

**Tewksbury School Committee  
Regular Meeting #1 - Wednesday, July 22, 2020  
All Members Attended Remotely via WebEx**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Keith M. Sullivan, Chairperson  
James A. Cutelis, Vice-Chairperson  
Shannon M. Demos, Clerk  
John R. Stadtman, Member  
Scott D. Wilson, Member

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT**

Christopher J. Malone, Superintendent  
Brenda T. Regan, Assistant Superintendent  
David A. Libby, Business Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ron Drouin, Athletic Director  
Michael Gillespie, Teacher  
John Weir, Principal  
Karen Hodgson, Teacher  
Graca Dudley, Teacher

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Sullivan, Chairman, called to order the July 22, 2020, Regular School Committee at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Sullivan announced the meeting will be conducted remote convening via WebEx. It will be recorded and aired live on Comcast channel 22 and Verizon channel 34 or YouTube/Tewksburytv.com. To participate call in on 978-771-0819.

Mr. Sullivan, Chairman, confirmed that all members of the School Committee and anticipated guests on the agenda are present, are able to hear him and give consent to recording the meeting.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Malone, Ms. Regan, Mr. Libby, Mr. Drouin, Mr. Gillespie, Mr. Weir, Ms. Hodgson, and Sra. Dudley. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 13-0.

Mr. Sullivan read the ground rules for conducting a remote meeting. The public is welcome to make comments by calling in during the Citizen's Comment section of the meeting on 978-771-0819 and encouraged to follow along with the agenda. Mr. Sullivan announced that the agenda packet is available by contacting Ms. Johnson, at [gjohnson@tewksbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:gjohnson@tewksbury.k12.ma.us).

**RECOGNITION**

**2020 Gatorade's Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year**

Mr. Malone announced that Makayla Paige has been named the 2020 Gatorade Massachusetts Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year and for the second time. He added that Makayla is an outstanding athlete, an academic scholar and an outstanding student at Tewksbury Memorial High School.

**APPROVED  
8-19-2020**

Mr. Drouin added that Makayla sends her thanks as she could not attend tonight as she was out of state at a race. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Sullivan read a Resolution of Recognition for Makayla.

### **2019-2020 Seal of Biliteracy Award Nominees**

Ms. Regan welcomed and recognized teachers, Karen Hodgson, Lead ELL Teacher, and Graca Dudley, Spanish Teacher at TMHS. Ms. Regan presented a brief overview of the Seal of Biliteracy program. Sra. Dudley and Ms. Hodgson highlighted the importance of the Seal of Biliteracy for Tewksbury Memorial High School.

Sra. Dudley announced the Biliteracy Achievement Award recipients:

Diego Carneiro-Monteiro	Portuguese and Spanish
Tracey Costa	Portuguese
Rebecca Defrancesco	Spanish
Caitlyn Fiore	Spanish
Michael Fowler	Spanish
Owen Gilligan	Spanish
Emily Hankins	Spanish

Ms. Hodgson announced the State Seal of Biliteracy Award recipients:

Alexia Chesbrough	Spanish
Emely Estevez Hilario	English and Spanish
Andrew Laperriere	Spanish
Kyle Scrooc	Spanish
Brenda de Miranda	English and Portuguese

Sra. Dudley announced the State Seal of Biliteracy Award with Distinction recipients:

Amaya Allen	Spanish
Megan Cunningham	Spanish
Jasmine Won	Spanish

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no student report.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Weir, Principal of the Wynn Middle School and Mr. Gillespie, teacher at the Wynn School and organizer of the 2021 8th grade Washington, D.C., trip addressed the Committee pointing out some of the details and highlights of the 2021 trip. He reported they are looking at a new company, *Tour DC with Us* relating they offer cancel insurance and a full refund as well as having safety and disinfecting protocols in place. Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee requested to have more time to review the proposal relating that they are not prepared to give a decision. Mr. Malone asked if the Committee would allow Mr. Gillespie to do some conditional planning, hold a parent presentation, and informing parents and students that the trip is pending Committee approval. After discussion and input from the Committee, Mr. Sullivan stated that the Committee would allow for Mr. Gillespie to move forward with planning but the Committee will not consider the trip until they have reviewed the proposal and have all the information.

Mr. Cutelis moved to approve for Mr. Gillespie to engage in the planning of the 2021 Washington, D.C., field trip and pending further School Committee approval. Mr. Wilson seconded.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Mr. Sullivan inquired if there was anyone who had called-in wishing to speak on any item on the agenda. At this time, there have been no callers. Mr. Sullivan moved to the approval of meeting minutes. Mr. Sullivan will check again to see if there are any community members wishing to address the Committee.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to approve the June 9, 2020 Virtual Special Meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Stadtman, to approve the June 10, 2020 Virtual Regular Meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Ms. Demos moved to approve the payroll period ending June 11, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$1,332,343.61), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Ms. Demos moved to approve the Lump Sum payroll period ending June 18, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$585,716.10), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Demos moved to approve the payroll period ending July 9, 2020 FY20, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$138,592.35), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Demos moved to approve the payroll period ending July 9, 2020 FY21, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$988,908.47), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Mr. Malone reminded the School Committee that through Mr. Pelletier, Director of Student Services, we continue to plan for an in-person summer school. The program would be for some of our students in special education. It is hoped to start at the beginning of August for two weeks. The district will be mindful of the status of the pandemic in town and are working with the Board of Health.

Mr. Malone reported the district secured the Summer and Vacation Learning Program grant for current and incoming students needing credit recovery adding that this will be offered through remote learning. He presented an MIAA update reporting that no organized interscholastic sports may occur until September 14th. He reported that construction has begun on the Ryan School site, demolition of bleachers and concessions is completed and the site is prepped for construction. Mr. Malone reported the district has been coordinating with AlphaBEST and their ability to offer summer camps but due to guidelines and protocols, they will not be offering summer camp and have notified parents of the update. They are working with the district to look at operating this year. Mr. Malone stated that we continue to look at funding resources in preparation for opening in the fall. The District Leadership Team has done a significant amount of work in professional development around racism. They have also been engaged in a book study dealing with racism in schools and how we can best support our staff and students. Mr. Malone remarked that our primary goal now is to open schools but as a district we are committed to dealing with racism and find the appropriate educational opportunities for our staff and students to address the issue.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the Committee. Mr. Malone responded to a question from Ms. Demos regarding AlphaBEST offering remote opportunities for students. He responded that they primarily offer a summer camp and after school programs. They might have a difficult time, charging people for a remote childcare service.

#### **Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Regan thanked the Committee for allowing Mr. Malone and herself to attend the virtual MASS Executive Institute presenting an overview of the sessions relating there was a focus on guiding school leaders to think through their long-term planning and further create and support schools where diversity, belonging, inclusion, and equity are our top priority. We cannot apply a short-term goal or fix to racism, it is a long-term goal and a priority. Ms. Regan reported one of the best presenters was Darnisa Amante-Jackson, representing an organization called DEEP. We have reached out to her and hope to work with her or the organization. A highlight of the event was listening to students on their perspective and how we can use student voice to shape what equity feels like in our schools. Ms. Regan pointed out, on the Consent Agenda, letters on the Biliteracy Program at Tewksbury Memorial High School and our commitment to honoring languages and cultures.

Ms. Regan reported the district purchased a virtual Professional Development program for the entire 20-21 school year. The first Education Summit virtual PD was held on July 20th and July 21st, the District Leadership Team and others participated in the live version relating the topics were on coming back to school. She reported that ninety (90) teachers are working 1,390 hours on summer curriculum work. The Education/Technology team is developing virtual video recorded lesson for our staff and then give them live professional development to get staff on board to pivot lessons with technology. Ms. Regan reported the Administrative/School Committee Workshop will be held on August 19th relating topics will include a report on the reopening plan and district goals.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions from colleagues. The Committee thanked Ms. Regan for the report.

#### **Mr. Libby, Business Manager Report**

Mr. Libby updated the Committee on grant funding sources that have made available to the district and town during the pandemic. He reported on the First Cares Act (Esser) funding, reporting that Tewksbury will receive \$280,897 and the Corona Virus Relief School Reopening Act (in the form of a grant) in the amount of \$742,950. Both may be used for many different types of activities to support the reopening of schools in a safe manner and doing what is best for students.

Mr. Libby reported there is also a Remote Learning Technology Essential grant relating the district will submit an application. It will support technology in a remote learning setting. Mr. Libby reported the district is working with vendors, contractors, and our Custodial Union to develop a comprehensive cleaning plan. He reported that Food Services is considering all options and will make it work. He is also working with transportation vendors on plans for the upcoming year relating that we can expect to see cost increases with transportation due to options and guidance from the state. Mr. Libby recapped that all groups are ready to support the district plan.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and/or comments from colleagues. Mr. Malone and Mr. Libby responded to questions from the Committee.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone had a question on the Consent Agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. No Comments from members.

Mr. Stadtman moved, seconded by Ms. Demos, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Correspondence**

1. Merrimack College - Supervising Practitioners for the Spring 2020 Semester (File)
2. Merrimack College - Course Vouchers (File)
3. Seal of Biliteracy Correspondence and Information (File)

#### **Enrollment Update**

None

#### **Personnel Items**

**Appendix B TMHS Athletics 2020-2021 School Year** (See attached list)

**New Hires:** Celeste Pellegrino, Music Teacher at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective August 26, 2020; Jesslyn Covino, Integrated Preschool Teacher at the Dewing Elementary School, effective August 26, 2020; Molly Herbert, Grade 1 Teacher at the Dewing Elementary School, effective August 26, 2020; Julia Baynes, Math Teacher at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective August 26, 2020; Juliana Viscione, long-term substitute 1-year only Grade 4 Teacher at the North Street School, effective August 26, 2020; Gina Manetta, 12-month Special Education Secretary, effective August 31, 2020

**Reappointments:** Karen Rossi, School Nurse at the Heath Brook School for the 2020-2021 school year

**Transfer:** Susan Hogan transferred from the position of Moderate Special Needs Teacher at the John Ryan Elementary School to the position of Case Manager Ryan School, effective August 26, 2020; Margaret Murray transferred from the position of Computer/Technology Teacher at the Tewksbury Memorial High School to the position of Grade 2 Teacher (1-Year only) at the Dewing Elementary School, effective August 26, 2020; Kelly Mercier transferred from the position of 10-month Secretary at the Heath Brook School to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Principal at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective July 27, 2020

**Retirements/Resignations/Terminations:** Annmarie McCormick, Administrative Assistant, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective June 30, 2020; Danielle Richard, District-wide Behavior Specialist, effective June 18, 2020; Lauren Auciello, Moderate Special Needs Teacher at the John Ryan Elementary School, effective June 30, 2020; Jeanne Irwin, Assistant Business Manager, Tewksbury Public Schools, effective June 30, 2020; Katharine Trahan, Special Education Teacher, North Street School, effective June 30, 2020

**Acceptance of Donations/Gifts:** None

**Fundraisers/Raffles:** None

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Elementary School Building Committee (ESBC)**

Mr. Cutelis reported that the project is well under way with Consigli, the contractor, are working day and night. This is the way it will be for the next two years and we are pleased with the work so far.

#### **Tewksbury Education Foundation**

No update.

#### **Tewksbury SEPAC**

Mr. Sullivan reported that SEPAC continues to meet with the District's Leadership Team. We appreciate the collaboration with them. He added that SEPAC will be meeting with the District Leadership Team tomorrow.

#### **Wellness Advisory Committee**

Mr. Stadtman had no update.

### **POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTION**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2020-2021 School Reopening**

Mr. Malone reported the School Reopening Task Force continues to meet weekly (members of the Task Force are listed below). The Task Force has been working with the District Leadership Team (DLT) to consider all information on reopening schools. Recent guidelines received from the state require each district to submit short reopening plans for the schools for each of three models. Districts will make their own determination of what plan to accept.

The Task Force will meet on Monday, they will vet the plans, bring the School Committee up-to-day and inform parents. It will be a collaborative effort to determine the best model for the district which must be voted on by August 10th. Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee will be brought up to speed in order to make the best decision for the safety of students. Mr. Sullivan encouraged the community to give their and email any one of the Committee members, Mr. Malone or Ms. Regan.

**School Reopening Task Force Members**

James Cutelis, School Committee Member  
Scott Wilson, School Committee Member  
Chris Malone, Superintendent  
Brenda T-Regan, Assistant Superintendent  
David Libby, Business Manager  
Richard Pelletier, Director Student Services  
Karen Baker O'Brien, Director Student & Family Services  
Jon Marchand, Maintenance Foreman  
Debralee Mugford, Director, Food Services  
Felicia Cenanovic, Principal  
Alexis Bosworth, Assistant Principal  
Andy Long, Assistant Principal  
Ronald Drouin, Athletic Director  
Kelly Constantino, School Nurse  
Luigi Gisetto, Maintenance/Custodial Union Representative  
Suzanne Caliendo, School Secretary  
Joshua Bilodeau, TTA Representative  
Julia Fabiano, TTA Representative  
Sarah Gillotte, TTA Representative  
Bridget Garabedian, Parent  
Monica Johnson, Parent  
Rich Russo, Parent

**Town of Tewksbury**

Richard Montuori, Town Manager  
Ryan Columbus, Chief of Police  
Susan Sawyer, Board of Health  
Urvi Agarwalla, Town Nurse

**Non-Union Personnel Salary Adjustment for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Mr. Libby reported the district is requesting a 2.25% increase for 33 non-union staff at the Center School relating this increase is in-line with the bargaining units and has been budgeted for this group. Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and/or comments from the Committee. Seeing none, Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion.

Mr. Cutelis moved to approve a 2.25% increase salary adjustment for 33 non-union personnel. Mr. Wilson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes - Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

**2021 School Committee Meeting Calendar**

The Committee reviewed the 2021 School Committee meeting calendar. There were not conflicts.

Mr. Cutelis moved, Mr. Wilson seconded, to approved the 2021 School Committee meeting schedule.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes - Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

**Committee Appointment: Athletic Fields Committee**

Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to reappoint John Stadtman to the Tewksbury Schools Athletic Fields Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes - Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

**Committee Appointment: North Street School & Trahan School Reuse Committee**

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to reappoint Mr. Sullivan to the North Street & Trahan Schools Reuse Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes - Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

**Tewksbury School Committee Support of Resolution Regarding COVID-19 Funding**

Mr. Sullivan presented and read the Resolution to Support COVID-19 Funding relating that the Tewksbury School Committee supports the Resolution for COVID-19 funding from the state. The Resolution will be sent to our State Legislatures and Town Manager. Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and/or concerns from colleagues. Seeing none, Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion.

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Ms. Demos, to support the Resolution for state funding and to submit the Resolution to our delegates. Mr. Sullivan asked the community to support the need for funding and to reach out to delegates.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes - Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

**MASC/MASS Annual Meeting Voting Delegate**

Mr. Sullivan reported the MASC/MASS Annual Meeting has been canceled so no action is needed. Mr. Malone suggested for the Committee appoint a delegate this evening in the event the meeting is scheduled on short notice. Mr. Sullivan asked for interest from the Committee to serve as the voting delegate for Tewksbury in the event the meeting is scheduled. Mr. Wilson offered to represent the Tewksbury School Committee as the voting delegate if needed. Mr. Cutelis would serve as an alternate.

Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Ms. Demos, to nominate Mr. Wilson as Tewksbury's voting delegate at the MASC/MASS Annual meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes - Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Sullivan commented that the Red Sox opening game is scheduled on Friday night relating there are no fans but suggesting we support the Red Sox baseball team.



### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Mr. Malone reported the School Committee is required to vote on one of three State reopening plan models for the School Reopening Plan as directed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by August 10th.

Mr. Malone recommends the School Committee to schedule a joint meeting with the Reopening Task Force and the District Leadership Team prior to August 10th to gather information from the Task Force prior to voting on a reopening plan model. The Committee discussed dates and decided to hold a Joint Workshop on Wednesday, August 5th at 1:00 PM and a Special School Committee meeting on Thursday, August 6th at 3:00 PM for the School Committee to vote on the preferred reopening plan model.

At 9:14 p.m., Mr. Sullivan asked if there were any callers. Mr. Dorrington responded that Grace DiPolito, 11 Alison Way, is on call to address the School Committee. Ms. D'Ippolito addressed the Committee posing a question regarding the recent survey issued, will it be considered in the decision made to reopen schools. Mr. Sullivan responded to Ms. D'Ippolito relating that until recently, the state was going to make the decision on reopening schools. Mr. Malone reported for surveys are the primary source and primary driver of information considered for developing any plans and you will be receiving correspondence from him tomorrow. There will be another survey to parents to see what the three reopening models will look like, All In-Person Model, Hybrid Model, and Remote Learning Model. Mr. Malone reported the next survey should be out next week. He related that she may email him with any questions. No further callers.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Sullivan reported that the community may email him or Mr. Malone with agenda items. Mr. Sullivan checked again and determined there were no further callers.

### **ADJOURN**

At 9:21 p.m. Mr. Sullivan adjourned the July 22, 2020, School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Wilson seconded by Mr. Stadtman.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan.  
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.