

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
James Leo McGuinness Administration Building
100 Bennett Street
Lynn, Massachusetts

Committee of the Whole Meeting
Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Mr. Castellanos, Ms. Coppola, Mr. Ford, Ms. Gately
Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Satterwhite, Mayor McGee

In Attendance: Attorney Mihos

Mayor McGee presided.

The Mayor opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Item 1: Superintendent Interviews

Mayor McGee introduced the first candidate, Dr. Patrick Tutwiler

Committee members asked the following questions:

Question 1:

Mr. Castellanos – Social Emotional support is very important in this district. What is your experience with the Social Emotional component? How will you manage high risk students with the involvement of parents and teachers to address their needs?

Mr. Satterwhite – Superintendent Catherine Latham announced her retirement on December 18, 2017 and the Home Rule Petition recommendation did not happen until February 2018 and on your application, you stated you heard about the position from MASC Posting, yet two of your letters of recommendation are dated November 14, 2017 and November 27, 2017. In addition, these two letters of recommendation are crafted as if they were meant for another district. Have you applied for any other Superintendent position? You probably would agree that a school district like Lexington, Massachusetts is far different than Lynn with regards to student populations and current urgent needs. If you are not afforded the position of Superintendent, will you finish out the remainder of your contract as Deputy Superintendent?

Mr. Nicholson – Putting aside the physical state of our schools for a moment, what areas of the Lynn Public Schools are most in need of growth, development or improvement and how would you approach finding strategies to address those areas?

Ms. Gately – Can you provide examples of how you have inspired and supported faculty and staff to be successful? What is your approach feedback to team members who you would like to be more successful? Are there consequences? If so, what would be the consequences for staff that do not follow your directives?

Ms. Coppola – SPED, our Special Education Department, needs a leader! As a district we have had difficulty recruiting a director. If you became Superintendent what should we look for in a SPED Director that would support your goals and vision?

Mr. Ford – What strategies would you implement to make our buildings more accessible after the school day ends without incurring a dramatic cost increase?

Mayor McGee – Can you describe for us some of your successes of which you are particularly proud. How did you achieve these successes and what was your role?

Question 2:

Mr. Castellanos – According to a recent NPR article, “High-Paying Trade Jobs Sit Empty, while High School Grads Line Up for University.” Lynn needs high paying jobs and we have a vocational school. What does Vocational Expansion mean to you? How would you achieve this as Superintendent?

Mr. Satterwhite – During your time as Principal at Wayland Public Schools you stated that you were “Responsible for all aspects of successful operation of Wayland High School.” On or about July 28, 2011, a Middlesex Superior Court Complaint (1181CV02648) was filed against you for Employment Discrimination as well as Wayland Public Schools, by Martha Jamieson, a graduate of Lynn English. A General Release and Settlement Agreement was signed on December 29, 2012. The case was dismissed with prejudice in January of 2013 and you left Wayland Public Schools in June of 2013. Keeping in mind the General Release and Settlement Agreement, “In the event the terms of this Agreement become public through no fault or actions of either party or their agents, this confidentiality provision will no longer be binding upon either party.” Was this litigation part of the reason for your departure? What would you have done differently in this situation? Why was the Wayland School Committee left in the dark regarding the settlement?

Mr. Nicholson – How do you build meaningful partnerships with community partners, tapping into the partner’s strengths and expanding Lynn Public School’s capabilities while avoiding pitfalls like challenges in sustainability or undermining Lynn Public School’s role and the role of our teachers? Please provide an example of a partnership you have built.

Ms. Gately – What kind of experience do you have for our district budget? Can you give a brief synopsis of the budget in our district?

Ms. Coppola – English Language Learners (ELL) and Drop Out -- At the meet and greet there were concerns around recent decisions of dismantling and main streaming ELL students' class sizes of 40 students at English and Classical placing them at a disadvantage of getting into a TECH/program they want. How would you help turn our ELL student's dropout rate around?

Mr. Ford – There is a concern that our students are not physically active enough. What practices do you foresee that can be implemented to improve upon this?

Mayor McGee – Have you ever had the experience of building a coalition to support an initiative or to change the status quo?

Question 3:

Mr. Castellanos – Lynn is a diverse and urban district, what are your ideas and plans to promote diversity inclusiveness in professional development and also with current stakeholders?

Mr. Satterwhite – This year is the first year we could have a Superintendent that resides out of the City of Lynn. In your letter dated March 20, 2018, you stated: Lynn was “a community whose mission and values are a match with my own.” Would you consider moving to Lynn? If not, can you explain why you would only work in Lynn where its mission and values are a match with your own but reside in Andover, Massachusetts?

Mr. Nicholson – What would you do differently in the process to replace Pickering Middle School?

Ms. Gately – What experience do you have with before school and after school programs?

Ms. Coppola – What kind of working relationship/style would you use to keep the School Committee informed?

Mr. Ford – What is your feeling on the Community School concept and do you feel that it will be equally successful in all schools?

Mayor McGee – Have you ever dealt with a problem in which opinions were polarized? What did you do and what did you learn?

Question 4

Mr. Castellanos – What are your views on athletics? Why is it important for students to be involved with athletics and what does athletics bring to the district as a whole?

Mr. Satterwhite - Do you believe that the IEP and Accommodation systems are working in the Lynn Public Schools? If not, what changes would you immediately make to improve the IEP and Accommodation process?

Mr. Nicholson – Can you please give an example of taking upward feedback and incorporating it into your work? What’s the best feedback you ever got as a professional educator and why did it work for you?

Ms. Gately – What is your vision for the Lynn Public Schools? And, Lynn has been a Level 3 school and has made great gains this year. Do you see Lynn achieving a Level 2 status? How would you go about implementing the changes needed to achieve this goal?

Question 5:

Mr. Castellanos – What are your ideas and plans to promote diversity inclusiveness in professional development and also with stakeholders and parents?

Mr. Satterwhite – Transparency is extremely important in public education and communication is key in any relationship. Would you consider creating and utilizing a profile on one or all of the social media platforms to stay in communication with the Lynn community? Or would you host more opportunities for parents and the community to communicate with the Administration? What will transparency and communication look like in your administration?

A motion from the floor was made to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Seconded
Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

THOMAS P. IARROBINO
Secretary of the School Committee

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Adopted: May 31, 2018