



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	01/20/2021	Department	City Council
Agenda Item	4.d Interview Potential MSAD #11 School Board Candidates/ Cast Ballot		
Est. Cost	n/a		

Background Information

Attached are two (2) statements of interest from individuals willing to serve on the MSAD #11 School Board to represent the City of Gardiner.

The names of the two applicants are: Meaghan Carlson and Cullen McGough

The City Council will have an opportunity to interview each candidate and then a poll will be presented to the Council to cast their ballot for the individual they so choose.

This appointment will be until November 2021.

Once votes are cast, the chosen individual will be announced and sworn in immediately.

Requested Action	n/a
City Manager and/or Finance Review	n/a
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised w/in 15 Days _____	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

**NOTICE OF
VACANCY ON THE
MSAD #11 SCHOOL BOARD
FOR THE
CITY OF GARDINER**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Gardiner City Council is accepting statements of interest for the open seat on the MSAD #11 School Board. This appointment will exist until November 2021. At that time interested parties will be required to gather signatures to have their candidacy declared on the ballot.

Please submit a statement of interest by 01/15/2021 to the Gardiner City Manager (clandes@gardinermaine.com or 6 Church St. Gardiner). Statements of interest will be reviewed by the City Council at the Council meeting being held on 01/20/2021 at 6PM.

Applicants are also asked to attend that evenings meeting so that the City Council may conduct interviews of candidates.

For further information, please contact City Clerk Alisha Ballard or City Manager Christine Landes at 207-582-4200.

Christine Landes

From: Meaghan Carlson <megplease@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2021 12:51 PM
To: Christine Landes
Cc: Alisha Ballard
Subject: MSAD11 SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

Dear City Manager Landes,

I am writing this letter for the consideration of Mayor Hart and the Gardiner city council, My name is Meaghan Carlson, and I would like to offer myself as a candidate for the current vacancy on the MSAD11 School board, as a representative of our Gardiner community.

I feel lucky to have married into a family with deep Gardiner roots, and very fortunate to have made my home here for more than 10 years, raising 3 young children, and devoting a large portion of my time over those years contributing to the community engagement and revitalization of this beautiful city. During that time, I have been involved with numerous boards, committees, and events, including my transformative time working for the City as the Heart & Soul project coordinator. This project offered me a deep look into the many angles and aspects of Gardiner, in an effort to encourage connections between citizen involvement and transparent government during the comprehensive planning process.

I have spent much of the past few years focusing on my family, and now that my youngest is nearly 4, I find myself seeking a new way to step back into civil service. Over the course of 2020, I have navigated quarantine, shutdown, remote and hybrid learning, while finding a balance between fears, necessities, and adaptation. I have watched our district struggle with hard choices, and I commend everyone in msad11 for the hard work they have put in during this stressful period. I have sent comments and streamed meetings, and I have had countless, daily conversations with my parenting peers, supporting each other as best we can.

I believe that my experiences and thoughts could be a valuable addition to the conversation at the msad11 school board table, and with my leadership training and experiences, I am eager to learn more about how I'm able to serve Gardiner. I understand that this is a short term, and will consider a run for the seat in November. I am happy to answer any questions you have about my desire for this appointment, my faith in local government, or my commitment to community engagement.

Thank you for your time,
Meg Carlson
Dresden Avenue
Gardiner, 2021

Christine Landes

From: Cullen McGough <cullen.mcgough@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 11:56 AM
To: phopkins@msad11.org; schoolboard@msad11.org; Christine Landes
Subject: Temporary school board vacancy

Dear MSAD11 School Board members, Superintendent Hopkins, and Gardiner City Council members,

I read about the unexpected school board vacancy created by the departure of Jon Umland in this morning's city council agenda email, and I would like to offer myself as a candidate to fill this temporary role.

My wife and I chose to relocate to Gardiner three years ago in part because of the excellent rating earned by the local school system. As a parent with two small children, including a Pre-K student currently attending Laura E. Richards, I have been continually impressed and appreciative of the way our local teachers, administrators, support staff have risen to the challenge of continuing education during this pandemic.

I hold a firm belief that education is the key to success in life, and in my view, the continuing growth and success of our community must be anchored in supporting schools and youth development opportunities.

A little bit about myself:

I live at 23 School Street in Gardiner with my wife Elizabeth and our two kids, Benjamin (age 4) and Nathaniel (age 2). I grew up in North Yarmouth, left the state for college and other work opportunities, and eventually returned to Maine, married, and chose Gardiner as a place to buy a home and raise a family.

I currently work as the Director of Communications for Chewonki Foundation in Wiscasset, overseeing public relations, recruitment, crisis management, brand development, and technology/database integration. I am a member of Chewonki's senior management team and finance committee, and I have a strong grasp of the challenges that schools face, from staffing and curriculum to health services and community engagement. Accepting the responsibility for other people's children can never be taken lightly.

My wife Elizabeth hails from Skowhegan and works as the Deputy Director of Maine Mobile Health Program, a health care agency that delivers mobile health services state-wide to underserved populations, especially seasonal agricultural workers.

It would be a pleasure to fill this temporary role and provide a small service back to the community. Please let me know if I can be of assistance, or provide more information about myself.

Best,

-Cullen McGough

LinkedIn

23 School St.
Gardiner, Maine 04345
Cell: (207) 475-5884

Christine Landes

From: Cullen McGough <cullen.mcgough@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Patricia Hart
Cc: Christine Landes
Subject: Re: School Board Appointment Process

Dear Mayor Hart,

Thank you for the update and the clarification. I would be happy to meet (or zoom?) with the council or yourself, at your convenience. I am one of those "work from home" folks for the duration of the pandemic and my schedule is quite flexible.

with thanks,
-Cullen

On Wed, Dec 30, 2020 at 4:41 PM Patricia Hart <pat.hart@gardinermaine.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. McGough,

I am delighted to see your letter of inquiry for the open school board seat to represent Gardiner.

I want to clarify the process that we will use to fill the remaining tenure for the position. The city council agenda seems to suggest that the council will vote on the seat at the upcoming meeting, but the meeting will only focus on setting a due date for letters of interest and a date for the council to interview candidates and conduct a secret ballot vote. I am hoping we will schedule the interviews and vote at our January 20 meeting, but it is ultimately up to the 8 members to decide.

We have your letter of interest. If the council decides it needs specific information, that request will be shared on the city website soon after the Wednesday night meeting.

Many thanks for your interest. You have a great background for a public service position.

I look forward to meeting you in person.