

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

**LITCHFIELD SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT NO. 27
Litchfield, New Hampshire 03052**

Approved Minutes for August 16, 2016

In Attendance: Brian Bourque, Chair
Derek Barka, Vice Chair
Janine Lepore, Board Member
Christina Harrison, Board Member
James L. O'Neill, Superintendent
Michele E. Flynn, Administrative Assistant

(Agenda items may not be in the order in which they were addressed.)

I. PUBLIC SESSION

6:00 p.m.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Bourque called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. School Board Candidate Interviews

Mr. Bourque announced that the School Board has received interest from four community members and two have rescinded their interest in the position,.

D. Presentations & Recognitions

• School Board Candidate Presentations

Mrs. Izbicki commented that she lives in Litchfield and has students in the school system. She has been an educator and literacy coach in Manchester, became Assistant Principal in Hollis, Interim Principal within six years and was made Principal 18 months later. She has been Principal in Hollis for four years. Mrs. Izbicki indicated that a culture has been built in Hollis and teacher contract issues, budget issues and building issues are being or have been resolved. She mentioned Hollis has the best retention rate and a good budget. She commented that she has followed the School Board in Litchfield and believes she can bring a different perspective to the Board.

Mrs. Lepore asked Mrs. Izbicki if she would have the time to devote to the Board with her schedule as principal. Mrs. Izbicki indicated that she is cognizant of balancing her time and mentioned there may be times when she is required to attend a Board meeting in Hollis, but is confident she will have the time to devote to this Board. She mentioned the Hollis School Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Mr. Barka commented that Mrs. Izbicki mentioned Hollis went through a tough time and that there have been many changes in Litchfield. He asked if she learned anything in Hollis that can help in Litchfield.

Mrs. Izbicki indicated that she had to listen and learn. She commented she valued the people around her who experienced things before she arrived. She took advantage of people who provided guidance toward change. Mrs. Izbicki mentioned that a difficult change that was made was not to allow children attend Open House with their parents.

Mr. Barka asked Mrs. Izbicki if she feels she may have to make a decision here that conflicts with what is done in Hollis. Mrs. Izbicki commented she does not believe that would happen and does not foresee a problem. She indicated that she is vested in the Litchfield community and the schools.

Mr. Bourque asked if she watches the Litchfield School Board meetings. Mrs. Izbicki indicated she does not watch all the time.

LITCHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our mission is to provide rigorous and varied educational opportunities that challenge and engage all students to attain their highest level of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth. (2007)

Mr. Bourque asked if she feels there is a direction the Board should be going. Mrs. Izbicki commented that direction for Litchfield's vision is finding a superintendent and negotiating a contract, which are the two things that have the greatest impact. She noted she has experience with negotiations, budgets, interviewing superintendents and serving on committees. She indicated her vision would be to help create a solid base to have a nice future ahead.

Mr. Bourque mentioned that this year there are two union contracts to negotiate. He noted the Litchfield School Board meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. He commented as we get closer to budget season there are more meetings.

Mrs. Izbicki commented she is Principal of a primary school and does not anticipate any conflicts.

Mr. Bourque asked Mrs. Izbicki for her thoughts on Common Core. Mrs. Izbicki commented that the standards are valuable because they are created by teachers, parents and educators, and are appropriate for students. She believes there is more that teachers can bring to the classroom, but it is a good guide. She indicated that she has a different feeling about the assessments that go with the standards.

Mr. Barka asked about her feelings for the assessments. Mrs. Izbicki commented that there are many. She indicated she investigated in Hollis and believes there is more value in student/teacher conversations. She mentioned in Hollis they use the paper and pencil version, which she feels is more aligned with what the students learn.

Mr. Bourque mentioned that the Board member position is for the remainder of the year and asked Mrs. Izbicki if she has any aspirations going forward.

Mrs. Izbicki believes this is an important position and an important year. She commented there is much at stake for cause and effect going forward. She believes she can help keep a positive momentum.

II. COMMENTS

A. Community Forum

Jason Guerrette, 11 Perry Court, inquired the identities of the candidates.

Mr. Bourque indicated that Robert Meyers, Elizabeth MacDonald, John York and Paula Izbicki expressed interest in the position. He noted that Mr. York and Mrs. MacDonald withdrew their interest.

B. School Board Comments

There were no School Board member comments.

III. SCHOOL BOARD ACTIONS

A. Appointment of New School Board Member

Mr. Bourque indicated he would entertain a motion of appointment for the open position.

Mr. Barka made a motion to appoint Paula Izbicki to the School Board until March 2017. Mrs. Lepore seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

B. Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered by Jason Guerrette, School District Clerk.

IV. ADJOURN

Mr. Barka made a motion to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. Mr. Bourque seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele E. Flynn
Administrative Assistant to the Board

*Litchfield School Board Meeting August 16, 2016
Approved September 7, 2016*