

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, September 9, 2013
8:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Keith Cheveralls, Patty Wenger, Bob Sullebarger, Maureen Babcock, Joseph Connelly, and Lorraine Leonard

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

The School Committee interviewed Dr. Linda Dwight after a public hearing that was held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at The Bromfield School. The interview lasted for approximately one hour. Below is a list of the questions that were asked:

1. We have had a chance to review your resume and application packet. For the benefit of people who may not know you, or have not read your letter of interest, would you let everyone here and at home know why you're interested in being the Superintendent in Harvard? (SusanMary)
2. Please tell us what your core personal values are and provide examples of how you live by those values and apply them to the challenges of leadership. (SusanMary)
3. In your understanding of the role of superintendent, what aspects of the role will be a natural fit for you and which ones will be more of a challenge? (Kirsten)
4. How do you see yourself gaining the expertise you would need as an inexperienced superintendent? (Kirsten)
5. What do you see as the greatest challenges facing the Harvard School District and what would your approach be to finding solutions to those challenges? (Kirsten)
6. Seeing that you are already part of the HPS district, what would be your plan for using the next 9 months to prepare yourself for the role of Superintendent and what at this time do you see as your entry plan for your first year in the job? (Bob)
7. As the instructional leader of the Harvard Public Schools you would play a pivotal role in maintaining a high level of instruction in our classrooms. How would you accomplish this as Superintendent of the Harvard Public Schools? (Bob)
8. One of the most important aspects of the superintendent role as identified by Harvard residents is the ability to be the public representative of the school district. How do you see yourself as being an ambassador of the Harvard Public Schools? What actions would you take to foster and maintain communication with the community? (Maureen)
9. Having been in the district, how do you feel about the Devens Education Contract? Would you support its continuance in the future? (Maureen)

10. You have 2 children in the school district. How do you see that impacting your ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the superintendent? (Patty)
11. Some people have expressed concern that since you are the principal at HES, that you would favor (consciously or unconsciously) that school when working at the district level. How would you ensure and demonstrate fairness to the administrative team and the faculty at both schools in the district? (Patty)
12. What do you see as the advantages and disadvantages of stepping into the superintendent role as someone who has worked within the district for just over two years? (Patty)
13. How would you support site-based management at the middle/high school level with your limited experience of the complexities inherent to middle/secondary education and specifically the Bromfield School? (Keith)
14. As you know, management of the budget is an important aspect of the superintendent's job. While you've had the benefit of working with Dr. Connolly and seeing his zero-based budgeting process firsthand, there are obviously aspects to managing the district's finances that you will need to learn. What is your plan for gaining the necessary fiscal knowledge and skills to work with all of the key stakeholders to develop, implement and manage a budget of over \$14million. (Keith)
15. We recently hired a very experienced director of Special Education. How would you work with Dr. Harrington in an ongoing way to ensure the needs of all students in the district are being met while also maintaining fiscal responsibility? (Keith)

The Committee will hold a special meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss feedback from the public forum, staff forum and interview of Dr. Dwight.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga
Administrative Assistant