

**MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD MEETING  
January 24, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Daniel W. Trabucco (Chairman), Tracy Marino (Vice Chair), John G. Brown, Jr. (Clerk), Rebecca Coletta (Selectwoman), Steven Ciciotti (Selectman), William Chenard (Town Manager), Erin Obey (School Superintendent), David Boyle (School Committee), Susan Scholl (School Committee), Lance Kennedy (School Committee), Susan Bollinger (School Committee), Michael Quinn, Adam Murphy, Matt Files and others.

At 7:00 pm Mr. Trabucco opened the meeting with the Chairman's statement. He stated that both committees would be questioning candidates.

**BOARD ACTION: JOINT WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE: INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES  
FOR INTERIM SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

Interview #1: Michael Quinn, Lionel Lane

Mr. Quinn gave his opening statement and included background information about his family. He stated his reasoning for an interest in the vacant position, including his two small children who would be attending Pembroke schools for the foreseeable future. He described his experience in the budget process and his role on a condo association.

Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Quinn what kind of programs he would envision for his children. Mr. Quinn stated that believed there should be many programs for special education students as well as students to pursue vocational opportunities. He stressed inclusiveness within the schools as well as community service being a part of education. He expressed desire to help Pembroke move up through the educational rankings. Ms. Marino asked if there was anything specific that drew Mr. Quinn to apply; he responded that the lack of vocational opportunities was a major reason. He stated that whether he is appointed or not, he would like to continue advocating for those opportunities. Ms. Scholl asked Mr. Quinn to explain his experience with conflict while serving on the condo association. Mr. Quinn detailed how he approached unhappy residents by how he listened and tried to see things from the other person's point of view to get the issue resolved. Mr. Brown asked how Mr. Quinn would work with all parties involved in the budget process. He responded with first meeting with Ms. Obey to discuss the budget and future issues that need to be planned for. Ms. Bollinger thanked the candidates and asked what the committee could improve upon. Mr. Quinn discussed the strengths of the committee and what he believed the committee could do better. Mr. Quinn returned to the budget question by Mr. Brown and emphasized separating wants and needs and those things being prioritized. Mr. Ciciotti stated that regardless of who was chosen, he would like all candidates to remain involved. He asked if appointed, how Mr. Quinn planned to commit to the seat for the future. Mr. Quinn discussed his involvement in meetings as well as his involvement in the DEI working group. He discussed his plan to run for the seat in the May election. Ms. Coletta asked about Mr. Quinn's educational background. Mr. Quinn stated he was not involved in education but recently had taken classes to gain more knowledge. Mr. Quinn stated that he would be flexible for sub committee meetings as well. He discussed how he would interact with parents other than attending school committee meetings.

Mr. Trabucco closed the question period and asked each candidate to provide a closing statement.

Mr. Quinn thanked both committees for inviting him. He stated that he would bring knowledge and experience to the budget as well as relationship building between parents, students, state reps, and the committee. He also said that vocational opportunities would be a priority and he has shown his commitment over the last few months.

Interview #2: Adam Murphy, School Street

Mr. Murphy gave his opening statement, including his family history in Pembroke. He stated his interest stemmed from his two small children who would also be attending Pembroke schools.

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Mr. Murphy discussed what should be prioritized in the upcoming budget season. He included appropriate salaries, appropriate supplies and providing a safe environment. Mr. Kennedy stated that current numbers show a deficit, he asked Mr. Murphy how he would handle the difficult decision making that comes with this challenge. Mr. Murphy referred to his experience in the workplace during the pandemic and those challenges. Ms. Marino asked what the first order of business would be, Mr. Murphy discussed getting up to speed on what the board had been doing. Ms. Scholl detailed the focus of the board at present and asked what Mr. Murphy would focus on. Mr. Murphy discussed focusing on vocational opportunities as the priority. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Murphy to explain how without an educational background, he would work with the committee. Mr. Murphy discussed that he would work with all members of the committee and use his experience to learn and advocate for the students of Pembroke. Ms. Bollinger asked to identify something that the committee could do better. Mr. Murphy responded that students should be more involved with the committee. Mr. Ciciotti focused on Mr. Murphy's operational background, and asked Mr. Murphy to explain how his skillset with operations would help the committee. Mr. Murphy responded that one of his responsibilities is to forge relationships with different agencies. He could strengthen the relationships between the members of the community and the committee as well as the relationship with the students. Ms. Coletta discussed programming wants versus needs and being able to make the decision to cut or keep programming. Mr. Murphy detailed his decision-making process regarding those difficult decisions. He also stated that his schedule was flexible for sub meetings. Mr. Murphy was asked how he would commit to the seat in the future, he explained that he would be running for the seat whether he was appointed or not.

Mr. Trabucco closed the question period and asked each candidate to provide a closing statement.

Mr. Murphy thanked the boards for their questions. He stated that his strong work ethic would be an asset to the committee but looked forward to helping even if he was not appointed.

### **Interview #3: Matt Files, Water Street**

Mr. Files gave his opening statement. He stated that he attended Pembroke schools as a child and him and his family had recently moved back to Pembroke. He stated that he had been an educator for the past 12 years. He would like to help provide the best education possible for all students in Pembroke.

Mr. Kennedy asked Mr. Files to expand on his experience with vocational programming would help Pembroke provide those opportunities. He stated that it was a priority to give students the same opportunities he had been given to pursue his passions. He discussed as an educator that it was important to be creative in providing those services to students. Ms. Marino asked if he had any other interest than pursuing vocational opportunities. Mr. Files stated that he is a true believer in public education and with that belief, he believed he would be an asset to the committee. Ms. Scholl asked Mr. Files to expand on his multiple roles at one time and how it would serve him on the committee. He discussed that his strength to compartmentalize allowed him to give each role his full attention. He stated that more focus needed to be on what students want to do when they grow up instead of measuring students against each other. Mr. Brown asked if Mr. Files planned to run for a full term, Mr. Files stated that he would not run for the seat at the moment but may consider it in the future. Ms. Bollinger asked how the committee could improve, Mr. Files stated that he thought businesses should be partnered with to help meet the needs of students regarding vocational opportunities. Mr. Ciciotti asked Mr. Files to explain why he would not run for the seat at the May election, he stated his experience as president of the Duxbury Teachers Union took a toll on him but he was not ready to commit for the long term quite yet. Mr. Boyle stated that he would abstain from questions as he arrived late. Ms. Coletta asked Mr. Files to elaborate on how his experience would help navigate the 2-million-dollar shortfall and setting priorities. Mr. Files discussed that prioritizing the impact on students is important as well as adjusting what can be adjusted and find ways to work through things that would not be so easy to change. He stated he would also be flexible for sub committee meetings.

Mr. Trabucco closed the question period and asked each candidate to provide a closing statement.

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Mr. Files thanked everyone for their time. He clarified that using the word placeholder in his opening statement did not mean that he was not committed to the committee. He stated that if appointed, he looked forward to help the committee move in the right direction.

Mr. Trabucco thanked the candidates and opened the conversation up to the committees for deliberation. Discussed ensued between both boards regarding the candidates. The members discussed their concerns as well as what they believed would be assets to the school committee. All members agreed that commitment was a major factor in the decision to appoint.

Ms. Bollinger made a motion to nominate Mr. Quinn, Mr. Ciciotti seconded. Ms. Coletta made a motion to nominate Mr. Murphy, the motion was not seconded, Mr. Trabucco declared the motion dead. Mr. Trabucco stated that there was a nomination for Mr. Quinn made and seconded, the motion passed with eight votes in favor, no votes opposed, and Ms. Coletta abstained.

Mr. Trabucco announced that Mr. Quinn was voted to the interim position on school committee, and he would need to go to the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in.

At 8:15pm, Mr. Trabucco asked for motion to adjourn, Mr. Brown moved it, Ms. Coletta seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

### **MATERIALS & EXHIBITS**

Interim School Committee Member Applications (TM Office)