

**Tewksbury School Committee
Regular Meeting #2 - Wednesday, August 19, 2020 (5:15 PM)
All Members Attended Remotely via WebEx**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

John M. Stadtman, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the August 19, 2020, Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Mr. Sullivan announced the School Committee will be convening an Executive Session, via GoToMeeting.com, to continue discussion relative to collective bargaining with employee groups and/or personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to enter into an Executive Session to continue discussion relative to collective bargaining with employee groups and/or personnel matters. The School Committee will reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting in Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Voting - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

At 6:00 p.m., Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting.

Roll Call Voting - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the August 19, 2020, Regular School Committee meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Sullivan read the Governor's Order for conducting a remote meeting and the Tewksbury School Committee Ground Rules. The Chair stated that this meeting will be recorded and viewed live. The public is welcome to make comments by calling in during the Citizen's Comment section of the meeting on 978-771-0819. Mr. Sullivan announced that the agenda packet is available by contacting Ms. Johnson, at gjohnson@tewksbury.k12.ma.us.

Mr. Sullivan, School Committee Chairman, confirmed that all members of the School Committee and persons on the agenda are present and give consent to record the meeting.

APPROVED 9-16-2020

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Malone, Ms. Regan, and Mr. Libby.
Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 7-0.

RECOGNITION

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no student report.

PRESENTATIONS

None

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Mr. Sullivan inquired if there was anyone who had called-in wishing to speak on any item on the agenda. Seeing no one, Mr. Sullivan moved to the approval of meeting minutes. Mr. Sullivan checked again during the meeting taking calls throughout the meeting. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and the School Committee Chair responded to all questions and comments.

Mr. Michael Brewster, 31 Langley Lane: Mr. Brewster voiced concern with the district's decision not to move to a full-day Hybrid Model. He asked the Committee to vote tonight to move to a full-day Hybrid Model. He was concerned with the partial day plan. Students are dismissed at lunch and then check-in with the teacher after lunch. How will the gap be made up for the loss of those two-hours of teacher instructional time.

Mr. Greg Meagher, 16 Patriot Road: Mr. Meagher has two children at the Heath Brook School. Mr. Meagher commented on the Hybrid-Model as he is concerned how parents are expected to be home in the afternoon to have their children on-line.

Julie Gonzalez, 20 Bryant Lane: Ms. Gonzalez is concerned with the remote learning portion of the Hybrid-Model. Many parents are choosing private schools or tutors which may put other children at a disadvantage. It is difficult for parents to be a teacher. She asked if there will be childcare options for families.

Jen Soucie, 10 Sesame Street: Ms. Soucie is a bus driver for Tewksbury Transit and has three children in the district. She commented on the Remote Learning portion of the day. Concerned how she will be able to finish her route and get her children online for Remote Learning.

Dana Valerio, 189 South Street: Remote Learning – Ms. Valerio reported that she has a son going into Kindergarten. She is concerned with the number of hours kindergarteners will be expected to be on a computer during the Remote Learning portion of the day.

Christine Paquette, 60 Kernwood Avenue: Remote Learning – Ms. Paquette inquired if the remote Cohort is synchronous online with the in-person Cohort's classroom.

Stephanie Griffin, 33 Martha Avenue: Remote Learning – Ms. Griffin has a kindergarten student and a preschool student, she is concerned with the amount of time on the computer for the Remote Learning portion of the day as well as how it will build the foundation for children going into first grade.

Erin Hudd, 67 Catamount Road: TTA Negotiations – Ms. Hudd is concerned the TTA is calling the shots, not the parents, inquiring if parents are able to know what the TTA is asking for during the negotiations.

Jerry O'Neil, Merrimack Meadows: COVID – Mr. O'Neil asked what would be the procedure for positive testing COVID.

Lauren Wolfinger, 438 Pleasant Street: Remote Learning Academy – Ms. Wolfinger inquired how the Remote Learning Academy will compare to the Hybrid-Remote Model.

Shelley Wrobel, TPS Teacher: Hybrid Model – Ms. Wrobel commented that the survey results indicated 80% of teachers wanted the Hybrid Model however it was not understood it would be a half-day. She is concerned how to be at home for her children during the Remote portion of the day.

Kristin Vaillancourt, 20 Ballard Street: COVID Testing – Ms. Vaillancourt inquired if the district is looking into testing mechanisms for asymptomatic staff/students.

Grace D'Ippolito, 11 Allison Way: Hybrid Model – Ms. D'Ippolito is concerned about the Hybrid Model schedule commenting that it will be difficult for parents working.

Jeanne Hogan, 60 Briarwood Road: Models – Ms. Hogan commented that parents do not have all the information and would like more time to make a decision.

Shelly Wrobel, TPS Teacher: Remote Learning – Ms. Wrobel commented teachers did not understand that the Hybrid Model was going to be a half-day model. It will be difficult for teachers/parents to be home in the afternoon for synchronous learning. If done anytime during the day, children will lose time with the teacher.

In-Person Plan - Parent would like the district to consider two full-days instead of half-days.

Deanna (Parent) Hybrid Model – Two children in Tewksbury Public Schools, commented that she was not advised of a half-day Hybrid Model, she was advised of a full-day. She asked if the half-day model was put into place to persuade parents to go to remote learning.

Ann Seichter, 13 S. Elizabeth Street: COVID – Ms. Seichter asked if the district is advising families of the Massachusetts COVID travel order.

Amy Duffy, 6 Amos Street: Hybrid Model - Ms. Duffy commented on the in-person portion of the Hybrid Model asking to keep students in one family on the same schedule.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to approve the July 22, 2020 Reorganizational Meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to approve the July 22, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Ms. Demos moved the Lump Sum payroll period ending June 25, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$1,306,950.36), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Demos moved the payroll period ending July 23, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$1,122,855.60), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Demos moved the payroll period ending August 6, 2020 FY 20, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown (\$130,664.90), seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Demos, Mr. Cutelis, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Malone reported on the workshop held this afternoon with the School Committee and the District Leadership Team (DLT) relating that the principals and department heads presented a review of the 2019-2020 school year, goals for the 2020-2021 school year, the School Improvement Plans, and what the reopening plan will look like in the schools. The group discussed the Hybrid Model, student and staff safety procedures, and scheduling. Mr. Malone thanked the School Committee members for their patience and feedback.

Mr. Malone offered congratulations to the Special Education staff for their work during the SPED summer program relating a lot of children were able to participate. He reported opening for staff is next Wednesday and Thursday. The staff will have ten days prior to students returning to school which will be used for professional development to prepare teachers for the Hybrid Model. The TMHS PAC will hold a drive-in movie fundraiser at Wamesit Lanes parking lot on August 31, 2020. Mr. Malone reported that the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen applications are available relating we will be sending the applications to the principals for distribution.

DESE Step 2: 2020-2021 Comprehensive Reopening Plan

Mr. Malone asked the Chair if he would like him to take the Reopening Plan on the agenda out-of-order and report now. Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Malone to proceed. Mr. Malone reported that the Reopening School Plan was submitted to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on Friday as required. Mr. Malone offered thanks to the members of the Reopening School Plan Task Force. The School Committee voted to implement the Hybrid Model and the Task Force will continue to work on the reopening plan. Mr. Malone reported the district has received additional guidance from DESE and the CDC relating that testing and quarantine remain in effect. In the fall, children will be required to have a flu shot although we don't know if staff will be required as well.

Mr. Malone reported that the Special Education Department is working to identify high need students who will qualify for additional time, four days (based on student need) relating that families will be notified by Friday.

Mr. Malone reported the district continues to work on a 4-hour in-person student day as opposed to a 6-hour in-person day. The district is looking at staff leaves and our availability to find substitute teachers and staff for the Remote Learning Academy.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the School Committee members. Mr. Sullivan inquired if anyone had called-in to address the Committee.

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan reported 100 teachers have been working on Curriculum Mapping during the summer. Also this summer, there was advanced focus on Remote Learning relating that over 90 teachers took advantage of Remote Learning Professional Development presented by our Digital Learning Coach, Lisa Bailey. Ms. Regan reported the district will continue to prioritize Remote Learning Professional Development for staff.

Ms. Regan stated that we have heard from families that students need synchronous times with their peers, to learn and collaborate together. We will be offering more Professional Development for this. We have been asking parents to read the Reopening Plan and complete the survey. Please note, the district will be starting with a 4-hour day vs the 6-hour day and our goal is to have all kids back in-person full-time. Monday August 24th and August 25th are scheduled as the new teacher Mentor Induction Program to be held at the high school. Wednesday, August 26th is opening day for staff; all staff will be at their home school and in their classrooms. Monday, August 31st begins ten days of staff Professional Development training for reopening of schools as we blend in-school and remote learning. Our long-term goal this year is equitable schools, teaching students about diversity, belonging, inclusion, and anti-racism, with a focus on using our current bias tools. Ms. Regan reported that the first day of school will be on September 16th. We will be publishing the School Committee/Administrator Workshop presentation on the district website.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions or comments from the School Committee members. Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone else had called-in to address the Committee.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby reported that the district continues to prepare for the staff to return next week. We are completing projects and working on signage for when students return and we are continuing to stock up on Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) items. We will do what is needed to meet the staff needs when they return.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan asked if the Committee had any comments or questions regarding anything on the agenda. Ms. Demos commented on the TMHS PAC fundraiser, thanking the Wamesit Lanes for their support of the Tewksbury Public Schools. Ms. Demos extended best wishes to the retirees. She inquired about the necessity of all the Appendix B positions and continuation of Common Planning time. She asked for Cohort enrollment data and the survey results. With no further questions or comments, Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Demos moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Cutelis. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone else had called-in to address the Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Correspondence

None

Enrollment Update

August 2020

Personnel Items

Appendix B 2020-2021 Co-Curricular

North Street School

Head Teacher - Mary Groux

Tewksbury Memorial High School

Fall/Spring Artistic Director - Celeste Pellegrino

Winter Artistic Director - Celeste Pellegrino

Choral Director - Celeste Pellegrino

2020-2021 Mentor Program Director

Terry Gerrish, Director of the Mentor Program, District-wide, effective July 22, 2020

New Hires

Nancy Torname, Part-time Special Education Secretarial position at the John Ryan Elementary School, effective September 1, 2020; Vanessa Chambers, Classroom Instructional Aide/Integrated Preschool Program, LF Dewing Elementary School, effective August 26, 2020; Sandra Bransfield, 10-month School Secretary, Heath Brook School, August 24, 2020

Reappointments

Transfer

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations: Steven Nahlik, Music Teacher at the Dewing Elementary School and the Trahan Elementary School, effective July 20, 2020; Teresa Oberg, Classroom Instructional Aide, North Street School, effective July 31, 2020; Denise Trevor, Classroom Instructional Aide, North Street School, effective July 31, 2020; Kathy Starling, Classroom Instructional Aide/DLC, North Street School, effective July 31, 2020; Chloe Manousos, Classroom Instructional Aide, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective August 4, 2020; Carolyn Dooley, Speech & Language Pathologist at the Dewing School, effective June 30, 2021

Acceptance of Donations/Gifts: None

Fundraisers/Raffles: TMHS PAC fundraiser event: Drive-in Movie Night, August 30, 2020 at Wamesit Lanes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee (ESBC)

Mr. Cutelis reported the Committee is meeting on a regular basis. The General Contractor, Consigli, is on site and site work is ongoing, with the contractors working six days a week. They will begin the foundation for the new school this month as well as the Field House.

Tewksbury Education Foundation

No report.

Tewksbury Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

Mr. Sullivan reported that SEPAC recently met to take parent concerns, feedback and input about the model plans. The leadership has reached out to schedule a meeting with the district administrators in the next week or two.

Wellness Advisory Committee

No report.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, and ADOPTION

None

OLD BUSINESS

DESE Step 2: 2020-2021 Comprehensive Reopening Plan

Moved up on the agenda.

2020-2021 School Calendar

Ms. Regan pointed out the changes and Open House dates on the 2020-2021 calendar. She reported the teachers will have ten training days before students come back on September 16th.

Mr. Sullivan asked for teachers to reach out to parents and students before the first day of school. Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the School Committee.

Ms. Demos moved to approve the updated 2020-2021 School Calendar as amended. Mr. Sullivan seconded.

Roll Call Voting - Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

2020-2021 Register Periods

Ms. Regan said that the 2020-2021 Register Periods reflects the school days for the 2020-2021 Report Card periods adding that the dates will be added onto the district's website calendar.

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the 2020-2021 Register Period as presented.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Non-Union Salaried Personnel Adjustment for the 2020-2021 School Year

Mr. Libby reported that two staff members were omitted from the previous Non-Union Salaried report, asking the Committee to approve the adjustment.

Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the adjusted Non-Union Salaried Personnel report for the 2020-2021 school year.

Roll Call Vote – Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Cutelis Abstained. Motion carried 3-0-1

NEW BUSINESS

School Committee 2020-2021 Assignments

Mr. Sullivan presented the School Committee assignments for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Sullivan commented that Mr. Stadtman will serve on the Tewksbury Education Foundation. The assignment list will be updated to reflect the change.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Ms. Demos commented that she is taking family concerns to heart. She is reading and acknowledging emails and working on responses. She asked for patience as she is struggling to keep up with the numerous emails.

*Tewksbury School Committee
Regular Meeting
August 19, 2020*

Mr. Wilson echoed her sentiments regarding the number of emails. Mr. Wilson commented that emails should be done with respect and professionalism. Mr. Sullivan thanked the Town Manager for his support in getting the schools up and running. We are doing our best to do what is best for students, staff, and families.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE & FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

September 16, 2020; October 14, 2020

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURN

At 8:39 p.m. Mr. Sullivan adjourned the August 19, 2020, School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Cutelis, seconded by Ms. Demos.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.