



## **Joint School Committee & Town Council Meeting Minutes**

July 6, 2010

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Turco called the meeting to order at 6:00PM in the Multipurpose Room of the Cummings School, Councilor Varone, Councilor DelVento, Councilor Sanford, Councilor Powers, and Councilor Boncore, Councilor Maggio and Councilor Letterie and Vice President Calla were present as well as Chairwoman Marylou Osborne, Committeeman Sacco, Committeeman Perrin, and Committeeman Holden of the School Committee.

President Turco stated the sole purpose of this joint meeting was to elect a citizen to fill a vacancy on the School Committee left by Augustus Martucci. He read Article 5(h) of Winthrop's Charter into the record:

“Filling of Vacancies – If a vacancy occurs in the school committee or board of library trustees the remaining members shall give written notice of the existence of such vacancy to the town council. The town council, with the remaining members or member of such board shall, at a joint meeting, fill such vacancy in a timely manner by a joint vote. The person chose to fill any vacancy shall serve in such office until the next regular town election at which election the balance of the the unexpired term, if any, shall be filled by the voters.”

Councilor Varone led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance. Council President Turco asked the Council Clerk to the applicants for School Committee into the record. The names read were Peter Caggiano, Karin Chavis, Melissa Polino, Michael Power, Mark Rotondo, and Ronald Vecchia. President Turco then stated his suggested course of action. “Though the entire joint committee could prefer another option, after we read into the record all applicants for the open position. I would entertain a motion (motions) to formally place a name (names) in nomination. If more than two names are placed in nomination, and nobody gets a majority of the vote, I would propose that for each round of voting the bottom vote getter or two bottom vote getters be dropped before we re-vote. The joint committee has a total of 13 members and so a candidate would require 7 votes to be elected. Unless a vote appears to be unanimous I would ask the Town Clerk to call a roll call vote.”

President Turco called a brief recess.

Councilor DelVento read Section 9-7(d) into the record and stated past practice was to use a simple majority. He then yielded to the earlier course of action and suggested that the Rules Committee look into clarifying this language in the Charter during the upcoming Charter review process.

President Turco then asked for a motion to open the floor to nominations.

**Motion by Committeeman Holden, seconded by Councilor Sanford to open nominations for School Committee vacancy.**

Committeeman Holden nominates Karin Chavis, seconded by Chairwoman Osborne.  
Committeeman Sacco nominates Mark Rotondo, seconded by Committeeman Perrin.  
Councilor DelVento nominates Melissa Polino, seconded by Councilor Varone.  
Councilor Maggio nominates Ronald Vecchia, seconded by Councilor Sanford.  
Committeeman Perrin nominates Michael Power, seconded by Vice President Calla.

**Motion by Councilor DelVento, seconded by Councilor Sanford to close nominations for School Committee vacancy.**

President Turco asked for discussion on the nominations.

Committeeman Holden stated his support for Ms. Chavis based on her years on the Finance Commission and his opinion that she would be fair and balanced.

Vice President Calla stated that she felt there was a wonderful pool of applicants from which to choose.

Councilor DelVento stated his support for Ms. Polino, citing her experience in the classroom and her leadership abilities.

Committeeman Sacco stated his support for Mr. Rotondo, citing his extensive finance and educational background.

Councilor Letterie stated his support for Ms. Chavis highlighting that she is a life long resident, former town meeting member, Advisory Committee experience and broad perspective.

Councilor Boncore reminded the audience that only one of the two vacancies could be filled tonite and to notify the Clerk in writing if applicants had a desire to be considered for the next open vacancy on the School Committee to be filled on July 20, 2010.

Councilor Maggio stated her support for Mr. Vecchia citing his years of service as a Selectman, Member of the Board of Health and active member of WCAT.

Chairwoman Osborne stated her support for Ms. Chavis stating she could be a bridge from the old form of government and that she had received several emails in support of Ms. Chavis.

Committeeman Perrin stated his support for Mr. Power citing his academic and teaching background as well as his current position at a company that develops curriculum for students.

Committeeman Sacco stated that a candidate with educational knowledge in the inner workings of how a school operates would be very important to the School Committee.

Vice President Calla stated that Ms. Polino was a former Chelsea Public School teacher, and was currently working on her Masters Degree.

Councilor Varone stated that there was a stellar group of candidates but he was in support of Mr. Rotondo.

**Motion by Councilor Boncore, seconded by Councilor Powers to close discussion and move to a vote.**

President Turco asked the Clerk to call the Roll:

Committeeman Sacco-	Rotondo
Committeeman Holden-	Chavis
Committeeman Perrin-	Rotondo
Chairwoman Osborne-	Chavis
Councilor Varone-	Rotondo
Councilor Letterie-	Chavis
Councilor DelVento-	Polino
Councilor Maggio-	Vecchia
Councilor Sanford-	Polino
Councilor Powers-	Rotondo
Councilor Boncore-	Rotondo
Vice President Calla-	Rotondo
President Turco-	Rotondo

The Clerk stated there was a majority of votes for Mr. Rotondo. President Turco declared Mr. Rotondo would fill the vacancy in the School Committee. He then reminded the applicants that they should file with the Clerk in writing if they were interested in being placed in consideration for the next election on July 20, 2010.

**Motion by Powers, seconded by Committeeman Sacco to adjourn at 6:30pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Carla Vitale