

Weymouth School Committee Executive Session –December 20, 2018

Approved 1/17/19

PRESENT: Chair Belmarsh, Vice Chair Nardone, John Sullivan, Secretary; Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw, Gail Sheehan and Kathy Curran

ABSENT: Robert Hedlund, Mayor

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Curtis-Whipple, Town Solicitor Joseph Callanan, Dr. Kustka

At 6:34 p.m. in the open session of the School Committee meeting, Chair Belmarsh called for a motion. Motion made by Mrs. Nardone, seconded by Dr. Sullivan to enter into executive session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy of potential litigation regarding investigation of and allegations regarding an individual Unit B member and then to return to open session. A roll call vote was taken 6/0 (yes – Belmarsh; Nardone; yes – Sullivan; yes – Sherlock-Shangraw; yes - Sheehan; yes - Curran).

Chair Belmarsh opened the meeting. She shared that she had spoken with Mrs. Curran and after discussions Mrs. Curran was going to reach out to Mr. G Mackin to chat over coffee. She asked Mrs. Curran if she asked him via email.

The Chair then asked if there were any specific questions from the Committee.

Mrs. Curran stated she knows there is a lot going on. The latest is the filing in civil court. She asked how do we as public elected board members know we are being represented in the civil complaint.

Attorney Callanan shared that there is a lawsuit against Town Clerk Kathy Deree. This is really against the town as this is in her official capacity as Town Clerk. If the result of the lawsuit is to pay money, it is coming out of the town or an order to produce documents. As Town Solicitor, Attorney Callanam represents all of the town officials and employees.

Mrs. Curran stated that when she sent the email to Mr. G. Mackin about meeting, he responded he would meet over coffee.

Chair Belmarsh stated that now that Mr. G. Mackin has filed a lawsuit he should not be communicating with everyone he is cc'ing. He should only be going through the attorney. He now has to play by the rules of court. Attorney Callanan is representing all of his and he needs to go through him.

Mrs. Curran asked if there is a case number associated with this? If she decides to meet with Mr. G Mackin over coffee she would like to to be able to say she cannot speak to you because of the lawsuit, case number.

Chair Belmarsh reminded Mrs. Curran that she should not be speaking to Mr. G. Mackin about any specific request.

Attorney Callanan cautioned Mrs. Curran that she should not be speaking about anything regarding grievances, arbitration etc.

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Mrs. Curran stated that Mr. G. Mackin is a taxpayer and has the right to ask questions. Attorney Callanan again cautioned Mrs. Curran to be careful of all conversations with him.

Chair Belmarsh also stated that Mrs. Curran should be careful as some grievances may eventually come to be heard at the School Committee Level and does not want any of the information to be compromised.

Mrs. Curran asked if Attorney Callanan could write something up for her. Attorney Callanan stated that he is currently working 12 hour days responding to the following:

- OML complaints
- BBO complaints
- Civil service matter
- Negotiations
- New Library
- Union Point
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Fore River

He asked if it is really necessary that he send Mrs. Curran something in writing?

Dr. Sullivan shared that he likes the idea of meeting with our constituents. However his question would be if we cannot talk about grievances and anything to do with the lawsuit, what is left that we can talk about that has substance? Dr. Sullivan shared he does not think that Mr. G. Mackin is bound by the same ethics we are. He chooses to ignore them. He would be worried that in the conversation G Mackin would say something we cannot unhear. That would then put anyone in the position that comprises them as a school committee member.

Attorney Callanan brought up the HR Investigation. The report was not for public disclosure. Kevin Mackin gave it to G. Mackin who then emailed it to the School Committee, Town Council and others a total of 26 addresses. Dr. Curtis-Whipple shared that he forwarded the report to her with a note only to her, happy holidays. He has also called her mentally unstable. To do that targeted directly to her is threatening, inappropriate and intimidating.

We believe the intention was to hurt § 7(26)(c) — and § 7(26)(c) — privacy. What they did not consider was that every witness was promised confidentiality. The assurances that the HR Director gave were broken by Kevin Mackin. Attorney Callanan also shared that § 7(26)(c) — called the HR Director to day to complain that her name was released in this report.

Chair Belmarsh thinks that the committee should talk about making some public statements over the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Curran thanked Chair Belmarsh she knows she was upset. Mrs. Curran did reach out to Mr. G. Mackin and does not think that the meeting is going to happen.

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At 7:08 p.m.Chair Belmarsh called for a motion. Mrs. Nardone made a motion to come out of Executive Session and to return to open session, seconded by Dr. Sullivan. A roll call vote was taken 6/0 (yes - Nardone; yes - Belmarsh; yes – Sheehan; yes – Curran; yes – Sullivan; yes – Sherlock-Shangraw).

Respectfully submitted,

John Sullivan – Secretary

DOCUMENTS RELATED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION 12/12/18

Response draft letter to level III grievance