



Date Approved/Released: 10-4-18

Date Approved/Hold: \_\_\_\_\_

School Committee Chair: Gregory Wini

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 28, 2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Town Hall Auditorium

1. Call to order: 6:00 pm/ Pledge of Allegiance  
Present: G. Vine, Dawn Fronte, Felicia Nurmsen, D. LaPointe (6:03 pm), L. Murphy (Abs)  
Richard Ikonen-Business Manager
2. Audio/Video Disclosure: Barrie Martins, Recording Secretary, Doneen Durling, Gardner News
3. Citizen Questions and/or Comments: None
4. Acting Superintendent:

G. Vine announced that, under doctors' orders, Superintendent Steve Haddad will be out of the office until at least July 19<sup>th</sup>. The status of his return should be known by then. Due to the number of matters that need attention and other administrative duties, including the appointment for the search committee for the Interim Superintendent, D. Fronte moved to appoint Business Manager Richard Ikonen as Acting Superintendent, seconded by D. LaPointe. F. Nurmsen voiced concern about the Business Manager's duties and how they will get done. R. Ikonen responded that he has been working with Matt Abrahams of the Abrahams Group; they wrapped up the final expense for FY'17 today and are going to teleconference tomorrow and are very hopeful it will be submitted then. End of Year Report-Marc Abrams, President of the Abraham Group, has been in contact with Jay Sullivan in case an extension is required; he has until July 15, 2018, to make any reclassifications but is confident it will be filed by the end of Saturday. He noted the budget is in the black and is not anywhere near the red. F. Nurmsen noted the district must make plans/accommodations for the time R. Ikonen is away for two weeks in August. She repeatedly stressed her concerns the R. Ikonen does not have the resources to perform the duties of both jobs, considering the many issues that must be addressed right away. Discussion included reaching out to Tom Kane to fill in as Acting Superintendent for a few weeks or the summer. R. Ikonen reported there have been numerous candidates for the Assistant Business Manager position; he reviewed the required qualifications and the timeline, noting an offer will be made within the next two weeks. The position is funded by available funds from the Assistant Pupil Services position. F. Nurmsen reiterated that she is not comfortable without an Acting Superintendent in the role to offer guidance in that hiring process. G. Vine stated the decision tonight is to determine the Acting Superintendent matter. D. Fronte stated she would rather keep R. Ikonen in the office rather than 'bringing in a cold body' who would take 2 weeks to catch up. Responding to G. Vine, R. Ikonen assured the committee that he does not think issues that would arise would preclude him from doing the job he was hired to do. He added that he has been addressing issues as they come up pretty

expediently. He understands the concerns but does not feel it will be an issue until Steve Haddad returns. He reviewed the timeline for the Interim Superintendent search timeline. He will work with D. Fronte and the search committee.

S. Haddad would/will be out of the office the second week of July to attend the MASS Conference and on vacation the last week of July. F. Nurmsen stressed that there are behavioral issues, a police report that has been made and other matters that have to be taken seriously and not be put off. Given her concerns regarding R. Ikonen having the appropriate support in place to do the job, and accomplish what needs to be done, she stringently suggested the committee hold off on making this decision.

G. Vine reiterated the district needs someone to do day to day administration who has the title to give him the authority. He is hesitant to delay the process noting it may delay the Interim Search Committee process.

Vote: F. Nurmsen – No; D. Fronte – Aye; D. LaPointe – Aye; G. Vine – Aye. Approved 3-1-0.  
R. Ikonen will act as Acting Superintendent until such time as S. Haddad comes back.

5. Adjournment: 6:17 pm. D. LaPointe moved to adjourn. Second by D. Fronte.  
Approved 4 -0-0.

Respectfully submitted: Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary

**List of Documents and Exhibits used:** None