



# AMESBURY

CITY HALL  
62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913

Special City Council Meeting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, July 22, 2015  
City Hall Auditorium  
Joint Meeting with School Committee  
7:00 p.m.

Council President McMilleon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Lavoie.

Roll call was taken for the City Council.

The following were present: Councilor Lavoie, Councilor McClure, Councilor Moavenzadeh, Councilor Sherwood, Councilor Sickorez, Councilor Bartley, Councilor Bezanson, Councilor Ferguson, and Councilor McMilleon.

There were no minutes to act on.

Mayor Gray called the School Committee to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll call was taken for the School Committee.

The following were present: Debra LaValley, Thomas McGee, Peter Hoyt, Bonnie Schultz, Christian Scorzoni, and Mayor Gray.

- 2015-040** Fill Vacancy of School Committee term to expire 2015 – Stanley Schwartz  
Applicants: a.) Robert Chamberlain, 27 Greenleaf St. – Present  
b.) ~~Kelly Garbarino, 20 Fern Ave.~~ – Withdrawn  
c.) Justin Chase, 26 Lake Attitash Rd. – Not Present

Council President McMilleon introduced Robert Chamberlain and asked him to the podium.

Mr. Chamberlain spoke briefly about his interest in applying for the open vacancy, and what his qualifications were.

Council President McMilleon explained that the members of the Council and School Committee would have an opportunity to ask Mr. Chamberlain questions.

Councilor Bezanson had no questions at this time because he spoke to Mr. Chamberlain previously. Councilor Ferguson thanked all three for stepping forward. She feels the position was vetted. She thanked Mr. Chamberlain for his presence at school and finance meetings.

Council Moavenzadeh asked Mr. Chamberlain what area he felt needed the most improvement. Mr. Chamberlain explained that it was the “boy issue” (testing scores and the gap between boys and girls outcomes).

Councilor Sickorez asked what Mr. Chamberlain did for a living. Mr. Chamberlain said he was a strategic consultant.

Councilor McClure said based on what she sees there are two qualified candidates.

Councilor Lavoie thanked Mr. Chamberlain for applying and coming out; and asked about teamwork and what boards/committees he was on. Mr. Chamberlain explained.

Councilor Bartley asked if he could be objective on the Committee as the husband of a teacher. Mr. Chamberlain said he is a professional.

Councilor Sherwood thanked Mr. Chamberlain and asked how he viewed the role of the Committee. Mr. Chamberlain said it is more like a management board.

Peter Hoyt congratulated Mr. Chamberlain for applying for the vacancy and for taking out papers for the upcoming election. He said it speaks volumes in terms of his commitment. He is grateful for his interest and wished him the best.

Thomas McGee asked Mr. Chamberlain how he would describe the ideal Committee member. Mr. Chamberlain said that the best teams have diversity, have ability to listen and keep an open mind.

Bonnie Schultz thanked Mr. Chamberlain for applying and appreciated his work.

Debra LaValley thanked Mr. Chamberlain for applying and taking out papers. She read from the code of ethics. Christian Scorzoni asked Mr. Chamberlain to speak about how he would take the data and insert it into the School Committee process to exact change. Mr. Chamberlain said there needs to be a priority list and set of goals.

Mayor Gray thanked Mr. Chamberlain and asked what top three qualities would be important in a candidate for Superintendent. Mr. Chamberlain said that they are financial management, analysis skills, detail oriented, and have skills that are complimentary to the existing staff.

Councilor McMilleon asked what the second and third priorities would be. Mr. Chamberlain said they would be top notch management reporting and a comprehensive technology plan.

Debra LaValley moved to nominate Robert Chamberlain to fill the vacancy of the School Committee term to expire 2015 (**2015-040**). Bonnie Schultz seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Lavoie – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor McClure – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor Moavenzadeh – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor Sherwood – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor Sickorez – Abstained, Councilor Bartley – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor Bezanson – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor Ferguson – Mr. Chamberlain, Councilor McMilleon – Mr. Chamberlain, Debra LaValley – Mr. Chamberlain, Thomas McGee – Mr. Chamberlain, Peter Hoyt – Mr. Chamberlain, Bonnie Schultz – Mr. Chamberlain, Christian Scorzoni – Mr. Chamberlain, and Mayor Gray – Mr. Chamberlain.

Councilor Sickorez changed his vote to support Mr. Chamberlain.

It was voted unanimous.

It was determined that Robert Chamberlain could be sworn in for the position the following morning.

Mayor Gray adjourned the School Committee Meeting. It was voted unanimous.

Councilor Sherwood moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Councilor Ferguson seconded. It was voted unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawne Warren  
Office of the City Clerk  
Administrative Assistant