

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
HELD DECEMBER 6, 2021

PRESENT:

JOSEPH GANIM, Mayor
JOHN WELDON, Chair
BOBBI BROWN, Vice Chair
JOSEPH LOMBARD, Secretary
SYBIL ALLEN
ALBERT BENEJAN
JOSEPH SOKOLOVIC
MICHAEL MACCARONE
ERIKA CASTILLO
CHRISTINE BAPTISTE-PEREZ

MICHAEL J. TESTANI, Superintendent of Schools

Transcribed by: John McLeod

1 (The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.)

2 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. Well, let me – at least my part here is – is
3 usually brief, but it's a – not only an annual tradition, but it's
4 organizationally, I think, a great way to proceed, so my pleasure again to
5 join you for this – it's the first annual Organizational Meeting of the
6 Board of Education, being held today, Monday, December 6th, 2021,
7 now at 6:00 p.m., here at the Aquaculture School.

8 So the agenda, which is rather simple, call to order, which we're
9 doing right now. Call to order. And then just opening up with the election
10 of the officers.

11 So unless there's any order of business that needs to proceed
12 that, I'm going to go with the agenda. And we'll start with the first order
13 of business, which is the election of the officers. And so with that, at this
14 time I'll open up the floor to nominations for chairman. Nominations for
15 chairman. Anyone.

16 No nominations. Nominations are closed. No, I'm just kidding.

17 MR. LOMBARD: Hello there.

18 MS. BROWN: We can hear you.

19 MR. BENEJAN: We can hear you.

20 SUPT. TESTANI: Go ahead, Mr. Lombard.

21 MR. LOMBARD: I'm going to nominate John Weldon.

22 MS. ALLEN: I second.

23 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. There's been a nomination; is there a
24 second?

25 MS. ALLEN: Second.

1 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. So you go with a nomination and a
2 second, right? Okay, fine.

3 Any other nominations? John Weldon's name is in nomination.
4 Any other nominations?

5 Hearing none, we'll close nominations –

6 MS. CASTILLO: Nomination.

7 MAYOR GANIM: Sorry?

8 MS. CASTILLO: Nomination for –

9 MAYOR GANIM: Do you want to make a –

10 MS. CASTILLO: – Christine Baptiste-Perez.

11 MS. BAPTISTE-PEREZ: I second.

12 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. Nomination of Christine and seconded. So
13 are there – so you're – as well. Anyone else?

14 All right. At this time nominations are closed and we'll ask for you
15 to take the normal practice to select from the two candidates which have
16 been nominated, which is paper ballot, I remember from last year.

17 (There was a delay.)

18 MAYOR GANIM: So - did everybody vote? It looks like everyone's
19 all set. I'm sorry, yes. Yes.

20 Seven? John Weldon, seven; two, Christine Baptiste. So seven to
21 two, John Weldon is the chair of the Board of Education. Welcome back
22 again.

23 MR. WELDON: Thank you.

24 MAYOR GANIM: That's it, right, for me? Well, thank you. I want
25 to hand the chair over to you with the hammer and everything, and get

1 out of the way before you get the hammer. And thank you, everyone,
2 again, and going to go on to board of ed. Supe, thank you so much, and
3 thanks for – here.

4 MR. WELDON: Okay. Thank you, Mayor. Next, I will seek
5 nominations for the office of vice chair. Is there a nomination for vice?

6 MR. BENEJAN: I have a nomination, Mr. Chair.

7 MR. WELDON: Okay.

8 MR. BENEJAN: I'd like to nominate Ms. Bobbi Brown as the vice
9 chair.

10 MR. SOKOLOVIC: I'll second.

11 MR. WELDON: Okay. Mr. Benejan nominates Bobbi Brown and
12 Mr. Sokolovic seconds.

13 Are there any other nominations?

14 MS. BAPTISTE-PEREZ: I nominate Mike Maccarone.

15 MR. WELDON: Okay. Mike Maccarone from Christine Baptiste-
16 Perez. Is there a second?

17 MS. CASTILLO: I will second.

18 MR. WELDON: Okay. Are there any other nominations?

19 MS. ALLEN: I'd like to nominate Mr. Sokolovic.

20 MR. SOKOLOVIC: I'm going to decline. Thank you very much, Ms.
21 Allen. I appreciate the thought.

22 MR. WELDON: Mr. Sokolovic declines. Okay. Are there any other
23 nominations?

24 I will nominate our current – I'm sorry – yeah, Bobbi Brown.

25 Okay. So are there any other nominations? Any other

1 nominations? Third and final call: Any other nominations? Nominations
2 are closed.

3 So the two choices are Bobbi Brown and Michael Maccarone.

4 (There was a delay.)

5 MR. WELDON: Okay. Seven ballots for Bobbi Brown; two for
6 Michael Maccarone.

7 Next, call for nominations for the office of secretary. Are there any
8 nominations?

9 MR. SOKOLOVIC: Mr. Chair, I'd like to nominate Albert Benejan.

10 MR. WELDON: Is there a second?

11 MS. ALLEN: I'll second it.

12 MR. WELDON: Okay. Are there any further nominations? Are
13 there any further nominations?

14 MS. BAPTISTE-PEREZ: I nominate Joseph Lombard.

15 MR. WELDON: That was Christine?

16 MS. BAPTISTE-PEREZ: Yes.

17 MS. CASTILLO: I second it.

18 MR. WELDON: Okay. Mr. Lombard. Are there any further
19 nominations? Are there any further nominations? Third and final call:
20 Are there any nominations?

21 The nominations are closed. Ms. Valle, will you pass out the
22 ballots. The two candidates are Albert Benejan and Joseph Lombard.
23 (There was a delay.)

24 MR. WELDON: Five votes for Joseph Lombard; four for Albert
25 Benejan. Mr. Lombard prevails.

1 Next on the agenda is approval of 2020 Organizational Meeting
2 minutes. Is there a motion to approve the org meeting minutes from one
3 year ago?

4 MS. BROWN: So moved.

5 MS. ALLEN: Second.

6 MR. WELDON: Moved by Ms. Brown; seconded by Ms. Allen. Is
7 there any discussion?

8 All in favor?

9 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

10 MR. WELDON: Any opposed? Who said opposed?

11 MS. BROWN: Behind you.

12 MR. BENEJAN: Behind you.

13 MR. WELDON: Mr. Lombard is opposed?

14 MR. LOMBARD: No, I think it's delayed in time.

15 MR. WELDON: Okay. Any abstentions?

16 MR. SOKOLOVIC: There should be three.

17 MR. WELDON: The motion carries; the minutes are approved.

18 Last is approval of calendar year 2022 schedule of regular public
19 meetings. It's the last page of the packet.

20 This is based on a schedule of our meeting on the second and
21 fourth Mondays of the month, every month, except in June, which we will
22 meet only once because school ends on June 14th and we do not meet
23 when school is not in session. And then we resume meeting on the
24 fourth Monday in August, when school will begin to be in session, and
25 continue on through December.

1 Are there any anomalies, Ms. Valle? You prepared this; are there
2 any anomalies you want to point out, like something that was moved
3 from a Monday to a Tuesday because of the holiday or anything?

4 I see we have a couple of Tuesdays. Tuesday, September 27th,
5 that was moved for –

6 MS. VALLE: A Jewish holiday.

7 MR. WELDON: – a Jewish holiday, and October 11th. We're off
8 on that Monday. Okay.

9 Are there any questions?

10 MR. SOKOLOVIC: I'd like to make a motion to amend. I don't
11 know how – how everybody feels about coming to a meeting on
12 Valentine's Day, February 14th. If we could amend it to the 15th.

13 MS. BROWN: Can I second.

14 MR. LOMBARD: Can I ask that microphones are turned on.

15 MS. BROWN: Turn your mike on.

16 MR. SOKOLOVIC: Yes. I apologize, Mr. Lombard. I made an
17 amendment to change February 14th to February 15th because that's
18 Valentine's Day, and a lot of people might have other things to do. And it
19 was seconded – and it was seconded by Ms. Brown.

20 MS. BROWN: Yeah, I second the amendment.

21 MR. WELDON: Okay. All those in favor of amending the schedule
22 as noted by Mr. Sokolovic, signify by saying aye.

23 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

24 MR. WELDON: Any opposed? Any abstentions? So the schedule
25 is amended that the first meeting in February will be on the 15th, not the

1 14th. So now that the schedule's been modified in that regard, is there a
2 motion to approve it as amended?

3 MR. SOKOLOVIC: So moved.

4 MS. ALLEN: So moved.

5 MS. BROWN: Second.

6 MR. WELDON: Moved by Mr. Sokolovic; seconded by Ms. Brown.

7 Any further discussion? All in favor?

8 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

9 Any opposed? Any opposed? Any abstentions? And, Ms. Valle,
10 you have the correction. Thank you.

11 I'll next seek a motion to adjourn.

12 MS. BROWN: So moved.

13 MS. ALLEN: Second.

14 MR. BENEJAN: Second.

15 MR. WELDON: Moved by Ms. Brown; seconded by Ms. Allen?

16 All in favor?

17 Any opposed?

18 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

19 MR. WELDON: The time is noted as being 6:24 p.m.

20 (The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.)

21

22 *Approved by the board on December 12, 2022*

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE
AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE RECORDING OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF
EDUCATION, HELD BY BRIDGEPORT REGIONAL
AQUACULTURE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
CENTER, ON DECEMBER 6, 2021.

DATED THIS 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2021.

JOHN McLEOD