

**MEETING MINUTES of the
NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE, TIME and PLACE

May 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Emerson School Building School Committee Conference Room
50 Mechanic Street, Bolton, MA 01740

Note: Due to mandated social distancing guidelines currently in effect this meeting was not open for public attendance.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Leah Vivirito, Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Stephen Rubinstein, Karen Devine, Sharon Poch, Brett Collins, Rick Eckel, Joseph Gleason

ABSENT: Shawn Winsor

NON-MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Dorothy Presser, Massachusetts Association of School Committees field representative and consultant.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

At 7:01 p.m. Chairperson Vivirito called the meeting to order and led the District Committee and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DELIBERATIONS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE NASHOBA REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

7:02 p.m. MOTION: Leah Vivirito moved to initiate a deliberation on the appointment of a new superintendent for the Nashoba Regional School District. (Seconded by Amy Cohen)

VOTE: In favor: Leah Vivirito, Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Stephen Rubinstein, Karen Devine, Sharon Poch, Brett Collins, Rick Eckel, Joseph Gleason
Opposed: None.
MOTION PASSES 10-0 (no discussion)

- 7:03 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito recognized Dr. Mary McCarthy (Chairperson of the Personnel Subcommittee) to provide an overview of the selection process.
- 7:11 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito recognized Amy Cohen who inquired about the vetting process in regards to the final three (3) candidates. Dorothy Presser of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees provided an overview on the vetting process and the manner in which each candidate's credentials were verified. Ms. Presser advised that all credentials were checked and verified during the application submission phase of the selection process.
- 7:15 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito commenced a review of the site visit(s) for Dr. Beth Choquette, Principal of the Bridge Street School, Northampton, MA. Members who provided information to the District Committee in regards to candidate Dr. Beth Choquette and the site visit(s) to her school district included Sharon Poch, Dr. Mary McCarthy, and Chairperson Leah Vivirito.
- 7:27 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito commenced a review of the site visit(s) for Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning, and Innovation for the Natick Public Schools, Natick, MA. Members who provided information to the District Committee in regards to candidate Kirk Downing and the site visit(s) to his school district included Dr. Mary McCarthy and Sharon Poch.
- 7:45 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito commenced a review of the site visit(s) for Jeremy Roche, Principal, Fitchburg High School, Fitchburg, MA. Members who provided information to the District Committee in regards to candidate Jeremy Roche and the site visit(s) to his school district included Amy Cohen, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Michael Horesh, and Leah Vivirito.
- 8:05 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito reviewed the leadership profile which was gleaned from community input which essentially delineated the qualifications and characteristics of what the community wants in the District's next superintendent.
- 8:10 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito recognized Dorothy Presser of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to provide an overview of the feedback received from fifteen (1) of the Nashoba Regional School District's administrative staff.

8:20 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito reviewed the voting standards to be applied in the appointment of a new superintendent and thereafter opened the floor for discussion and deliberation by the membership of the District Committee on the three (3) candidates for appointment to the superintendency.

9:20 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito requested a motion for the appointment of a new superintendent of schools for the Nashoba Regional School District from recording secretary Joseph M. Gleason.

MOTION: Joseph Gleason moved that candidate Jeremy Roche be appointed superintendent of schools for the Nashoba Regional School District subject to and conditioned upon the successful negotiation of a contract of employment mutually agreeable to the candidate and the Nashoba Regional Schools District Committee and signed and/or executed by the candidate and the Nashoba Regional School District Committee and/or the District Committee's designee. Joseph Gleason further moved that the District Committee direct an ad hoc Negotiation Subcommittee as appointed by the Chairperson with the approval of the District Committee to begin contract negotiations with candidate Jeremy Roche with the assistance of the District Committee's legal counsel. (Seconded by Amy Cohen)

VOTE: In favor: Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Brett Collins, Stephen Rubinstein, Joseph Gleason.
Opposed: Leah Vivirito, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Sharon Poch, Rich Eckel, Karen Devine

MOTION FAILS: (5-5) (after discussion)

9:27 p.m. MOTION: Rich Eckel moved that candidate Kirk Downing be appointed superintendent of schools for the Nashoba Regional School District subject to and conditioned upon the successful negotiation of a contract of employment mutually agreeable to the candidate and the Nashoba Regional Schools District Committee and signed and/or executed by the candidate and the Nashoba Regional School District Committee and/or the District Committee's designee. Rich Eckel further moved that the District Committee direct an ad hoc Negotiation Subcommittee as appointed by the Chairperson with the approval of the District Committee to begin contract negotiations with candidate Kirk Downing with the assistance

of the District Committee's legal counsel. (Seconded by Dr. Mary McCarthy)

VOTE: In favor: Leah Vivirito, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Sharon Poch, Rich Eckel, Karen Devine.

Opposed: Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Brett Collins, Stephen Rubinstein, Joseph Gleason.

MOTION FAILS: (5-5) (after discussion)

9:35 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito suggested a brief recess.

MOTION: Joseph Gleason moved for a five (5) minute recess. (Seconded by Rich Eckel):

VOTE: In favor: Leah Vivirito, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Sharon Poch, Rich Eckel, Karen Devine, Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Brett Collins, Stephen Rubinstein, Joseph Gleason.

MOTION PASSES (10-0)

9:40 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito reconvened and called back to order the meeting of the Nashoba Regional School District Committee.

9:42 p.m. A request was made by Sharon Poch for Dorothy Presser of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees to restate the feedback from the administrators of the Nashoba Regional School District. Dorothy Presser went through a restatement of all of the feedback from the administrators with whom she interfaced.

9:49 p.m. Stephen Rubinstein suggests that the District Committee consider the hiring of an interim superintendent for a period of one (1) year and that the District Committee commence the search process earlier in the school year.

9:51 p.m. MOTION: Rich Eckel moved that candidate Kirk Downing be appointed superintendent of schools for the Nashoba Regional School District subject to and conditioned upon the successful negotiation of a contract of employment mutually agreeable to the candidate and the Nashoba Regional Schools District Committee and signed and/or executed by the candidate and the Nashoba Regional School District Committee and/or the District Committee's designee. Rich Eckel further moved that

the District Committee direct an ad hoc Negotiation Subcommittee to begin contract negotiations with candidate Kirk Downing with the assistance of the District Committee's legal counsel. (Seconded by Dr. Mary McCarthy)

MOTION: Rich Eckel moved to end debate on the motion to appoint Kirk Downing as superintendent.
(Seconded by Dr. Mary McCarthy)

VOTE: In favor: Leah Vivirito, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Sharon Poch, Rich Eckel, Karen Devine, Amy Cohen, Michael Horesh.
Opposed: Brett Collins, Stephen Rubinstein, Joseph Gleason.
MOTION PASSES: (7-3)

VOTE: On Rich Eckel's motion of 9:51 p.m. to appointed Kirk Downing as superintendent of schools for the Nashoba Regional School District (as above memorialized).
In favor: Leah Vivirito, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Sharon Poch, Rich Eckel, Karen Devine, Amy Cohen, Michael Horesh.
Opposed: Brett Collins, Stephen Rubinstein, Joseph Gleason.
MOTION PASSES: (7-3) (after discussion)

10:34 p.m. MOTION: Joseph Gleason moved to make the appointment of Kirk Downing as superintendent of schools for the Nashoba Regional School District unanimous. (Seconded by Rich Eckel)

VOTE: Nine (9) members of the District Committee voting in favor of making the appointment unanimous. One (1) member not in favor of making the vote unanimous.
MOTION FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT FAILS

10:35 p.m. MOTION: Rick Eckel moved for a five (5) minute recess.
(Seconded by Leah Vivirito)

VOTE: In favor: Leah Vivirito, Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Stephen Rubinstein, Karen Devine, Sharon Poch, Brett Collins, Rick Eckel, Joseph Gleason
Opposed: None.

MOTION PASSES 10-0

10:40 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito reconvened and called back to order the meeting of the Nashoba Regional School District Committee.

10:42 p.m. Chairperson Leah Vivirito appointed the following individuals to the ad hoc Negotiation Committee to engage in employment contract negotiations with appointee Kirk Downing without objection by the membership of the District Committee:

- (1.) Stephen Rubinstein (Stow)
- (2.) Rick Eckel (Stow)
- (3.) Dr. Mary McCarthy (Bolton)

ADJOURNMENT:

At 10:44 p.m. there being no further business before the District Committee Chairperson Vivirito requested a motion for adjournment.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Mary McCarthy (Seconded by Stephen Rubinstein)

In favor: Leah Vivirito, Michael Horesh, Amy Cohen, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Stephen Rubinstein, Karen Devine, Sharon Poch, Brett Collins, Rick Eckel, Joseph Gleason

Opposed: None

MOTION PASSES 10-0

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of May, 2020.

Joseph M. Gleason

Joseph M. Gleason, Lancaster
Recording Secretary

Approved by NRSC 6-2-21