

Heidi Simmons, Acting Board Chair called the special meeting to order in the District Office Board of Education Meeting Room, Pawcatuck, CT at 6:40p.m. Members present were Craig Esposito, Farouk Rajab, Sara Baker, Christopher Donahue, and Kevin Agnello. Members Absent: Daniel Kelley. Also present were Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the administration staff and interested citizens.

Heidi Simmons noted the meeting was called by herself the Secretary of the Board of Ed in the absences of a chairman. She called the special meeting for the purpose of electing new officers of the Board for the 2021-2023 period.

### **Election of Board Officers – Chairman and Secretary**

Heidi Simmons communicated the main action of the meeting is to select a secretary and a chairman. Mrs. Simmons opened the floor for a nomination of a chairman. Craig Esposito noted that he believed the term is only for one year and that they were elected every November. Mrs. Simmons exchanged her thoughts regarding the term but then also agreed with Mr. Esposito's statement. Mrs. Simmons corrected her previous statement stating this election is for the term of 2021 through 2022.

Heidi Simmons nominated Farouk Rajab for chairman of the Board of Education for the period of 2021-2022.

There was no other nomination for Board of Education Chair. Mrs. Simmons closed the nomination and asked all those in favor of the nomination to raise their hand. The vote was unanimous. Mrs. Simmons congratulated Farouk Rajab he was elected chairman of the Stonington Board of Education for the period of 2021-2022.

Farouk Rajab, Board Chair noted that there is a voting ballot to be filled for the record.

Farouk Rajab, Board Chair asked for nominations for Board Secretary. Craig Esposito noted that it must be someone from the opposite party. Chair Rajab explained he is a register Democrat and this must be from the opposite party.

Chair Rajab nominated Heidi Simmons for the position of Secretary to the Board. He asked if there were any other nominations.

Christopher Donahue nominated Kevin Agnello for the Secretary to the Board.

There was no other nomination for Board of Education Secretary. Chair Rajab closed the nomination. Chair Rajab asked the Board of Education members to fill out the ballots for the secretary. Chair Rajab stated there was a tie for the secretary position. The record reflected the following:

Heidi Simmons Voted – Heidi Simmons  
Farouk Rajab Voted – Heidi Simmons  
Kevin Agnello Voted – Heidi Simmons  
Daniel Kelley – Absent

Craig Esposito Voted – Kevin Agnello  
Chris Donahue Voted – Kevin Agnello  
Sara Baker Voted – Kevin Agnello

Chair Rajab opened the floor to the two nominees for their comments. Kevin Agnello commented he has been following the Board for the past two years and is familiar with the work Heidi Simmons has done as secretary. He stated while he appreciates the other members' vote of confidence for him as secretary he supports Heidi Simmons continuing her position as secretary moving forward. Kevin Agnello did not accept the nomination and asked to move forward with Mrs. Simmons as secretary.

Chair Rajab noted since Mr. Agnello did not accept the nomination for Secretary, Mrs. Simmons will be the Board's Secretary.

**Chair Rajab stated there is one nomination, those voting for Mrs. Simmons raise their hand.**

**Four Votes - Heidi Simmons**  
Farouk Rajab Heidi Simmons  
Kevin Agnello Sara Baker

**Two Votes - Abstentions**  
Craig Esposito Chris Donahue

**One Vote – Absent**  
Daniel Kelley

Chair Rajab congratulated Heidi Simmons as Secretary to the Board of Education.

**Board Comments**

Heidi Simmons thanked the Board for coming together tonight. She found the gesture from the Board empathetic and bipartisan. She hopes these two values can be foundational for the Board for the next two years.

Chris Donahue noted he looks forward to working with all of the Board members and the new leadership and doing good things with this Board.

Farouk Rajab, Chair thanked, Kevin, Dan, Sara and Chris for putting the effort for running for the Board. It will be an exciting journey and loves having them on the team. Chair Rajab stated he appreciates their vote of confidence and will work his hardest to ensure that the kids, staff and community are supported.

**Adjournment**

The following motion was made by Craig Esposito and seconded by Chris Donahue:

**Motion 1:** To adjourn at 7:00p.m.

**All: Aye**

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Heidi Simmons, Board Secretary