

MENDON-UPTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Special School Committee Meeting

Virtual

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Committee Present:

Sean Nicholson, Erick Brown, Phil DeZutter, Kerry Laurence, Vikki Ludwigson

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Kerry Laurence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: On a motion of Vikki Ludwigson, seconded by Sean Nicholson, to approve the agenda without the approval of minutes item.

VOTED:

Sean Nicholson, yes

Erick Martin, yes

Vikki Ludwigson, yes

Kerry Laurence, yes

Phil DeZutter, yes

II. WORKSHOP WITH SEARCH CONSULTANT TO DESIGN NEXT STEPS IN SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS

The School Committee discussed the search process with Michael Palandino from NESDEC (Superintendent Search Consultant)

Michael from NESDEC stated the following should be discussed this evening:

- On target on timeline
- Day of in-district schedule
- Interview questions
- References

Michael stated a sample schedule, sample questions reference grid, community survey and day of visit outline were distributed.

Vikki Ludwigson stated she shared the sample schedule with the admin team. The consensus from the admin team was Wednesday, January 12 was best day to have the in-district visit. Vikki will arrange the day however NESDEC will confirm the date with the candidates and distribute them the schedule. It was noted Sean Nicholson has a conflict on Wednesday evening for interviews but may be able to participate remotely.

It was determined Phil DeZutter and Vikki Ludwigson are available to host the candidates on Wednesday Jan 12. Vikki will work with the building principals to determine the schedule of the 2 candidates. Michael recommended Vikki and Phil take notes of the discussions. Vikki will get the schedule to NESDEC by Monday Jan 10 for distribution to the candidates.

Discussion regarding the date of deliberations –

- Kerry Laurence stated she is hoping there will not be a need for a long discussion after the interviews because one candidate will be the clear choice.

- School Committee members stated they would be looking to get results of the community survey as soon as possible in preparation for deliberations to have available after the interviews.

It was at this point of the meeting the School Committee was informed Hingham district voted to enter into negotiations with the external candidate.

Michael from NESDEC recommends to move forward with the one candidate with the schedule/interview. School Committee can then deliberate to decide if to move forward with negotiations or repost the position.

Kerry Laurence stated this process is being used for transparency and it would be important to have feedback. Members agreed. It was determined to still continue with the district visit and to get community feedback. Interview will occur on January 12. It was noted to still continue to plan for 2 candidates until the other candidate formally withdraws.

Interviews will last 75 minutes. 6 – 7:15; 7:30 – 8:45. Deliberations will be in open session.

Discussion among the members on who is calling reference checks. When more information is available, calls could be made on Monday/Tuesday. Phil DeZutter, Kerry Laurence and Sean Nicholson have stated they can make the calls. Sample questions for reference calls have been distributed and they will work to which calls to be made.

NESDEC will get back to the members in regards to whether the outside candidate will move forward.

It was determined to still do community survey and get the feedback as soon as possible. Phil DeZutter asked since the internal candidate is known, would it be beneficial to send survey out early and get that feedback soon.

Lastly, Michael from NESDEC asked if School Committee is ok moving forward with one candidate. Vikki Ludwigson stated the screening committee were committed to these 2 strong candidates. Phil DeZutter stated feedback has been the internal candidate is highly regarded.

More info to come...

III. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: MOTION: On motion of Vikki Ludwigson, seconded by Phil DeZutter to adjourn

VOTED:

Sean Nicholson, yes

Erick Martin, yes

Vikki Ludwigson, yes

Kerry Laurence, yes

Phil DeZutter, yes

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.
Minutes by Kelly McElreath