

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

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

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

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

21 MR. LOMBARD: Hello there.

22 MS. BROWN: We can hear you.

23 MR. BENEJAN: We can hear you.

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

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

1 MS. ALLEN: I second.

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

4 MS. ALLEN: Second.

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

7 Any other nominations? John Weldon's name is in
8 nomination. Any other nominations?

9 Hearing none, we'll close nominations -

10 MS. CASTILLO: Nomination.

11 MAYOR GANIM: Sorry?

12 MS. CASTILLO: Nomination for -

13 MAYOR GANIM: Do you want to make a -

14 MS. CASTILLO: - Christine Baptiste-Perez.

15 MS. BAPTISTE-PEREZ: I second.

16 MAYOR GANIM: Okay. Nomination of Christine and
17 seconded. So are there - so you're - as well. Anyone
18 else?

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

23 (There was a delay.)

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

1 Seven? John Weldon, seven; two, Christine
2 Baptiste. So seven to two, John Weldon is the chair of
3 the Board of Education. Welcome back again.

4 MR. WELDON: Thank you.

5 MAYOR GANIM: That's it, right, for me? Well,
6 thank you. I want to hand the chair over to you with
7 the hammer and everything, and get out of the way
8 before you get the hammer. And thank you, everyone,
9 again, and going to go on to board of ed. Supe, thank
10 you so much, and thanks for - here.

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

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

15 MR. WELDON: Okay.

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

18 MR. SOKOLOVIC: I'll second.

19 MR. WELDON: Okay. Mr. Benejan nominates Bobbi
20 Brown and Mr. Sokolovic seconds.

21 Are there any other nominations?

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

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

25 MS. CASTILLO: I will second.

1 MR. WELDON: Okay. Are there any other
2 nominations?

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

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

6 MR. WELDON: Mr. Sokolovic declines. Okay. Are
7 there any other nominations?

8 I will nominate our current - I'm sorry - yeah,
9 Bobbi Brown.

10 Okay. So are there any other nominations? Any
11 other nominations? Third and final call: Any other
12 nominations? Nominations are closed.

13 So the two choices are Bobbi Brown and Michael
14 Maccarone.

15 (There was a delay.)

16 MR. WELDON: Okay. Seven ballots for Bobbi Brown;
17 two for Michael Maccarone.

18 Next, call for nominations for the office of
19 secretary. Are there any nominations?

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

22 MR. WELDON: Is there a second?

23 MS. ALLEN: I'll second it.

24 MR. WELDON: Okay. Are there any further
25 nominations? Are there any further nominations?

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

2 MR. WELDON: That was Christine?

3 MS. BAPTISTE-PEREZ: Yes.

4 MS. CASTILLO: I second it.

5 MR. WELDON: Okay. Mr. Lombard. Are there any
6 further nominations? Are there any further nominations?
7 Third and final call: Are there any nominations?

8 The nominations are closed. Ms. Valle, will you
9 pass out the ballots. The two candidates are Albert
10 Benejan and Joseph Lombard.

11 (There was a delay.)

12 MR. WELDON: Five votes for Joseph Lombard; four
13 for Albert Benejan. Mr. Lombard prevails.

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

17 MS. BROWN: So moved.

18 MS. ALLEN: Second.

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

21 All in favor?

22 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

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

24 MS. BROWN: Behind you.

25 MR. BENEJAN: Behind you.

1 MR. WELDON: Mr. Lombard is opposed?

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

3 MR. WELDON: Okay. Any abstentions?

4 MR. SOKOLOVIC: There should be three.

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

7 Last is approval of calendar year 2022 schedule of
8 regular public meetings. It's the last page of the
9 packet.

10 This is based on a schedule of our meeting on the
11 second and fourth Mondays of the month, every month,
12 except in June, which we will meet only once because
13 school ends on June 14th and we do not meet when school
14 is not in session. And then we resume meeting on the
15 fourth Monday in August, when school will begin to be
16 in session, and continue on through December.

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

21 I see we have a couple of Tuesdays. Tuesday,
22 September 27th, that was moved for -

23 MS. VALLE: A Jewish holiday.

24 MR. WELDON: - a Jewish holiday, and October 11th.
25 We're off on that Monday. Okay.

1 Are there any questions?

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

6 MS. BROWN: Can I second.

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

9 MS. BROWN: Turn your mike on.

10 MR. SOKOLOVIC: Yes. I apologize, Mr. Lombard. I
11 made an amendment to change February 14th to February
12 15th because that's Valentine's Day, and a lot of
13 people might have other things to do. And it was
14 seconded - and it was seconded by Ms. Brown.

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

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

19 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

20 MR. WELDON: Any opposed? Any abstentions? So
21 the schedule is amended that the first meeting in
22 February will be on the 15th, not the 14th. So now that
23 the schedule's been modified in that regard, is there a
24 motion to approve it as amended?

25 MR. SOKOLOVIC: So moved.

1 MS. ALLEN: So moved.

2 MS. BROWN: Second.

3 MR. WELDON: Moved by Mr. Sokolovic; seconded by
4 Ms. Brown. Any further discussion? All in favor?

5 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

6 Any opposed? Any opposed? Any abstentions? And,
7 Ms. Valle, you have the correction. Thank you.

8 I'll next seek a motion to adjourn.

9 MS. BROWN: So moved.

10 MS. ALLEN: Second.

11 MR. BENEJAN: Second.

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

14 All in favor?

15 Any opposed?

16 ("Ayes" were sounded.)

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

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

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

