

**Merrimack School Board Special Meeting
September 28, 2020
Merrimack High School - Cafeteria**

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Guagliumi, Vice Chair Barnes via a conference call, Board Members Schneider and Rothhaus and Superintendent McLaughlin.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Guagliumi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Guagliumi turned the meeting over to Board Member Rothhaus.

Board Member Rothhaus expressed her deep appreciation to the candidates that came forward to serve our community as a school board member. Since her father, Paul Goodridge, submitted his name as an applicant for the vacancy at she will recuse herself from the interview process and voting. She noted Merrimack needs volunteers and community members who care, and she is grateful for all who stepped up to serve.

Chair Guagliumi announced that Vice Chair Barnes would participate via a conference call.

Chair Guagliumi noted the meeting proceedings will follow RSA 91-A:2 which states that all parties must contemporaneously be able to hear and speak to each other, the meeting should be audible to the public, all persons present must be identified, and all votes must be taken by roll call vote.

Chair Guagliumi asked Vice Chair Barnes why her attendance was not reasonably practical?

Vice Chair Barnes responded, in accordance with the Temporary Emergency Travel Guidance for Students and Staff Policy, I must quarantine for 14 days based on my travel outside of New England.

Chair Guagliumi asked Vice Chair Barnes where she was located?

Vice Chair Barnes responded that she was in her home in Merrimack, New Hampshire located in her library behind a closed door.

Chair Guagliumi asked Vice Chair Barnes if she was in the presence of anyone else?

Vice Chair Barnes responded no.

2. Interview Candidates for School Board Member Vacancy

Chair Guagliumi announced six candidates have applied for the school board vacancy. She appreciates the interest from the community, especially during a difficult time.

The following people will interview for the School Board vacancy:

- Carl Bunis
- Paul Goodridge
- Jenna Hardy
- Jenny Poisson
- Pat Teden
- Wolfram von Shoen

Tinique Lenderman and Mackenzie Murphy withdrawn their interest in applying for the vacancy.

Chair Guagliumi explained the interviews would last approximately 15 minutes. The order of the interviews would be defined through a lottery system. She asked each applicant to express their reasons for wanting to be a school board member. The board will ask questions. At the completion of the interviews the Board will deliberate and appoint a Board member that will fill the vacancy until the elections in April 2021. The candidate chosen for the vacant seat will attend the October 5, 2020 meeting. They will be sworn in prior to the meeting by School District Clerk Pat Heinrich.

Board Member Schneider selected the slips of paper containing the applicant names from a box to determine the order of the interviews.

Pat Teden lead the interview process followed by Jenna Hardy, Paul Goodridge, Wolfram von Shoen, Jenny Poisson and Carl Bunis.

Chair Guagliumi thanked all candidates, acknowledged the variety of backgrounds and the common interest in wanting to improve the School District.

3. Appoint Candidate to Fill School Board Member Position

Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Chair Guagliumi) to nominate Jenna Hardy to fill the vacant School Board position until the April 2021 elections.

Vice Chair Barnes highlighted Jenna Hardy's understanding of Social Emotional Learning and the history behind it, communications with a focus on safety and her example regarding the turf.

Board Member Schneider noted he would select each of the applicants for different reasons. He suggested each applicant consider running for a position on the School Board in April. He added a position on the Budget Committee is a great opportunity to learn about the school district's budget process. He encouraged the applicants not chosen for the School Board vacancy to consider applying for a future Budget Committee vacancy or to run for a Budget Committee position in April.

Board Member Schneider explained he would have nominated a couple other names for consideration given the fact that the vacancy is short term and current challenges include financial, collaboration and different points of view. He would have preferred more time to ask each candidate more questions.

Chair Guagliumi supports the motion. She noted Jenna Hardy has children in multiple schools giving her a perspective with the least learning curve for the short-term position. She was excited with ideas from all candidates and would welcome future conversations.

Vice Chair Barnes is also appreciative of the ideas and passion for the Merrimack School District from the other candidates.

The motion passed 3-0-0 on a roll call vote.

Board Member Schneider explained there will now be a vacancy on the Budget Committee.

At 9:20 p.m. Vice Chair Barnes moved (seconded by Board Member Schneider) to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 3-0-0 on a roll call vote.