

**Tewksbury School Committee
Regular Meeting #3 - Wednesday, September 16, 2020
All Members Attended Remotely via WebEx**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

Shannon M. Demos, Clerk

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

John Weir, Principal of Wynn Middle School
Ron Drouin, Athletic Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the September 16, 2020, Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:31 p.m., Mr. Sullivan announced that the School Committee will be going into an Executive Session to continue discussion relative to collective bargaining with employee groups and the strategy to be followed and/or continued ongoing litigation. Mr. Cutelis moved to enter into the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Wilson. The School Committee will reconvene in Open Session following the Executive Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT & RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 5:50 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the September 16, 2020 Executive Session and reconvened the Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Cutelis, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

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

At 6:00 p.m. Mr. Sullivan reconvened the Regular School Committee meeting calling for a Moment of Silence for Elaine Fiske. He remarked that Mrs. Fiske was a former teacher at the Heath Brook School. A scholarship in her memory has been established, to donate, please contact Pat Whitehouse at Tewksbury Memorial High School.

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. The meeting can be viewed on Comcast Channel 22, Verizon Channel 34, or YouTube/TewksburyTV.com. 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 recording the meeting.

Roll Call - Confirming and giving consent: Yes: Mr. Cutelis, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Malone, Ms. Regan, Mr. Weir, Mr. Drouin, and Mr. Libby. All in consent.

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 will check-in with Courtney Coviello again later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the August 5, 2020 Joint Workshop minutes.

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

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the August 6, 2020 Special School Committee meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the August 19, 2020 School Committee / Administrator Workshop minutes.

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

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the August 19, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes.

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

Mr. Sullivan checked in with Courtney Coviello to see if anyone had called in. Seeing no one, Mr. Sullivan moved onto submission and payment of bills.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the payroll period ending August 20, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,136,519.52, seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

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

Mr. Wilson moved to approve the payroll period ending September 3, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,333,541.25 seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

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

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Malone, Superintendent

Mr. Malone asked the Committee to move item C, Old Business, 2021 Wynn Middle School Washington, D.C. trip up on the agenda and item A, New Business, Remote Learning Academy participation in athletics and co-curricular activities.

Mr. Cutelis motioned, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to take out of order, Old Business C and New Business A.

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

2021 Wynn Middle School Washington D.C., Trip

Mr. Weir recapped that the trip was brought to the School Committee a month ago, approving for Mr. Gillespie to move forward with planning the trip to D.C. However, due to current state and national restrictions due to the pandemic, the Wynn School will not move forward with the trip. Mr. Malone recommended that the Committee vote not to move forward with the trip.

At the recommendation of Superintendent Malone, Mr. Wilson moved to postpone the Washington, D.C., trip for the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

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

Remote Learning Academy Students Participation in Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities

Mr. Malone reported that there has been discussion at the state level regarding students that choose a Remote Learning Academy (RLA) in districts participating in a Hybrid Model, and whether they may participate in athletics and/or co-curriculum activities. He reported that the district takes attendance into consideration for students to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. Students in the Remote Learning Academy are graded and attendance is taken. Mr. Malone recommends the Committee to consider that the RLA students participate in co-curricular activities and athletics.

Mr. Drouin addressed the Committee stating that he and Principal Bernard support the Superintendent's recommendation.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the School Committee.

Mr. Wilson moved to allow students in the Remote Learning Academy to participate in all extra-curricular and athletic activities for the school year 2020-2021, while the district is in the Hybrid Model.

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

Mr. Sullivan checked in with Courtney Coviello to see if there are any callers; there were no callers.

Mr. Malone reported today is the opening day for students returning to school. The district is in the Hybrid Model, today being a full-remote day and tomorrow will be an in-person. Mr. Malone reported the district has finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tewksbury Teachers Association. He reported on AlphaBEST's before and after school programming and the Community Services preschool programming. He reported the district is working with Tewksbury Transit to transport kids to the after school program. Mr. Malone reported we are working with staff and the TTA to insure all students participating in the Remote Learning Academy (RLA) will be taught by TPS teachers. He presented an update on maintenance and custodial cleaning and disinfecting throughout the district. The district is working with the Tewksbury Fire Department conducting fire drills and the Tewksbury Department of Health and TPS Lead Nurse to make sure children receive a flu shot. Mr. Malone offered a thank you to Mr. Montuori for the grant for lighting at schools and other opportunities.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the School Committee. The Committee offered thanks to Mr. Malone, Ms. Regan and Mr. Libby for all their work during the reopening of schools.

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan announced that recent communications that were sent home may be found on the district website. She presented screen shots from the district website reminding parents about the expectations of COVID-19 screening at home, the importance of doing wellness checks, and information on mask guidance, adding that students will receive lanyards to hold their mask. Ms. Regan pointed out the Digital Resources & Supports on the website and information on the Grab 'n Go Lunch program and curbside pick-up. She reported the district's website event calendar has been updated to include the cohort schedules. She concluded by reminding students that it is not too late to complete your summer reading.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby presented a Transportation Department update to the Committee relating there are new challenges with the 25 student capacity limitations. He reported that Tewksbury Transportation has helped with assignment of seats. Mr. Libby addressed the community stating that the district has capacity on the busses to handle students in most situations asking families to be patient while we make the changes. Mr. Libby reported that drivers have been timing routes, completing dry runs, and participating in driver training safety and protocols. Mr. Libby offered thanks to Tewksbury Transit, Trombly, and Pride Star, as well as the Central Office staff for working together for the start-up of school.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the School Committee. The Committee thanked Mr. Libby for all he has done.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone had questions/comments on the Consent Agenda. Seeing none, Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Wilson moved to approve the consent agenda in its entirety, seconded by Mr. Sullivan.

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

Correspondence

Initial Face Mask Protocol (File)

Enrollment Update

See New Business

Personnel Items

New Hires: Kelly Bruno, Classroom Instructional Aide/DLC, North Street School, effective August 26, 2020; Christina Caruso, Special Education Teacher, North Street School, effective August 26, 2020; Brian Dorsey, 1-year long-term substitute Grade 7 Math Teacher, John Wynn Middle School, effective August 26, 2020; Shannon Fleming, 1-year long-term substitute Health Teacher, John Wynn Middle School, effective September 11, 2020; Courtney Graffeo, 1-year long-term Building-based Substitute Teacher, John Ryan Elementary School, effective September 8, 2020; Patrick Lamarche, Senior Building Custodian, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective August 13, 2020; Paige Marquis, District-wide BCBA, effective August 26, 2020; Taylor McNeil, 1-year long-term substitute Grade 4 Teacher, North Street School, effective August 26, 2020; Arianna Ruiz, Classroom Instructional Aide, North Street School, effective August 26, 2020; James Walsh, 1-year long-term Building-based Substitute Teacher, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective September 14, 2020; Robert Phinney, Lead Night Building Custodian, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective September 14, 2020

Reappointments

Transfer

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations: Conner Benoit, Classroom Instructional Aide at the John Wynn Middle School, effective August 19, 2020; Susan Fallon, part-time School Secretary at the Heath Brook School, effective August 28, 2020; Leslie Gravito, Classroom Instructional Aide at the John Ryan Elementary School, effective August 25, 2020; Scott Hynes, Classroom Instructional Aide at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective September 4, 2020; Diane Luppi, part-time School Secretary at the Dewing Elementary School, effective September 15, 2020; Gregory Marshall, Classroom Instructional Aide at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective September 4, 2020; Emma Panto, Classroom Instructional Aide at John Ryan Elementary School, effective August 25, 2020;

Acceptance of Donations/Gifts: None

Fundraisers/Raffles: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Mr. Cutelis reported he walked the building site relating that some 40,000 unsuitable soil was replaced with good compacted soil. Foundations are done for the field house and concession stand and they are ready to complete the foundation for the school. He reported the project is on budget and on time for opening.

Tewksbury Education Foundation

None

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Wilson reported the SEPAC had a productive meeting with Mr Pelletier. Although Mr. Wilson was not able to attend, he received good feedback.

Wellness Advisory Committee

None

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Opening Day 1 & 2 Agenda

Ms. Regan provided the School Committee with the staff opening day schedules for day one and day two.

TPS 10-Day COVID Reopening Training Days & Topics

Ms. Regan reported on Tewksbury Public Schools' 10-day Covid reopening training days and the topics covered. She commented that this is only an information item, no action is needed from the School Committee.

2021 John Wynn Middle School 8th Grade Washington, D.C., Overnight Field Trip

Moved up on agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Remote Learning Academy Students: Participating Athletics & Co-Curricular Activities

Moved up on the agenda.

Wynn PAC Snap! Raise Fundraising Event

Mr. Malone reported that after further conversation, Mr. Weir has withdrawn the request for the Snap! fundraising event. There is no action needed from the School Committee.

Enrollment September 4, 2020

Mr. Malone presented the enrollment data update as of September 4, 2020. Mr. Malone reported the district is looking at how to manage class sizes during COVID and keeping six foot distancing.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the School Committee. There were no further comments.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

The School Committee members offered thanks to the staff and administration for their patience and time during the successful negotiations with the Tewksbury Teachers Association (TTA) on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and hopes the year gets off to a good start and keeps going. As well as thanking parents and guardians for their understanding throughout the process and their input.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE & FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

October 6th, the School Committee members will attend the Special Town meeting. Next meetings: October 14, 2020; November 18, 2020; December 9, 2020

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURN

At 7:21 p.m. Mr. Sullivan adjourned the September 16, 2020, School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Cutelis, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

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