

Shutesbury Select Board Meeting Minutes  
September 16, 2021 Virtual Meeting Platform

Select Board members present: Rita Farrell/Chair and Eric Stocker

Select Board member absent: Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil

Staff present: Becky Torres/Town Administrator; Linda Avis Scott/Administrative Secretary

School Committee members present: Dan Hayes/Chair, Lauren Thomas-Paquin, Steve Sullivan, and Bethany Rose

School Staff present: Union #28 Superintendent Jennifer Culkeen, Shutesbury Elementary School Principal Jackie Mendonsa, Union #28 Director of Finance & Operations Bruce Turner

Guests: Ethan Todras-Whitehill, Jeanne Brown, Julie Martel, Mary Lou Conca, Susie Mosher, Jenn Avery, Trevor Kearns, Robert Levine, Melissa Warwick and other unidentified attendees

Hayes calls the School Committee to order at 7:11pm.

Farrell calls the Select Board to order at 7:11pm.

Joint Appointment to School Committee Vacancy: Hayes: the appointment is to fill a vacant position through 6.30.22 when the three-year elected position will be voted on. Hayes acknowledges that there are four applicants however only one person will be appointed. The appointment process is reviewed. Hayes and Farrell will tally votes.

Ethan Todras- Whitehill: has two children in the school; moved to Shutesbury in 2013; has attended School Committee meetings; can serve this term however is unable to run in 2022 due to a sabbatical year; is the president and founder of Swing Left, a former journalist and teacher, and has done school product and curriculum consulting; is volunteering because this is a critical time for the elementary school; appreciates school staff.

Jeanne Brown: interested in serving the school community; cares about the decisions being made and will be happy to contribute; it would be an honor to serve; has two children in the school system and appreciates her connection to the school and its families.

Julie Martel: has two children currently attending the school; has a unique perspective as an adoptive parent and the parent of a child with special needs; her professional work is stewardship and donor relations for UMass; is able to consider policy to determine that needs are met; moved to Shutesbury in 2006.

Mary Lou Conca: moved to Shutesbury in 2005; is the mother of two adult children and grandmother of five; began as a preschool teacher in 1998; represents the voice of people who are ordinarily not heard within the greater system; works in advocacy, i.e., supporting single parents in the special education process; states educational experience as per her letter of intent.

School Committee and Select Board members introduce themselves.

Thomas-Paquin moves to appoint Julie Martel to the School Committee for a term ending 6:30.22; Sullivan seconds the motion. Roll call vote: Thomas-Paquin: yay, Sullivan: yay, Rose:

yay; Hayes: aye. Farrell moves and Stocker seconds a motion to appoint Julie Martel to the School Committee for a term ending 6.30.22. Roll call vote: Stocker: yay and Farrell: yay.

Hayes thanks the remaining candidates and reminds them about the opportunity to serve the school in other capacities.

Hayes congratulates Julie Martel on her appointment. Torres explains the need for Martel to be sworn in by the Town Clerk. Farrell: it is thrilling to have qualified people interested in serving the school; there are other town committees with opportunities to serve.

At 7:30pm, Stocker moves and Farrell seconds a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Stocker: aye and Farrell: aye; the motion carries.

Documents and Other Items Used at the Meeting:

Letters of interests from each of the candidates

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Avis Scott  
Administrative Secretary