



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
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Committee on Education and School System Matters

The Committee on Education and School System Matters convened on October 8, 2024, at 5pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews with 3 candidates for reappointment for Watertown Cable Access (WCAC) Board of Directors. Present were Emily Izzo, chair; Nicole Gardner, vice chair; John Airasian, secretary.

George Skuse – Mr. Skuse is happy to see the new studio up and running and feels this will allow WCAC to continue to provide high quality programming, information and transparency to the community. He is proud of WCAC being able to provide increased resolution for video on demand. Some concerns he has with the future of WCAC is continued “cord cutting” which decreases the funds WCAC receives and trying to find solutions to cover rent at the new studio has been challenging. Overall, he is very proud of all the information and transparency WCAC provides the community and feels the Board, the staff and volunteers work very hard to make sure it continues.

James O’Connor – Mr. O’Connor has had a great experience on the board. Although there have been many challenges and changes since he first was appointed, he feels WCAC is in a good place to provide the information the community desires. He has been elected Treasurer and dealing with financial challenges which include less revenue from subscribers and paying rent in the new space. He enjoys working with staff and other board members and believes the Executive Director is doing great work with low staff turnover and great retention.

Chris Mackenzie – Mr. Mackenzie has served on the Board since 2016. He currently serves as President and is grateful that the Board has been full for the last several years. He feels things have been running well and they have been able to work together through several challenges over the last few years. Some of the challenges mentioned were getting the staff to grow into the new space which he feels they are doing nicely. Financial challenges facing WCAC continue to mount with less subscribers and added costs in the new space. He is optimistic that this group will find ways to deal with challenges.

Action Item: Councilor Gardner made a motion seconded by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of George Skuse to WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Action Item: Councilor Gardner made a motion second by Councilor Airasian to

recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of James O'Connor to WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Action Item: Councilor Gardner made a motion second by Councilor Airasian to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of Chris Mackenzie to WCAC Board of Directors for a term expiring September 15, 2027. The motion passed 3-0

Meeting Adjourned at 5:50. Minutes by John Airasian

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Emily Izzo,
Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,
Secretary