

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATE, CHALLENGE, & INSPIRE

WESTBROOK BOARD OF EDUCATION
Wednesday, March 31, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.
BOE Special Meeting
Google Meet

MINUTES

Members Present: Z. Hayden, K. Walker, C. Kuehlewind, M. Luft, M. Palumbo,
D. Perreault, M. Esposito, M. Brigham

Absent: S. Greaves

Also Present: Superintendent Kristina J. Martineau

- I. Call to Order: The Special Meeting of March 31, 2021 was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Z. Hayden, Chair via Google Meet.
- II. Westbrook Middle School Principal Search Committee and Process: Superintendent Kristina Martineau provided information on the Search Process for the Westbrook Middle School Principal as follows:

The position was posted on February 3rd and the application process closed on March 1st. Thirty-nine applications were received.

During the month of February, staff and families were surveyed about the qualities and experiences they would like to see in the next middle school principal. Focus groups were held.

Superintendent Martineau said “our school community communicated that they would like us to hire a principal who is an effective communicator, student centered, collaborative, inclusive, an experienced middle school teacher and an experienced school leader, an engaged and active presence in the school, a positive leader with positive energy, and someone who is willing to become a part of the school community by attending activities and community weekend events that our kids are involved in. Our school community also indicated they wanted someone who would take a balanced approach to academics, unified arts, and social and emotional learning.”

Dr. Martineau invited families and staff to participate in the interview process. Everyone who reached out to participate was assigned to an interview round. Thirty-five individuals participated in the interview process and included parents, teachers, administrators and board of education members (Zachary Hayden, Christine Kuehlewind, and Kim Walker).

Nine candidates were selected to move forward to the first round of interviews. One candidate withdrew their application. Eight candidates were interviewed on March 11th.

From that round, five candidates were selected to move forward to Round 2. One candidate withdrew from the process. Four candidates were brought forth on March 16th. Seventeen committee members participated in Round 2 and the candidates were interviewed 4 times with a total of 20 questions.

From this process, two candidates were selected to move forward to Round 3. Twelve committee members participated in Round 3. Candidates were asked 10 questions and completed a writing task. From this process, one candidate was moved forward as a finalist this evening.

- III. Executive Session: Personnel Matter: MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by K. Walker to move into Executive Session at 5:06 p.m. inviting Superintendent Kristina Martineau. Vote: Aye(s): Z. Hayden, K. Walker, C. Kuehlewind, M. Luft, M. Palumbo, D. Perreault, M. Esposito, M. Brigham

Discussion of matters that would result in the disclosure of exempt matters.

Moved back to Regular Session at 5:23 p.m.

- IV. Westbrook Middle School Principal Appointment: MOTION by Z. Hayden and SECOND by D. Perreault to appoint Mr. Matthew Talmadge as Principal of the Westbrook Middle School and to authorize Superintendent Martineau to execute his contract. Vote: (ayes) K. Walker, M. Brigham, D. Perreault, M. Esposito, M Luft, C. Kuehlewind, M. Palumbo, Z. Hayden – Vote unanimous.

Zack Hayden welcomed Mr. Matthew Talmadge as the Westbrook Middle School Principal. Mr. Talmadge expressed his appreciation and commented that he is honored that the community is putting their trust in him to do very special work. He was appreciative of the very organized process thanks to Dr. Martineau and the multiple stakeholders involved.

- V. Adjourn: MOTION by M. Palumbo and SECOND by M. Luft to adjourn at 5:28 p.m. Vote unanimous.