



Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

May 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Robert Espindola, Vice Chairman Geoffrey Haworth, Clerk Charles Murphy, Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, and Administrative Assistant Anne Kakley.

Also Present: School Committee members Pamela Kuechler (Chairperson), Brian Monroe, Stasia Powers, Donna McKenna and Bernard Roderick.

Chairman Robert Espindola called the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee to order in the Town Hall Banquet Room at 3:35 p.m. The meeting was video-recorded and televised by Government Access and audio recorded by Anne Kakley for the Selectmen's Office.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS

The School Committee and the Board of Selectmen held three interviews to fill a one-year vacancy on the School Committee. The vacancy was due to the untimely death of seated School Committee member David Gonsalves. See Attachment A for letters of interest from the three candidates.

COLIN VEITCH

3:38 p.m. – The Board conducted an interview with Colin Veitch, former member of the School Committee. Mr. Veitch held two terms on the School Committee.

Ms. Kuechler: What is the biggest challenge to the School department?

Mr. Veitch: Funding to retain and add educational programs.

Mr. Espindola: What is the role of the School Committee in municipal government and your role as an individual member?

Mr. Veitch: The School Committee adds “local flavor”. We should not be 100 percent dictated by the State. We created policy and budget, etc.

Ms. Kuechler: What are the strengths of our district?

Mr. Veitch: The School Committee and Administration – we find and retain dedicated, skilled employees.

Mr. Haworth: You were not elected by the voters at a previous election. Why should be appoint you when the voters did not re-elect you?

Mr. Veitch: I am experienced and I will be able to jump right in. I won two elections and lost two. Being the former chairman means I had to make hard decisions and they were sometimes unpopular decisions.

Mr. Espindola: We are concerned with openness in government. There are claims that some people did not get on agendas when you were chairman?

Mr. Veitch: Sometimes I had to stop attendees when they were discussing items that were not on the agenda.

Mr. Murphy: Do you have experience creating a budget?

Mr. Veitch: I ran in 2005 in response to budgeting issues and that is what started my interest in the School Committee.

Mr. Monroe: Why do you want to sit on the School Committee again?

Mr. Veitch: I love the work. It's work I believe in. I want to give back to the Town.

Mr. Haworth: Why didn't you take out papers this last election and run against Mr. Monroe and Ms. Kuechler?

Mr. Veitch: Because they do a good job.

The Boards thanked Mr. Veitch for his interest and the interview concluded.

MICHAEL FURTADO

At 3:50 p.m., Michael Furtado joined the meeting and was interviewed by the two Boards. Mr. Furtado has been a resident of Fairhaven since he was three and is a product of the Fairhaven School system. His father is a former superintendent to the schools. Mr. Furtado is a 2003 graduate of Fairhaven High School and was his class president. Mr. Furtado is an educator.

Ms. Kuechler: What is the biggest challenge to the School department?

Mr. Furtado: Kids entering the real world. I teach a personal finance class and I do not think they are prepared. I think learning real life is the path to success.

Mr. Espindola: What is the role of the School Committee in municipal government and your role as an individual member?

Mr. Furtado: There are policies to create and follow, budgets to create and approve, student learning, etc.

Ms. Kuechler: What are the strengths of our district?

Mr. Furtado: Community. Fairhaven is a strong community and it has strong bonds.

Mr. Haworth: Why didn't you take out papers this last election?

Mr. Furtado: I'm young and I was not sure if I wanted to be involved. I was closing on a house and it was an involved process. But I do want to give back to my Town.

Mr. Murphy: What is your budget experience?

Mr. Furtado: I sat in on an administration committee and growing up, I heard my father discuss the budget process. What I lack in age I can make up in experience. I have been around this my whole life.

Ms. Powers: Do you have experience with collective bargaining?

Mr. Furtado: None.

The Boards thanked Mr. Furtado for his interest and the interview concluded.

DIANE HAHN

At 4:02 p.m., Diane Hahn joined the meeting for an interview with the two boards. Ms. Hahn is a parent to two children from the Fairhaven Schools, one of which has entered college this year. One of her sons is autistic and Ms. Hahn describes herself as specializing in the Achievement Gap and an advocate for mandated special education services.

Ms. Kuechler: What is the biggest challenge to the School department?

Ms. Hahn: The Achievement Gap. Students with disabilities need to be offered the resources to catch up to their peers.

Mr. Espindola: What is the role of the School Committee in municipal government and your role as an individual member?

Ms. Hahn: Budget and policies. Individual members need to advocate for the students.

Ms. Kuechler: What are the strengths of our district?

Ms. Hahn: We are a well-rounded district and the students leave ready for college.

Mr. Haworth: You ran for School Committee but were not elected. Why should we appoint you if the voters did not elect you?

Ms. Hahn: I got quite a few votes without campaigning and even by missing a candidate's night.

Mr. Haworth: Why didn't you run this past election/

Ms. Hahn: My family was undergoing some changes with my son entering college and my other son going to Voke. I wanted to be there for them.

Ms. Powers: What experience do you have with collective bargaining?

Ms. Hahn: Not a lot but I have been a Town Meeting member for years and I serve on the GNB Vocational Technical High School Council.

Mr. Murphy: A couple years ago at Town Meeting you held the School Department appropriation and moved a lower figure. Why?

Ms. Hahn: To get people's attention and advocate for mandated services.

Mr. Roderick: Do you feel that the School Department has failed in giving those services?

Ms. Hahn: I was told that my son would not be able to learn math and it took going to Mass Rehab for us to learn otherwise. He was evaluated too late.

Mr. Espindola: If someone described you as a one-issue candidate, how would you respond?

Ms. Hahn: We all have our specialties to bring to a committee and if our educational system has “full inclusion” then we need to focus on special education – it impacts all issues.

The Boards thanked Ms. Hahn for her interest and the interview concluded.

At 4:16 p.m., the Boards began the deliberation process.

Mr. Haworth said that they had three “very qualified candidates” and any of them would fit in with the School Committee. He said that they would be charged with picking who they think the voters would select.

Mr. Roderick stated that the position was only until the next Town Election, at which time the voters would pick a successor.

Mr. Murphy nominated Colin Veitch. Ms. Powers seconded.

Mr. Haworth nominated Michael Furtado. Ms. McKenna seconded.

Roll call votes:

Mr. Haworth: Michael Furtado
Mr. Espindola: Michael Furtado
Mr. Murphy: Colin Veitch
Mr. Roderick: Colin Veitch
Ms. McKenna: Michael Furtado
Ms. Powers: Colin Veitch
Mr. Monroe: Colin Veitch
Ms. Kuechler: Colin Veitch

Colin Veitch was appointed to the unexpired term of the School Committee (5-3).

Mr. Monroe motioned to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. Mr. Haworth seconded. Vote was unanimous. (8-0)

Respectfully,

Anne Kakley

Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen
(Minutes approved 5/12/2014)

April 15, 2014

RECEIVED

2014 APR 15 A 10:47

Colin Veitch
317 New Boston Rd
Fairhaven, MA 02719

BOARD OF SELECTMA
FAIRHAVEN MASS

Fairhaven School Committee:
Fairhaven Board of Selectmen:

I would like to officially express my interest in being appointed to the Fairhaven School Committee to serve the remainder of the term left open by the unfortunate passing of David Gonsalves. He was a friend and a respected colleague and I only hope that I could carry on his legacy of asking the right questions, being outspoken in his beliefs and serving the town and students of Fairhaven.

I feel my previous experience gained in my two terms on the committee will allow me to add value almost immediately. My passion for service to the town and our children is unchanged and I have been able to experience more of our school system in the years since my previous service as my children have entered and excelled at FHS. We have an amazing school district filled with dedicated and professional staff and I would like the opportunity to work with them again and provide the connection to the people and parents of our town that the School Committee provides. Local governance is a crucial part of providing the best and most appropriate education for our children.

I have listed some of the accomplishments gained in my time on the committee:

- Union Contract Negotiations
- Updating and Maintaining Policy Manual
- State Coded and Responsible Budgeting
- Annual Superintendent Evaluations
- Developing and Maintaining Annual Financial Metrics
- Maximizing Revenues and Minimizing Costs

A appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Colin Veitch

Michael S. Furtado

RECEIVED

13 Christian Street, Fairhaven, MA 02718 APR 11 P 3: 13

Htbc3131@yahoo.com

508-317-3494

BOARD OF SELECTMAN
FAIRHAVEN MASS

Education

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Anticipated completion winter 2014

- Masters of Arts in Teaching

Bridgewater State College 2007

- Bachelors of Arts in History
- Minor in Secondary Education
- Student Teaching at Old Rochester Regional High School

Fairhaven High School 2003

Work Experience

Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School 2007-Present

- Social Studies Teacher
- Technology Committee Member
- NEASC Administration Committee Member
- Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach (2011-Present)
- Boys Freshman Basketball Coach (2007-2011)
- Senior Class Trip Advisor

YMCA Southcoast 2002-2011

- Camp Massasoit Teen Program Director
- Afterschool Program Coordinator/Supervisor
- Camp Massasoit Camp Counselor

Fairhaven Public Schools 2005-2007

- Substitute teacher

April 10, 2014

Members of the Fairhaven Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Superintendent Baldwin,

Education is the cornerstone of what makes a successful adult. The way in which adults are asked to mold young people into professional, functional members of society is a daunting, yet fulfilling task. A teacher, quite possibly, has insight and firsthand knowledge on how to create the model citizen that all school systems strive to produce. As a social studies teacher at Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School I have had the pleasure in my six plus years in the classroom to witness the success of my students going into today's world and understand what it takes to bring them there. Being on the frontlines has allowed me to garner information regarding what students in today's society need to be successful in the classroom and beyond.

As a product of the Fairhaven Public Schools System, I have had the opportunity to understand the benefits that can be gained within our town's educational programs with the correct leadership and motivation. I am proud to say that I was educated in Fairhaven and its schools have placed me in the position to be successful today.

Living in Fairhaven for the majority of my life I also understand the emphasis that the Town of Fairhaven puts on its history as well. Being the President of my graduating class I have had the pleasure of experiencing some of Fairhaven's unique customs and traditions. From the vesper ceremony prior to graduation in the Unitarian Church to Junior Day in the high school to Band Mania from elementary school through senior year of high school the Town of Fairhaven and the Fairhaven Public Schools have developed a wide range of traditions that should be embraced by the past, present, and future. It should be the responsibility of its graduates to uphold these traditions.

Becoming a member of the Fairhaven School Committee would allow me to uphold these traditions and play a role in shaping the lives of young people who are traveling the same road that I have traveled. It is an ideal way to give back to the community that has given so much to me in my lifetime. As a recent homeowner within the town, I can envision my children walking the same halls that I have walked. If I can play a larger role in making their journey and their experiences in the Fairhaven School System better then I owe it to my children and the students walking the halls now to do so.

Thank you for your consideration for a position on the Fairhaven School Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Furtado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael Furtado
13 Christian Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

April 11, 2014

Dear Selectmen and School Committee,

I am writing to inform you of my interest in filling the one year unexpired term School Committee seat of David Gonsalves. Sadly, Mr. Gonsalves' untimely passing has left our school students without the benefit of his advocacy and sincere interest in providing them the very best education that Fairhaven has to offer.

I have the benefit of 14 years of involvement in our public schools as a classroom volunteer and PTO President at the Wood School, a School Council Member at Hastings Middle School and currently at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School where I am also the Chairwoman of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council. I proudly served as one of the stakeholders who gathered several years ago to develop the Mission and Core Values of our School Department and in 2007 I was a participant at the Boston gathering of community members offering input for the Reauthorization of the NCLB Act. In addition to my volunteer experience I was employed for a few years by Fairhaven Public Schools as a substitute building aide, Paraprofessional and classroom teacher.

I would consider a seat on the School Committee a privilege and I would strive to serve the students, parents and staff of Fairhaven's Public Schools in the spirit with the wisdom of Mr. Gonsalves.

Sincerely, Diane Hahn

RECEIVED

2014 APR 11 A 10:21

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FAIRHAVEN MASS