

**DANBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013 - 6:00 PM  
Administrative Center**

**Present:** E. Alberts, G. Cooper, M. Ferguson, A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Hawley,  
R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, R. Pietrafesa and P. Tranzillo

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Eileen Alberts, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Cooper said that she will not be running for Secretary of the Board of Education, and withdrew her name.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Chairperson asked for nominations from the floor for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education:

MOTION - R. Pietrafesa nominated R. Hawley, seconded by A. Fluskey-Lattin.

There being no further nominations the Chairperson closed the nominations.

**Motion carried at 6:10 pm.**

Florence Modzelewski counted the votes and with a vote of 7 to 2, Richard Hawley was elected as Secretary of the Board of Education. (Ms. Cooper voted NO and Mr. Hawley abstained)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION APPLICANT INTERVIEWS**

Six applicants were interviewed for the vacant seats on the Board due to the resignation of Sandy Steichen and Shirley Chilian. The candidates were interviewed on the following schedule:

Holly Robinson	6:15 pm
Robert Taborsak	6:30 pm
Josiah Hills	6:45 pm

*The Board took a 4 minute recess, until 7:00 pm.*

Gary Falkenthal	7:00 pm
David Metrena	7:15 pm
Anthony Silva	7:30 pm

The candidates were supplied with, and were asked, seven questions during their individual interviews. Each Board member asked one or more of the following questions:

- 1) As a candidate seeking to serve on the Board of Education, please describe how you view, at this time, the roles and responsibilities of the position.
- 2) Please share with the Board the initial steps you have taken to prepare for this position, such as: awareness of educational issues, involvement with educational groups, etc. Have you attended any previous Board of Education meetings or had an opportunity to read any of the Board Minutes?
- 3) Are you aware of the time commitment required for effective Board functioning? Please provide information indicating personal time available for Board training, special meetings, committee meetings, community events, as well as regular scheduled Board meetings.
- 4) Would you, as a member of the Board, recognize your duty to represent impartially all the people of the district rather than any special interest group; be it political, social, religious or economic? Elaborate.
- 5) In your view, what are the most critical issues facing public education in general, and the Danbury School system in particular, at this time. How would you look to resolve these issues?
- 6) What contributions can you bring to this Board and why did you decide to join?
- 7) Are you employed by the Board of Education in any capacity?

The candidates responded to the questions. At the end of each interview the Board asked if they wished to make a brief closing statement.

Ms. Alberts told each candidate that the Board would be making their decision this evening and if they wished they could stay. If they were unable to stay for the appointments, the Board would get back to them after the Executive Session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION - R. Jannelli moved, seconded by P. Tranzillo that the Board of Education convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Board Candidates and act on the appointments in Public Session.

**The motion passed unanimously at 7:25 pm.**

**Present:** E. Alberts, G. Cooper, M. Ferguson, A. Fluskey-Lattin, R. Hawley, R. Jannelli, K. Molinaro, R. Pietrafesa and P. Tranzillo

Ms. Alberts led the Board in discussion of the candidates' interviews.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

MOTION - E. Alberts moved, seconded by K. Molinaro that the Board of Education return to Public Session for the purpose of voting on the candidates to be appointed to the Danbury Board of Education.

**The motion passed unanimously at 8:10 pm.**

MOTION- R. Hawley moved, seconded by E. Alberts to appoint David Metrena to the Board of Education to fill the seat vacated by Sandy Steichen to the end of the term, November 2015.

MOTION- R. Hawley moved, seconded by E. Alberts to appoint Robert Taborsak to the Board of Education to fill the seat vacated by Shirley Chilian to the end of the term, November 2015.

**The motions passed unanimously at 8:15 p.m.**

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Mr. Metrena was sworn in by Florence Modzelewski. The Board congratulated Mr. Metrena and welcomed him to the Board.

Mr. Taborsak was sworn in by Florence Modzelewski. The Board congratulated Mr. Taborsak and welcomed him back on the Board.

Ms. Alberts thanked all the candidates for coming to the interviews. She stated that it was a hard decision and asked that they please stay involved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

P. Tranzillo moved, seconded by R. Jannelli that the Board of Education adjourns the Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

---

Richard Hawley, Secretary