane, Administrative Assistant Dianne Georgantas

Interviewees: Peter Landon, William Timothy Mitchell, James Ryan, Kevin Ryczek, Kevin Shea

Audience: seven (7)

Select Board Chair Mark Gold called the Select Board/School Committee joint meeting to order. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Mr. Gold explained to the viewing audience that there will be two nights of interviews to fill the 4 vacant School Committee seats. The Select Board and remaining members of the School Committee will meet again Tuesday, February 26th at 7:00 pm to complete the interviews. The two boards will also meet on Tuesday, March 5th at 5:30 to vote to fill the seats. He also explained the process of applicants picking a letter to determine interview order and board members picking a number to determine the board member questioning order. There were a total of 10 applicants, 5 of which interviewed on February 25th, and the other 5 candidates were scheduled to interview on February 26th at 7:00. The candidates were all emailed the information on the interview process and voting procedure.

Each applicant selected, by drawing from a brown paper bag, a piece of paper on which was printed the letters A, B, C, D, and E representing one letter for each applicant. The applicants were interviewed in alphabetical order according to the letter they picked as follows:

A – Mr. Peter Landon

B – Mr. James Ryan

C – Mr. Kevin Shea

D – Mr. Kevin Ryczek

E – Mr. William Timothy Mitchell

Each member of the School Committee drew from the same paper bag a piece of paper on which was printed the number 3, 5. The Chair of the School Committee was assigned number 1. Each member of the Select Board drew from the paper bag a piece of paper on which was printed the number 4, 6, 7, 8. The Chair of the Select Board was assigned number 2. These numbers, 1-11 represented the order in which School Committee members and Select Board members questioned the applicants.

1 – Mr. Armand Wray

2 - Mr. Mark Gold

3 – Mr. Ryan Kelly

4 – Mr. Thomas Lachiusa

5 – Ms. Bronwyn Monahan

6 – Mr. Richard Foster

7 – Mr. William Low

8 – Ms. Marie Angelides

(These numbers also represent the REVERSE order in which School Committee and Select Board members will vote for their preferred applicants on Tuesday, March 5th)

Each applicant was given up to three minutes to provide an introduction and/or presentation as to why he or she applied for the appointment. Each applicant was then questioned by each of the members of the combined School Committee and Select Board in numerical order. After each board member had an opportunity to ask one question (and any follow up question) of the applicant, a second round of questioning began, in the same order as the first. Questioning of the applicant continued in order until there were no further questions from the Board members.

- A. **Mr. Peter Landon**, 5 Meadowbrook Road has been a resident for forty-nine years. He was on the District Learning Team (DLT), the 2004 Charter Commission, the Town Finance Committee, Audit Committee and Pension Task Force. He currently has two (2) grandchildren in the Longmeadow Public Schools and his grown children are graduates from LHS. His wife is a retired LPS teacher. Mr. Landon stated he was interested in supporting the School Department budget and bringing back some normalcy to the School Committee. He would like to support the implementation of the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and get back to the keeping eyes on the child. He is thinking about running for a one-year term, but has not made that decision yet.

First round of questions:

Second round: Mr. Wray, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: No questions.

- B. **Mr. James Ryan**, 117 Crescent Road expressed his interest in renewing his bid to fill the interim seats on the School Committee. He is committed to public service and has served on public boards and councils in other communities prior to his move to Longmeadow. Mr. Ryan would like to help to re-establish a culture of collaboration, innovation and success. Mr. Ryan is an educator in the Springfield Public Schools and is one of the co-founders of the Springfield Honors Academy where he teaches AP US History and AP World History. Mr. Ryan and his wife have not yet started their family, but plan to have their future children attend Longmeadow schools. By serving on the Longmeadow School Committee, Mr. Ryan believes he would be in a position to provide positive leadership and direction for Longmeadow schools in the short term and to provide the stewardship needed for continued success for years and generations to come.

First round of questions:

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fifth round: No questions.

Mr. Kevin Shea, 64 Warwick St, introduced himself stating he moved to Longmeadow in 2002 and has 2 children in the Longmeadow Public Schools. His children attended Center School, Williams Middle School and are now in Longmeadow High School as a senior and sophomore. Mr. Shea said he owes a great debt to the Longmeadow Public Schools for the education his children received. He volunteered in the schools doing chemistry demonstrations and volunteering on field day. Mr. Shea said he is currently the president of the Longmeadow Softball Association and he works as the Director of the Science Department at Smith College. He looks forward to possibly serving on the School Committee and has filed papers with the Town Clerk to pursue a one-year position.

First round of questions:

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low, Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: No questions.

- C. **Mr. Kevin Ryczek**, 29 Tecumseh Dr., Graduated from Longmeadow High School in 1989 and has 3 children in schools, attending Longmeadow High School and Williams Middle School. He was a past member of the Finance Committee. Mr. Ryczek noted that he has been a member of the community for over 30 years, and feels he would be an asset to the School Committee because of his financial background and his good communication skills. He said he was interested in running for a 3-year seat in the annual Town election.

First round of questions:

Second round: Mr. Wray and Mr. Low had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fifth round: No questions.

- D. **Mr. William Timothy Mitchell**, 34 Greenacre Ave. moved to Longmeadow in August, 2018 and has a fourth grade son in Center School. He has a financial background and is a professor and associate chair at the University of MA, Isenberg Business School. He is in a stage in his life where he can get involved. He has little knowledge of what happened in recent months, thus he has no preconceived notions of what the issues were. He feels this is an opportunity for him to get involved in the community. He is interested in serving for a longer term and will be pulling papers this week. He reviewed the roles of a School Committee member and understands that he is here to represent the citizens of the community.

First round of questions:

Second round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Third round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Ms. Monahan, Mr. Foster, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fourth round: Mr. Wray, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lachiusa, Mr. Low and Ms. Angelides had no questions.

Fifth round: No questions.

Mr. Gold noted that the Select Board and School Committee will meet again jointly Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school meeting room A15 to continue interviews with 5 more candidates. The Select Board/School Committee will meet again on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 5:30 pm to appoint four of the applicants to fill the four (4) vacancies on the school committee. The voting will take place in the reverse order of questions asked. There will be a roll call vote for appointment.

Mr. Gold thanked the candidates for interviewing.

Mr. Low made a motion to suspend the joint meeting at 9:01 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The vote was five (5) in favor and 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Georgantas

Documents: Agenda – February 25, 2019
School Committee Vacancy Selection Procedure dated September 2011
Applications:

Peter Landon
William Timothy Mitchell
James Ryan
Kevin Shea
Kevin Ryczek