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**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN and SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, September 30, 2013
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

A joint meeting of the Board and School Committee (SC) was called to order in open session at 6:14 p.m. by Chair Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectman Rojas and Jones were present; Town Administrator David Kale was also present.

Chair Graham called the School Committee to order at 6:14 p.m. as well.

School Committee members present: Chair Graham, Mr. Kevin Cunningham, Ms. Anne Lougée, Ms. Laurie Slap, and Ms. Elyse Shuster

Chair Paolillo noted that the focus of the joint meeting would be to determine the appointment of a new School Committee member (term expiring in April 2014). Two candidates remain: Ms. Elizabeth Gibson and Ms. Lisa Fiore.

Appointment of School Committee (SC) member (term expiring in April 2014)

Chair Graham spoke to the fact that five excellent candidates had put their names forward. She thanked and acknowledged all five candidates and encouraged each to run again in April. Chair Graham then explained the interview process, noting that candidates will have an opportunity to make final statements.

At this point, each candidate provided her remarks.

Ms. Fiore began by summarizing her credentials and reviewing her professional responsibilities. She noted areas of professional expertise at Lesley University. Regarding town activities, she said she served on various PTOs and has been involved with many other child-centered activities. She said she is eager to serve and will run again in April.

Ms. Gibson began by stating that she is a good communicator, one who values listening. She said she is good at running meetings and helping people come to consensus. She said her main strength is that she served on the SC for several years (2003-2009). She then reviewed a wide variety of town-related activities, e.g. PTO, After Care Committee, and the initial Wellington feasibility study, Superintendent search committee, Friends of Benton Library President. She said she will run in April, but only if it is the right thing to do at the time.

The SC's and Board's Roll Call Vote

The SC members as well as the Board of Selectmen provided comments and then cast their votes. Both the SC and the Board thanked the candidates for putting themselves forward. Chair Paolillo thanked the present SC for its cooperative work with the Board.

Ms. Fiore received six votes: From the SC – Elyse Shuster, Laurie Slap, Kevin Cunningham and the Board of Selectmen was unanimous in its support of Ms. Fiore.

Ms. Gibson received two votes. From the SC – Anne Lougée and Chair Graham.

Selectman Jones suggested that another vote be taken to make the vote for Ms. Fiore unanimous. The SC and Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Ms. Lisa Fiore unanimously.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

The SC adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

The Board took a brief recess before resuming their Board meeting.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator