

# Town of Greenwich

Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee

Meeting 22 November 2016

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall – Employee Lounge

## MINUTES

### **1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

#### a. Attendance:

Committee members: Joan Caldwell (Chair), William Finger, Barry Rickert, Peter von Braun, Brian Peldunas (Secretary) – Present.

Members of the public: Michael Baumgarten, Bob Krasnor, Josh Brown

b. Mr. Peldunas made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for discussion of previous committee minutes. Mr. Finger seconded the motion and it was approved 5-0.

### **2. Discussion with invited guests – RTM Education Committee (if available).**

The chair of the RTM Education Committee, Josh Brown, presented his personal views on the topic: there needs to be choice in the election, voters want more choices and more candidates, not sure the ability to have a majority party on the board is a good thing as it may stifle discussion, the board structure should allow for robust discussion, would be in favor of a tie break vote for limited, defined instances with a process leading to use, looking for unaffiliated voter representation, not clear if a political board benefits the kids. Asked: what can we do as a community to encourage more people to run, and to enable everyone to consider being a candidate? Ideas included better education on process, more recruitment, a “playbook” on how to run

### **3. Discussion of input received from Law Department and formulation of other questions.**

No input received. Mr. Finger, Ms. Caldwell, and Mr. Peldunas to follow up.

### **4. Approval of minutes.**

The minutes of 15 November 2016 meeting were approved 4-0, Mr. Rickert abstaining as he was not present. For the minutes of the 9 November 2016 meeting, Mr. Peldunas was asked to redraft and insert some statistics as to those for, against, mentioning non-partisan boards, and those mentioning non-affiliated voters. For the 1 November 2016 minutes, there was a review of the suggested changes by Mr. Finger, and a discussion on Mr. von Braun's motion to adopt a “mission” statement for the committee. There was confusion about what was approved and the vote. The minutes as amended will reflect that confusion, and were approved 5-0.

## 5. Discussion of components of draft recommendation.

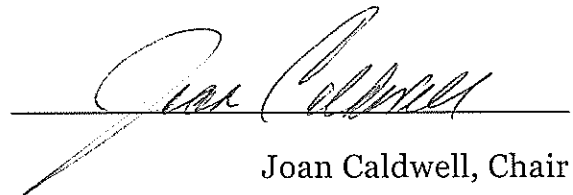
To begin framing a recommendation, Mr. Peldunas was asked to prepare a list of possible and allowable alternatives which have been proposed, investigated, and/or discussed during previous meetings. The sense of the committee is that the majority of the public expressing opinions are in favor of more input into the candidate selection process and more choice of candidates. Ms. Caldwell will research optimal size for boards; Mr. Finger will research the non-partisan Berlin BoE; Mr. Rickert will research the Galstonbury BoE election process; Mr. Peldunas will speak with a Superintendent. Mr. von Braun commented that it wasn't necessarily the number of people on a board, but the actual people who make it effective. Mr. Finger raised a question about the time frame for preparing a report, given the desire to do a thorough job on an important issue, and suggested that it might be appropriate to engage consultants.

Mr. Baumgarten commented on the dynamics of the current BoE, based on his attendance at a recent BoE meeting. He was supportive of making it easier to run, expanding choice, and not having a party be a roadblock.

## 5. Adjournment

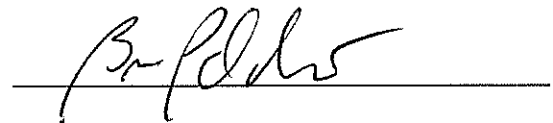
On a motion by Mr. von Braun, seconded by Mr. Finger, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is planned for 29 November – Town Hall Employee Lounge.



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Joan Caldwell, Chair



Handwritten signature of Brian Peldunas in cursive script, positioned above a horizontal line.

Prepared by Brian Peldunas, Secretary