

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

May 17, 2018

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:47 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board members answered roll call: Phil Costello, Sue Kerr, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Jeanette Ward, and Donna Smith.

President Smith requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss the selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance. The motion was made at 5:48 p.m. by Mrs. Ward, second by Ms. Kerr. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made at 5:58 p.m. by Mrs. Ward, second by Ms. Kerr to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The business session began at 6:02 p.m. Present for the business session of the meeting were the same Board members listed in the first paragraph above and Chief Executive Officer Tony Sanders. The following administrators were also present: Dr. Ushma Shah and Mary Fergus. Also present were media representative Rafael Guerrero of the Courier, administrators and members of the public. Ms. Noland led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Interview of Candidates for Board Vacancy

A. Interview of Candidates for Board Vacancy

i. Eva Porter Interview

Ms. Owens asked: What has been her experience in U-46? Ms. Porter stated her experience in U-46 has been very positive. Ms. Porter stated she worked in the District for four years and two of her three children attended U-46 schools.

Mrs. Ward asked: What was her position on school choice and charter schools? Ms. Porter stated she feels that every child should have a quality education and school choice should be an opportunity for them. Ms. Porter has concerns with charter schools and feels that they have a place but there is still a lot to learn about the academic achievements of charter school students.

Ms. Kerr asked: How would she proactively reach out to engage the public about their concerns or suggestions that may not be represented on the Board's agenda? Ms. Porter stated that she thinks the District does a good job of making sure the community knows what is going on in the District. Ms. Porter stated that Board members need to make the community comfortable and let them know they are approachable.

Ms. Noland asked: What personal or professional experiences have prepared her to serve as a School Board Member? Ms. Porter stated that she has served in education all her life, has a Bachelor's in Education from Shaw University and a Master's in Curriculum, Supervision and Instruction from Northern Illinois University. Ms. Porter has 27 years of combined educational experience and currently serves as a trustee for the Poplar Creek Library Board.

Mr. Costello asked: What measures would she support, in order of preference, to achieve a balanced budget: increase taxes; cut programs; cut capital projects; increase class sizes; and issuing debt? Ms. Porter stated she would be against increasing class sizes, increasing taxes would be a possibility, and if programs could be cut without doing too much harm to students then she would be a proponent of that, cutting capital projects would need to be researched to make sure not too much damage is done.

ii. Lisa Klimek Interview

Mrs. Ward asked: What has been her experience in U-46?

Ms. Klimek stated she has three children that graduated from Streamwood High School and her grandchildren attend U-46 schools. She has been a very active volunteer and was the President of the Streamwood High School Booster Club for three years. She stated her experience with the District has been great.

Ms. Kerr asked: What was her position on school choice and charter schools? Ms. Klimek stated that school choice should be an option. Ms. Klimek stated that she does not have an opinion on charter schools because she has not had any experience with them.

Ms. Noland asked: How would she proactively reach out to engage the public about their concerns or suggestions that may not be represented on the Board's agenda? Ms. Klimek stated she is still actively participating in the Streamwood Booster Club. She also participates in the Boy Scouts with her grandchildren. Ms. Klimek stated that she would be willing to participate in many activities outside of Board meetings.

Mr. Costello asked: what personal or professional experiences have prepared her to serve as a School Board Member? Ms. Klimek stated she is a parent of five children and has been actively volunteering for the past 23 years. Ms. Klimek stated she has been a Pack Master, a Boy Scout Den Leader, and the President of the Booster Club. Ms. Klimek stated she enjoys working with the community.

Mrs. Smith asked: What weaknesses does she feel are in U-46 and how would she help make them strengths rather than weaknesses? Ms. Klimek stated she

sees very low parent participation. Ms. Klimek would like to see the District get parents involved at a very young age and make sure they stay involved all the way through to the end.

iii. Preet Mittal Interview

Ms. Kerr asked: What has been her experience in U-46? Ms. Mittal stated she has been in the District for 11 years. Ms. Mittal has three children that attended U-46 schools and it has been a very positive experience. Ms. Mittal has been involved with her PTO and next year will be the President of the Bartlett High School PTO.

Mr. Costello asked: What was her position on school choice and charter schools? Ms. Mittal stated that both of her daughters are in the U-46 Academies and they love it. Ms. Mittal feels giving students an option is an amazing opportunity. Ms. Mittal stated she does not know enough about charter schools yet to have an opinion and she would like to learn more about it.

Ms. Noland asked: How would she proactively reach out to engage the public about their concerns or suggestions that may not be represented on the Board's agenda? Ms. Mittal stated she would use her many connections with the PTO at three different schools, word of mouth, and social media.

Ms. Smith asked: What personal or professional experiences have prepared her to serve as a School Board Member? Ms. Mittal stated she is the parent of three children, she volunteers at several education-related organizations, and education is deeply rooted in her soul.

Ms. Owens asked: What has been her biggest success and biggest struggle as a volunteer? Ms. Mittal stated her biggest success has been the recent change in the Bartlett High School PTO. The focus of the PTO was on fundraising and she and the rest of the group worked together to change the focus to a parent advisory council to the principal. Ms. Mittal stated her biggest struggle has been getting involved at the middle school level. The short period of time kids are in middle school makes it difficult for parents to get involved.

iv. John Devereux Interview

Ms. Noland asked: What has been his experience in U-46? Mr. Devereux stated that he has been a resident of the District for 25 years and he has two sons who have attended U-46 schools. He has been very active with the schools via his PTO, coaching, and band. Mr. Devereux stated it has been a very positive experience.

Mr. Costello asked: What was his position on school choice and charter schools? Mr. Devereux stated he is not for or against charter schools. He feels there are opportunities to learn from them. Mr. Devereux stated he is not keen

on diverting District funds to a charter school but if the District could learn something from them it might be worth considering. As far as school choice Mr. Devereux stated he is a big fan of the academies and the choice offers a great deal of opportunity to students.

Mrs. Smith asked: How would he proactively reach out to engage the public about their concerns or suggestions that may not be represented on the Board's agenda? Mr. Devereux stated he would attend community and school-related events and utilize social media.

Ms. Owens asked: What personal or professional experiences have prepared him to serve as a School Board Member? Mr. Devereux stated his personal experiences with the District through his kids and volunteering plus his 30 years of professional experiences as an actuary have prepared him for this position.

Ms. Ward asked: What his opinion was on academic freedom and how would he define it? Mr. Devereux stated he feels that student-directed dialogue is important and a great way to learn. He stated that the concept of how to learn, not only textbook-based learning, is important.

v. Kevin Sweeney Interview

Mr. Costello asked: What has been his experience in U-46?

Mr. Sweeney stated he attended Larkin High School, his daughter attends a U-46 school, and he is on the CAC. Mr. Sweeney stated that his experience with the District has been very positive.

Mrs. Smith asked: What was his position on school choice and charter schools? Mr. Sweeney stated he is a fan of school choice. He does not think that the nearest school to a student is always the best place for them. Mr. Sweeney likes the academies and the options they offer students. Mr. Sweeney stated that charter schools have a place. He is not pro or con. He feels they need to have a good business plan to be successful.

Ms. Owens asked: How would he proactively reach out to engage the public about their concerns or suggestions that may not be represented on the Board's agenda? Mr. Sweeney stated he would go to the places that the people are. He stated he would attend events, visit schools, and attend PTO meetings.

Ms. Ward asked: What personal or professional experiences have prepared him to serve as a School Board Member? Mr. Sweeney stated he has an affinity for policy governance. He understands the purpose of the Board is not to run all the schools but to set the limits.


Ms. Kerr asked: What was his impression of his student's technology experiences and his opinion of technology in schools? Mr. Sweeney stated his

child has not used a lot of technology in school. Mr. Sweeney stated he is not yet sure about one-to-one technology. He feels that the technology in U-46 is good and he expects there will be more in the future.

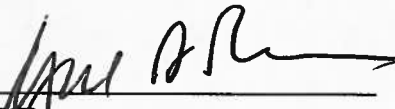
2. Comments from the Audience
There were no public comments.

3. Adjournment
Motion by Mrs. Ward, by Ms. Owens, to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of May 17, 2018, at 7:44 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Costello, Ms. Kerr, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Ward, and Mrs. Smith. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Approved this 18th day of June, 2018.



President



Secretary

