

**ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALBION, NEW YORK 14411
JULY 8, 2019
SUMMARY OF THE REORGANIZATIONAL
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

District Clerk, Mr. Derek Vallese, called the reorganizational meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Administering of Oaths - Mr. Vallese administered the oath to Mr. Sidari and Mrs. Weller and obtained signatures from both.

Election of President and Vice President - Mr. Vallese accepted nominations for the board president.

Mrs. Nesbitt nominated Mrs. Harling for President and Mrs. Brown nominated Mr. Sidari.

A vote was taken and Mr. Wadhams, Mrs. Weller, Mrs. Nesbitt and Mrs. Harling voted for Mrs. Harling for Board President.

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Sacco, and Mr. Sidari voted for Mr. Sidari for Board President.

Mr. Bonnewell indicated that since a panel of five is necessary to elect a President, the Board does not currently have a President and the Board must now determine how to move forward. Mrs. Nesbitt asked for clarification since the Board policy states that the motion carries if it is a majority of the Board. It was pointed out that five members would be the majority of a nine member Board.

Mr. Wadhams stated that a simple majority was alright last month and that they were advised that four carried the motion. Mr. Bonnewell indicated that the Board was advised incorrectly and it does in fact require five votes.

Mr. Wadhams stated that he would like to nominate Mrs. Harling once again. Mrs. Sacco pointed out that it would just go round and round if put to another vote. She asked if one of the nominees could serve as Vice President and one serve as President. Mrs. Brown stated that that seemed like a reasonable compromise. Mrs. Brown indicated that as a Board it is important that we move forward and we need a way to work together. She stated that it is pretty obvious that the Board is divided and reiterated that they need to work together in order to move forward. She stated that she thinks the compromise Mrs. Sacco offered is a good one and members could compromise based on what is best for the district, community and students. Sitting at a stalemate is doing nothing for the good of Albion per Mrs. Brown.

Mr. Wadhams stated that he would like to nominate Mr. Sidari as the Vice President. Mr. Sidari indicated that he feels the reason he would like the office of the President is that the President is able to work with everyone, including administration and the Superintendent and that the President must represent the district well. He stated that some have felt that he has been here too long, but he feels his experience makes a big difference. He knows what goes on in other districts and within the Albion district. Mr. Sidari stated that he feels that he has the respect that is required for the entire administration and that he will continue to have that and continue to build this Board up so that we are all on the same page as it is not in a good spot right now.

Mrs. Harling agreed that a President needs to be able to work with everyone and she stated that she can do that. She indicated that when she ran for the Board, she did it because she wants to make a difference for kids. She stated that the kids are the primary reason we are here and she knows that is something everyone can agree upon. Mrs. Harling indicated that she knows there have been disagreements of late and while everyone may have the best intentions, the way that it has been carried out has created a clash. She continued to say that she desires to work with this Board to bring the district and the Board to a better place and do what is right for kids. She pointed out that she will fight for what she thinks is right, but that she won't carry it outside the Board room. She expressed that she is in agreement with Mr. Sidari in that they need to work together and stated that is her plan.

Mrs. Sacco stated that she thinks that Mrs. Harling and Mr. Sidari would make a great Vice President and President team and they could work together to make this a great Board.

Mrs. Harling pointed out that Mr. Sidari has many years of experience that she doesn't have and that she believes he is a fabulous resource. She indicated that she is comfortable with the public speaking aspect of the Presidency and that she thinks they would be a good team. She indicated that she would support Mr. Sidari as Vice President.

Mr. Sidari indicated that he doesn't feel that it should go that way this year.

Mr. Bonnewell reiterated that there is one nomination for Vice President and asked if there are any others. Jen Schwartzott, school district attorney, was introduced. She stated that she is in attendance due to another matter this evening, but wanted to share Policy 1620 which addresses the issue at hand. She presented a copy of the Policy to Mr. Bonnewell who summarized it. He reminded the Board that they can waive their Policy if they wish, but that it states that the President shall be elected first, then the Vice President.

Mr. Wadhams again nominated Mrs. Harling for president.

Mrs. Brown commented that she believes that Mrs. Harling would make a good President and she feels that her heart is in the right place. She went on to say that one concern she has is the recent completion of the requirements to be a school board member. It is required that this coursework be completed within the first year a member is elected to the Board and although she was after Mrs. Harling month after month, it was not completed within the first year. It was finally completed on June 30th of this year, which was the end of Mrs. Harling's second year as a Board member. Mrs. Harling stated that she understands the concern and takes responsibility for not completing it in a timely manner, but that she does not feel it would affect her ability to be an effective President. Mrs. Harling stated that if she is elected she would put in 150% and do what needed to be done.

Mr. Sidari pointed out that the President's job is mainly to serve as another Board member and that there are no specific duties, but that as the President, you do work closely with the Superintendent on some issues. Mr. Sidari indicated that he feels that he is better suited to work with the Superintendent at this time because if things start deteriorating between the Superintendent and the Board President, it could go downhill faster than it is now.

Mrs. Nesbitt responded to Mrs. Brown's point regarding the delay in Mrs. Harling's required coursework. She indicated that she does understand the concern, but feels that it is not a very detailed training and it is one that you can do on the website. Mrs. Brown stated that wasn't her point, and that it was more about the fact that it needed to be done the first year and it wasn't.

Mrs. Nesbitt stated that she feels the Board needs a new perspective and that they need to appoint someone that can be respected. She indicated that we need change and a fresh view and she feels that Mrs. Harling and Mr. Sidari would be a great team. Mrs. Nesbitt pointed out that she does respect Mr. Sidari's experience.

Mr. Bonnewell pointed out that the floor is still open to nominations. Mrs. Brown stated that her interest in this is the integrity of the district and doing what's best for the community and our kids. She stated that has always been her focus and always will be. Mrs. Brown stressed that she has the utmost respect for Mr. Sidari and that it is her goal that the President and Vice President will work together. She stated that she will support Mrs. Harling for President, but that she wants her word that she will work with Mr. Sidari at all times. Mrs. Harling agreed that she would work with Mr. Sidari and Mrs. Brown asked again that she give her word that she will. Mrs. Harling stated again that she would work with Mr. Sidari. Mrs. Brown indicated that she feels that Mr. Sidari would be a good President, but that the Board needs to move forward.

Mrs. Brown seconded Mr. Wadham's nomination for Mrs. Harling for Board President. A vote was taken and Mrs. Harling was voted in as President of the Board of Education.

BOARD APPROVED

Nominations were opened for Vice President and Mrs. Brown nominated Mr. Sidari for Vice President which he accepted. A vote was taken and Mr. Sidari was voted in as Vice President of the Board of Education.

BOARD APPROVED

Mrs. Kathy Harling and Mr. David Sidari were sworn in and took an oath administered by Mr. Derek Vallese.

ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Bonnewell explained the organizational business appointments and highlighted several, including Mr. Vallese as District Clerk, and Ms. Ishmael as Assistant Clerk. He stated that the remaining positions remain as they are and have historically been. He explained that we have 2 auditors; one independent who audits the books and one internal auditor. He explained that this has become necessary due to some issues in other school districts and the State decided that each district must now go through a second audit with an auditor that looks more at processes than books. He further explained that we appoint 2 attorneys and that one is the local attorney who handles PINS cases for students and the second is the general education counsel. There is also a specialist in construction matters and a specialist in special education matters. Those positions that are internal staff and do not have a dollar amount indicated, are appointed without additional compensation. Banking procedures were also reviewed. He stated that the first Monday of the month has been identified for BOE meetings, with the exception of September and May and a draft schedule was provided.

Mr. Wadhams requested that item IIA-23 (Designation of Local Attorney for the District) be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Wadhams also asked if we could vote on IIA-34 (ACSD Athletic Director – Adam Krenning) prior to the regular Board meeting which is scheduled to occur directly following the reorganizational meeting. Mr. Bonnewell explained that essentially the Board is making the appointment in this reorganizational meeting if Mr. Krenning would be appointed to the position. Once the Board has appointed him in this meeting, it would carry through the next.

Mr. Wadhams made a motion to accept agenda items #1-22, with Mrs. Weller seconding the motion.

BOARD APPROVED

Mr. Wadhams made a motion to approve agenda items #23-46, which was seconded by Mrs. Brown.

BOARD APPROVED

Mrs. Sacco made a motion to approve agenda items B- T, which was seconded by Mr. Wadhams.

BOARD APPROVED

Mrs. Weller asked if the mileage rate changes in January if it would also change for the district and Mr. Bonnewell responded that it would. The IRS rate is, by their vote, the district rate.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve agenda items III – VI, which was seconded by Mr. Wadhams.

BOARD APPROVED

SUBSTITUTE PAY RATES

Mr. Bonnewell provided some background information relative to agenda item VIII – Substitute Pay Rates. He indicated that last year we authorized some increases that put us close or a bit above our neighbors. He stated that it is difficult to tell what others districts are doing as all Boards are holding their reorganizational meeting around this time, but based on the fact that we were near the top of the heap last year, he is comfortable recommending that we keep the rate that we set last year with only a few exceptions. Minimum wage will be increased to \$11.80 on December 31, 2019. If we know the increase is coming, rather than resetting it in the middle of the school year, it would make sense to set it at the beginning of the school year. Summer workers are increased to the current summer minimum wage of \$11.10 as they will be done with their work commitment prior to Labor Day and will not be impacted by the increase in minimum wage scheduled to occur in December.

Mrs. Weller questioned the rate difference between certified substitutes and non-certified substitutes. She asked if a \$5 difference was typical as she seemed to recall at one time it was a \$20 or \$30 difference. Mr. Bonnewell stated that to his recollection, it was a \$10 difference when he started in the district and that it was narrowed to a \$5 difference because as a substitute you are basically doing the same job whether certified or non-certified. Long-term substitutes are paid at step 1 as they are expected to perform the duties of a full-time teacher. Mrs. Harling asked how we compare to neighboring districts and Mr. Bonnewell stated that it puts us right near the top of the 2018-2019 year in our BOCES area. He indicated that we did approve a good increase last year.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve agenda item VII, which was seconded by Mr. Wadhams

BOARD APPROVED

CSE & CPSE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The CSE and CPSE Personnel Recommendations (agenda item VIII) were reviewed. Committee members and parent representatives were identified. Mr. Bonnewell explained that years ago parent representatives were an automatic seat at the committee table, but laws have changed and now parent reps are only there if requested to be there by a parent. The make-up of the CPSE committee looks much the same, without a psychologist, but a representative from the municipality (county) is present. A surrogate parent was identified for the 2019-20 school year if there is a need. The CSE/CPSE recommendations also include a list of independent evaluators in the event that a parent seeks a second opinion.

Mrs. Weller asked how the independent evaluators are selected and Ms. Leto responded that there is discussion amongst the different providers and there is a shared understanding. Consultation with Mr. Goldstein, the special education counsel for the district, also occurs.

Mrs. Weller made a motion to accept agenda item VIII and Mrs. Nesbitt seconded the motion.

BOARD APPROVED

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEES AND ASSIGNMENTS

Agenda item IX – Board of Education Committees and Assignments was discussed. Mr. Bonnewell indicated that the Board President may appoint individuals to each committee, but in this district the President has historically accepted that members may express desired committee participation according to their interest(s). It was suggested that designation of committee members can wait until the August Board of Education meeting and that members can submit their preferences to the Board President prior to that meeting and she can appoint.

Mrs. Nesbitt made a motion to move to executive session to discuss agenda item IIA-23 and Mr. Wadhams seconded the motion.

BOARD APPROVED

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD APPROVED

REGULAR SESSION

BOARD APPROVED

Mrs. Brown made a motion to approve agenda item IIA-23 and Mrs. Sacco seconded the motion.

BOARD APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT

BOARD APPROVED