

**Tewksbury School Committee
Regular Meeting #6 - Wednesday, December 9, 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

Karen Cronin, Principal of the North Street School
Terry Gerrish, Principal of the Dewing Elementary School
Jay Harding, Principal of the Trahan Elementary School
Judi McInnes, Principal of the John Ryan Elementary School
John Weir, Principal of the John Wynn Middle School
Felicia Cenanovic, Principal of the Heath Brook School
Ron Drouin, Athletic Director
Gail Johnson, Administrative Assistant
MaryAnn Deshler, Retiree
Kathleen Starling, Retiree

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the December 9, 2020, Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sullivan entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with employee groups and/or personnel matters. 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 at 6:00 p.m.

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

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the December 9, 2020 Executive Session with a motion from Mr. Cutelis, seconded by Mr. Wilson.

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

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 6:06 p.m., Mr. Sullivan reconvened the December 9, 2020 Regular School Committee meeting.

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

**APPROVED
1/13/2021**

He reported the meeting will be televised and recorded. This is a virtual meeting via *WebEx*. Due to the recent open meeting law policy set forth by the Governor during the current state of emergency the meeting will be held as a virtual meeting. School Committee Chairman, confirmed that all members of the School Committee and persons on the agenda are present and give consent to be recorded tonight.

By Roll Call - School Committee: Mr. Cutelis, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Demos, Mr. Sullivan; Staff: Mr. Malone, Ms. Regan, Mr. Libby; Other Guests: Mr. Drouin, Ms. Gerrish, Ms. Cenanovic, Ms. Cronin, Mr. Harding, Ms. McInnes, Mr. Weir, Mr. Drouin, Ms. Deshler, Ms. Starling.

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 Forum section of the meeting on 978-771-0819 convening through *WebEx*. 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 on the district website or by contacting Ms. Johnson, at gjohnson@tewksbury.k12.ma.us.

RECOGNITION

2021 TPS Early Retirees (File)

Dewing Elementary School

Nancy Kalajian, Reading Specialist (19 Years of Service)

North Street School

Teresa Oberg, Classroom Instructional Aide (16 Years of Service)

Kathleen Starling, Classroom Instructional Aide (16 Years of Service)

Denise Trevor, Classroom Instructional Aide (16 Years of Service)

John Wynn Middle School

MaryAnn Deshler, Classroom Instructional Aide (19 Years of Service)

Mr. Malone announced that the School Committee will be honoring five staff members tonight that have retired since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. He thanked them for their dedication and support of Tewksbury's youth. Mr. Malone introduced MaryAnn Deshler, a Classroom Instructional Aide at the Wynn Middle; Nancy Kalajian, a Reading Specialist at the Dewing School; Teresa Oberg, Classroom Instructional Aide at the North Street School; Kathy Starling, Classroom Instructional Aide at the North Street School; and Denise Trevor, Classroom Instructional Aide at the North Street School. The principals and the School Committee offered their appreciation to the retirees. They will receive a clock for their years of service with the Tewksbury Public Schools.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Notes From Tewksbury Memorial High School

Mr. Jack Stadtman was not in attendance.

PRESENTATIONS

TMHS Athletics Update - Ron Drouin, Athletic Director

Mr. Drouin presented the TMHS athletics update reporting on the sports offered this year and the protocols they have in place. Mr. Drouin reported he created a Protocol Covid Checklist which has been a great tool adding that the checklist has been shared with other districts. He reported that Tewksbury participated in more games than other districts adding that they had a successful fall. He mentioned that they were able to reduce the user fees since we only played half the games. Mr. Drouin reviewed the protocols for indoor sports relating there will be no fans for indoor events but parents will be able to watch on YouTube/TV.

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

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 Brian Dorrington again later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (File)

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to approve the November 18, 2020 Regular School Committee meeting minutes.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Dina Mancini, 15 Kenneth Lane, Tewksbury, addressed the School Committee regarding the concerns the TTA has brought forth and the Committee's lack of objectivity in the matter. She also commented on the lack of communication from Committee members. Mr. Sullivan thanked Ms. Mancini for her comments and opinion although he did not necessarily agree with her. He responded that Tewksbury has great teachers, we support the teachers, and have had good relations with the TTA. He reported he received the document from the TTA on Wednesday, November 24th. On Monday morning, he met with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to respond to all the allegations, then gave the information to the Committee members. He stated that we are, and will continue, to look into this matter. The Committee members responded to Ms. Mancini's comment as well.

Mr. Sullivan checked-in with Mr. Dorrington to inquire if anyone had called-in. Seeing none, Mr. Sullivan moved on to Payment of Bills.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS (File)

Ms. Demos moved to approve the payroll period ending November 25, 2020, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,384,876.72, seconded by Mr. Cutelis.

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

Mr. Sullivan checked-in with Mr. Dorrington to inquire if anyone had called-in. Seeing no callers, Mr. Sullivan moved onto Superintendent and Staff Reports.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Malone, Superintendent

Mr. Malone presented a COVID-19 update relating that DESE has a new metric to track the positivity rate of COVID-19 cases. He asked staff and students to stay home while sick, stay home if a family member is sick, and to follow the protocols to limit the spread. He reported he participated in a call with the Commissioner relating that educators will be in Phase 2 of the vaccine roll-out. The vaccines should be available sometime between February and April. Our nurses are working on the flu vaccine requirements for students relating that the Commissioner may delay the flu vaccine requirement. He reminded parents to make sure their children get the flu vaccine. Mr. Malone reported on the 3-Year Disproportionality Special Education Report relating that DESE found no findings in Tewksbury's data. Mr. Malone reported that there are 98 Special Education students attending school four days per week, we are looking at increasing the numbers, and there are eleven ELL students getting more than two days per week. He stated that the Special Education department looked at how to support home services without going into the homes. They now have five of those students coming to the school to receive services.

Mr. Malone gave a *Shout Out* to the TMHS Theater Company for their virtual presentation of *Romeo and Juliet*. On another note, he commented that thanks to Anne Marie Stronach, Tewksbury will receive 1,500 youth and a number of adult size masks for distribution to the schools from DESE. Mr. Malone offered a *Shout Out* to Dr. Basteri for successfully getting the Social Emotional grant in the amount of \$20,000 from DESE.

He thanked the K-4 students for providing cards and letters to the Veteran's at the VA hospital in Bedford. Mr. Malone gave a big thank you to all the nurses for an outstanding job, particularly with parents, and for providing comfort, feedback and input.

He reported the current budget is on the Governor's desk. The Chapter 70 distribution will be back to the 2019 allocation amount adding that we would have no increase in Chapter 70 funding. This is a concern with the outlook of the budget for next year. He commented that Mr. Libby is making sure we are spending responsibly during this pandemic.

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

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan reported receiving an email from the National Board that they will postpone the NATE test relating that the North Street School had been selected to participate in the NATE. Ms. Regan reported there is information about the Seal of Biliteracy on the Consent agenda. For additional information, please contact Graca Dudley, Spanish Teacher at Tewksbury Memorial High School.

Ms. Regan reviewed updates that have been made to the school event calendar on the website pointing out the filter and other features. She reported that December 21st is a Cohort A day and December 22nd is a Cohort B day relating that schools will be deep cleaned between the two days. Wednesday, December 23rd is a remote day for all learners. This is an early release day for students and a half-day Workshop for teachers.

Ms. Regan reported that on Tuesday, January 26th, 150 students will be taking the PSAT's. They will be socially distanced and in small groups. It will be a full remote day for all 9-12 students not participating in the PSAT test.

Ms. Regan pointed out the student enrollment data on the Consent agenda relating that the district has added the Hybrid/Remote and Remote Learning Academy enrollment data. The report will now be presented on a monthly basis.

Ms. Regan presented an update on tracking and reporting the Covid-19 data. The district has developed a Covid-19 Dashboard. The tracker will be posted on the district website by the end of week and will be messaged out to all families.

Ms. Regan reported that the district submitted an audit to DESE in November on the amount of Student Learning Time (SLT) students in grades 1, 4, 7, and 10 are spending on in-person, synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Once we receive and review the feedback from DESE, the information will be shared with families.

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

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby reported on the retrofit lighting project and the window replacement project at the Heath Brook School. He reported that the blinds and the heating unit along the wall are also included in the project. He added that the greenhouse rooms are not included in the project but we are working with the architect to address those as well, at a later time. We are accepting bids in January and hope to begin next summer.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the School Committee. Mr. Libby responded to questions and comments from the Committee on the cost of the project and if the greenhouse rooms could be included in the bid as well as the budget.

Mr. Sullivan checked in with Mr. Dorrington again. There were no callers at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Seeing none, 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. Stadtman, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Demos, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence

Seal of Biliteracy (File)

Enrollment Update

- a. December 1, 2020 (File)
- b. Class Size & Staffing: Hybrid and RLA Cohorts by School (File)

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Retirements/Resignations/Terminations: Kailey LaFlamme, Grade 2 Moderate Special Needs Teacher at the Dewing Elementary School, effective December 9, 2020; Tammy Duggan, Classroom Aide at the John Ryan Elementary School, effective December 4, 2020; Brian Finn, District-wide IT Support Technician, effective December 1, 2020; Tiffanie Marsh, Classroom Instructional Aide at the Dewing Elementary School, effective December 4, 2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Mr. Cutelis reported that Consigli is working quickly on constructing the steel frame and the project is on time and on budget.

Tewksbury Education Foundation

None

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Wilson reported that the SEPAC hosted a well attended parent's support group on November 19th. They will host another in the new year. The next SEPAC virtual meeting is scheduled on January 24th at 7:00 p.m. People may send agenda items to tewksburysepac@gmail.com.

Wellness Advisory Committee

None

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

Policy Recommended for Revision to TPS Policy on Informational Reading

Mr. Sullivan reported the School Committee received feedback on the homeschool policy. Additional comments may be sent to Superintendent Malone, Ms. Demos, or Mr. Stadtman.

OLD BUSINESS

TMHS MCAS Update (File)

Ms. Regan presented the MCAS assessment update for Tewksbury Memorial High School. She reported that DESE will reschedule the Competency Determination test later in the year. DESE has also extended the window for ACCESS testing to May 20, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

End of Term 1 Parent Survey (File)

Ms. Regan reported that the School Committee received a copy of the End of Term 1 Parent Survey in their packet. She presented the results from the 1,700 survey responses relating that the Task Force has seen the data.

We will continue to analyze the data, set goals and benchmarks, and consider moving forward with more in-person time or to improve instruction.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and/or comments from the School Committee members. Mr. Cutelis commented that he appreciated the report and the data.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

In response to a request from Ms. Demos, Mr. Sullivan stated that she may attend a Task Force meeting however if there would be three School Committee members in attendance, it would require an open meeting (certainly available as well).

Mr. Wilson presented a Task Force update relating that they meet every Monday. They discuss what is going on in town and what the covid numbers are. At the last meeting, Ms. Regan unveiled the new COVID-19 Dashboard and they discussed the parent survey. At the next meeting they will begin discussing what the next steps are and what benchmarks we would need in order to change the model.

On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Wilson stated that we have tremendous teachers in the school system, we support them, and have had great successes this year.

Mr. Stadtman reported he enjoyed the production of *Romeo and Juliet* and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE & FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

January 13, 2021 (Budget Workshop/Regular Meeting); February 10, 2021 (Public Hearing on Budget/Regular Meeting)

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:14 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Cutelis and 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.