

**Board of Education  
Official Proceedings  
Special Board Meeting  
May 22, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Zanotti called the Special Board Meeting of the Bay City Public Schools Board of Education to order on Monday, May 22, 2017, at 5:33 p.m. in the boardroom of the Administration Building, 910 N. Walnut Street, Bay City, MI. The purpose of the special meeting was to conduct second round interviews with three superintendent candidates.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present were President Zanotti, Vice President Baird, Secretary Jeske, Treasurer Bauer and Trustees Helmling, Rademacher and Sepeda.

**CHANGES TO AGENDA** - None

**FIRST CALL TO AUDIENCE** - None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Trustee Bauer made the motion, supported by Trustee Sepeda, to approve the agenda as presented. Yeas: President Zanotti and Trustees Bauer, Helmling, Jeske, Rademacher and Sepeda. Nays: Trustee Baird. Motion passed (6-1).**

**SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS**

Mr. Rich Ramsey had opening comments for the Board. Following the second round interviews, the goal will be to reach a consensus on which candidate finalist to select to offer the superintendent position or what the process would be going forward.

Candidate interviews were as follows:

5:30 p.m. Stephen Bigelow, Superintendent, Capac Community Schools

6:30 p.m. George Rierson, Superintendent, Union-Sebewaing Area School District

7:30 p.m. Matthew Goebel, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Hastings Area School System

Following second round interviews with candidate PowerPoint presentations (on topics of their own choice), Mr. Ramsey addressed the Board related to the process going forward, including coming to a consensus on to whom to offer the superintendent position; making a visitation to the candidates home districts; or inviting candidates for a District visit.

Mr. Ramsey asked the board member teams to report their findings to the full board related to their research in the candidate vetting process.

Trustees Helmling and Rademacher vetted Dr. Bigelow. Trustee Helmling spoke with an ISD superintendent, the Capac board president, among others, and only received positive remarks: He's had a positive impact on the district; you may not always agree with him but you still respect him; he has credibility; can handle difficult situations; very talented; not a micromanager; good with people and a consensus builder. Mr. Rademacher spoke with two superintendents and received only positive comments: intelligent; courageous decision maker; a good man; allows people to take their own path. He is who he said he was.

Trustees Bauer and Sepeda vetted Mr. Rierson. Trustee Bauer spoke with a former superintendent and requested parent feedback, only receiving positive remarks. Mr. Rierson has made great strides in marketing; is very approachable; is very involved in the community organizations; and is a walking advertisement for his school district on his FB page. Trustee Sepeda spoke with parents and teachers and they all love him. It was a big loss for Caro when he left there and his current district would hate to see him go.

Trustee Jeske vetted Mr. Goebel. She spoke with the finance director, two superintendents and a representative from the Michigan Department of Education. Mr. Goebel is strong in communications; a problem solver; puts students first; is very good in finance; keeps people informed; is a team builder, values people; uses data for decision making; values others' perspectives; is involved in the community; is a quick study and has an impeccable work ethic.

Mr. Ramsey asked the board members to talk it through and put this together as a consensus with the unconditional support of the board in a selection. Board members then held a detailed discussion with Trustee Baird requesting a "straw" vote on standings which did not reveal a full consensus. Trustee Bauer offered that an interim could be a possibility though other members noted the District had two strong candidates at this point and a selection should be made. Discussion involved a potential visit to the District by the top two finalists, Dr. Bigelow and Mr. Goebel.

**Trustee Baird made the motion, supported by Trustee Rademacher, to have President Zanotti and Trustee Helmling facilitate a visit to the District by the top two candidates, Dr. Bigelow and Mr. Goebel. Yeas: Trustee Baird, Bauer and Jeske. Nays: Trustees Helmling, Sepeda, Rademacher and President Zanotti. Motion failed (3-4).**

**Following further discussion, and seeing the lack of potential to reach a consensus on a candidate selection at this time, Trustee Sepeda made the motion, supported by Trustee Rademacher, to have President Zanotti and Trustee Helmling facilitate a visit to the District by the top two candidates, Dr. Bigelow and Mr. Goebel. Motion passed unanimously (7-0).**

District Attorney Allsopp cautioned the facilitators to structure a visit that is comparable in opportunities for both candidates. President Zanotti and Trustee Helmling will structure a format to allow board member participation without violating the Open Meetings Act. The facilitators asked for a couple of days to draft a visitation plan for other board members to consider.

**SECOND CALL TO AUDIENCE**

Nancy Dobson, originally from Macomb Township, a certified teacher and former sub in our tri-county area, shared that she did not think the District could go wrong with either candidate. Mr. Bigelow was able to pass a millage and has versatility in large and small districts. Mr. Goebel wears many hats, has heart and experience.

Amanda Koth, Bay City Public Schools teacher for 22 years, spoke on behalf of a group of educators she was seated with in the audience and shared their perspective, that Dr. Bigelow was respected, has a good vision for the District, is professional and the strongest candidate. Ms. Koth added that Mr. Goebel is also a very good candidate and that she'd love to see him with the District in finance and curriculum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Special Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lorraine A. Jeske, Secretary  
LAJ/smg