

UNOFFICIAL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel Tuesday, December 22, 2009, 4:05 – 4:45 p.m. Boston City Hall, Room 608

Members Present:

Nancy Lo, Chair
Tony Barros
Jerry Howland
Beverly Mitchell (by speakerphone)
Rhoda E. Schneider
Jack Sinnott
Angela Tang
James Travers

Nancy Lo, Chair of the Panel, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. She stated the purpose of the meeting is to finalize the lists of nominees to be presented to the Mayor. From these lists he will select and appoint two people to fill the two Boston School Committee seats that will soon be vacant.

Ms. Lo said because of the low number of applications received by the initial deadline, the deadline was extended to November 30, 2009. As a result, a total of 27 applications were received. Panel members received copies of all applications. After review, the Panel agreed to interview 11 semi-finalist candidates. The Panel conducted interviews of the semi-finalists on December 10, 2009.

Ms. Lo read from Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, which directs the Panel to “select not fewer than 3 but not more than 5 nominees for each office of school committee member that shall become vacant.” It further says, “The panel shall meet in public for the sole purpose of deliberating upon, hearing public comment with respect to, and finally selecting a list of nominees to be presented to the mayor.”

Ms. Lo said that following the interviews on December 10, the Panel reached a consensus that the list of candidates should be narrowed to a total of six finalists for referral to the Mayor. She asked if there was any discussion on this recommendation. There being none, she called for a motion to accept this recommendation.

On a motion duly made and seconded it was **voted**: to present the six strongest candidates to the Mayor. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Lo then called for nomination and discussion of the candidates to be recommended to the Mayor. Panel members nominated the following candidates and discussed the strengths they would each bring to the school committee:

- Susan Battista was nominated by Jack Sinnott.
- Mary Tamer was nominated by Jim Travers.
- Gloribell Mota was nominated by Beverly Mitchell.

- John Barros was nominated by Jack Sinnott.
- Meg Campbell was nominated by Jerry Howland.
- Mark Culliton was nominated by Rhoda Schneider.

For each of the nominees, various panel members commented favorably on the experience, knowledge, skills, and commitment they would contribute to the Boston School Committee, based on panel members' review of the applications and their interviews of the candidates. Several panel members commented that the pool of candidates for these two seats was very impressive. Tony Barros noted for the record that he and John Barros are not related to each other.

Ms. Lo then invited public comment on the nominees. Three speakers addressed the panel:

- Shirley Kressel spoke about the Globe's publication of the names of two candidates and said she was interested in seeing the candidates' resumes.
- Sam Tyler spoke about the school committee's need for members with experience in complex organizations and said he is encouraged the candidate pool is strong.
- Kevin McCrea spoke about the need for a transparent nominating panel process and said the school committee needs members who will ask tough questions.

Ms. Lo then said she would call for a motion to present the six nominees for the two available seats. She asked panel members to arrange the names in two separate lists. The panel discussed and organized the two lists (listed here alphabetically).

On a motion duly made and seconded it was **voted**: to submit the following names to the mayor for him to consider for appointment to the two vacant school committee seats:

Seat No. 1

John Barros
Meg Campbell
Gloribell Mota

Seat No. 2

Susan Battista
Mark Culliton
Mary Tamer

The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Lo will prepare the letter of transmittal to the mayor and will notify all the applicants of their status.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda E. Schneider