

Approved 12.10.13

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Thursday, November 14, 2013
Bessie Buker School, School Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on November 14, 2013 at 7 P.M. in the Bessie Buker Multi Media Room.

With a quorum present, Chairman Whittaker called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Selectmen Present: Ken Whittaker, Chair; Patrick Wilson, Vice Chair; Jack Wilhelm, Secretary

The Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee (separate meeting minutes recorded)

Officials present but not participating: Mark Andrews, Town Administrator; Superintendent Michael Harvey

Public Information

Agenda

Letters of Interest – Larry Swartz, Stacey Metternick

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) and School Committee (SC) interviewed the two candidates, Larry Swartz, and Stacey Metternick, to fill the seat recently vacated by Melissa Even Moore. A majority vote by the joint committee would appoint one candidate through to the next election in 2014.

The candidates were given the opportunity to talk to the joint committee about their application.

Larry Swartz summarized his experience as serving in Wenham on the Finance and Advisory Committee, BOS, Assessors, and as a former SC member, saying his experience on these boards/committees and his skills as a lawyer would be helpful during the coming months preparing the HWRSD budget and contract negotiations. He talked about his knowledge of the School Committee's current business.

Mr. Swartz confirmed that he has the time to devote through April 2014, but does not intend to run again in April.

Mr. Kuebel opened the meeting for questions.

Chairman Whittaker, Selectman Wilson, and Selectman Wilhelm participated in the questions and comments.

In response to the BOS questions, Mr. Swartz talked about the productive communication, and trust between the committee and towns that was accomplished by the committee during his last term. He thought one important element to improve the way children are taught is by teaching them in the style of how they learn.

Mr. Wilhelm stated that he has known Mr. Swartz for quite some time and served before and after him on the Finance Committee. He observed that Mr. Swartz is a dedicated public servant and would make an excellent SC member.

Stacey Metternick talked about her experience as a parent of children in the school system and her activities in the community, and as a business owner. She observed that she has attended many SC meetings and as a community member has worked with the Superintendent on the school budget in the past. She stated that she also served as a parent representative for the School Council at Cutler School.

Mr. Kuebel opened the meeting for questions.

Mr. Wilhelm had no comments or questions. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Whittaker participated in the question and comments.

In response to the BOS questions, Ms. Metternick opined that teaching technology is one important opportunity to improve the curriculum and implement twenty-first century technology.

She was asked about polices and noted that she has not had a chance to review the recent changes to policies. Her strength is in communications but was confident in her ability to make changes and give a constructive opinion.

Chairman Kuebel asked for the opinion of the joint committee on each candidate.

The Selectmen contributed in discussion and recognized the candidates' willingness to serve.

Mr. Wilson stated that although he supported Mr. Swartz to fill out the remainder of the term, he encouraged Ms. Metternick to run in the spring for SC.

The motion was made, and seconded, that the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee vote to appoint Lawrence Swartz to fill the open School Committee seat. The motion carried by majority vote with eight of the eleven voting members in favor and three opposed. Of that vote, Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Wilson voted in favor, and Mr. Wilhelm voted opposed.

Mr. Wilson moved the Wenham Selectmen adjourn at 8:35 P.M. and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary
11.26.13