

## Wayland School Committee

April 11, 2023

### Minutes

#### Attendees:

Chris Ryan, chair (arrived at 6:10 pm)

Ellen Greico, vice chair

Jeanne Downs

Erin Gibbons

Jess Polizzotti

#### Also attending:

John Macero (via Zoom)

Tim Luff

Bella Wong

Ellen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and noted that the chair, Chris Ryan, is running late. Ellen reviewed the logistics of the meeting and the Committee assigned interview questions to each member.

#### **Interview with John Macero (via Zoom)**

Mr. Macero introduced himself noting he recently retired as Stoneham's superintendent. He was previously superintendent in Winthrop and was a school committee member in his town for 23 years.

Mr. Macero noted the role of the superintendent to be the CEO of the organization with the importance of doing work efficiently, collaboration, and building a strong team so that the students get the best of everyone. He noted his work in Stoneham through the difficult past few years and his open door approach.

Mr. Macero described his work with Special Education including creating in-district programs. He also described his retirement and being rejuvenated and ready to get back into education. He feels he will be the transitional leader Wayland needs. He discussed the importance of working together as a community to allow all students to have full inclusiveness.

Mr. Macero described how he handled a hazing incident in Winthrop, his work with the MSBA, his collaboration with the town, how he approaches the budget, and safety. Mr. Macero told the Committee that his best attribute is relationships which leads to trust.

#### **Interview with Tim Luff**

Mr. Luff introduced himself noting he is the current Deputy Superintendent of the Natick Public Schools where he has worked for 12 years. In addition to his work in many areas in the district, he supports the district in all legal issues. He sees Wayland as an opportunity to build on its already strong foundation.

Mr. Luff spoke about the importance of listening and empathy and noted the stay interviews done in Natick. Mr. Luff has an extensive background in Special Education with a vision of "every student can

achieve at high levels". He has developed many in-district programs noting it is best to keep students in district. Mr. Luff sees Wayland in need of someone who can stabilize, understands all departments, can build a team, can listen and empathize, and can do what is best for kids.

Mr. Luff noted the importance of regular visits to school buildings to hear from teachers and build relationships. He spoke about the need for students to feel total representation in every way, and important teachable moments. He described how he dealt with a coaching issue, student and staff safety, and the importance of a strategic plan in building a budget. Mr. Luff told the Committee he wants to be in Wayland and will be a collaborative, out of the box thinker. He then asked the Committee what they were looking for in an acting superintendent.

### **Interview with Bella Wong**

Ms. Wong introduced herself noting she is retiring this spring after ten years as the Lincoln-Sudbury superintendent. She was previously the Wellesley superintendent. She is familiar with the Wayland community.

Ms. Wong noted that the most important thing is what is happening in the classroom. She noted the importance of being responsive to the community, equity, and superintendent accessibility. She noted the importance of listening, partnering with the School Committee, and getting feedback. Ms. Wong has a deep interest in Student Services and noted the importance of in-district programs.

Ms. Wong noted the importance of hearing from all stakeholders, remembering that the schools are funded by the community, the importance of balance with teacher autonomy, and getting input for all decisions. Ms. Wong spoke about DEI, how she handled a controversial issue in the school, school safety, and how she approaches budgeting. Ms. Wong noted her hope for all students and their ability to do great things and change the world.

### **Discussion**

The Committee discussed posting a meeting for Friday to discuss the candidates interviewed tonight and those being interviewed tomorrow.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion made Jess Polizzotti and seconded by Erin Gibbons, the Committee voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Downs

### **Corresponding Documents:**

Interview Questions