

**Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Regular School Committee Meeting #11
Tewksbury Memorial High School
Christine McGrath Performing Arts Center
320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith M. Sullivan, Chairperson
Shannon M. Demos, Vice-Chairperson
Bridget L. Garabedian, Clerk
John R. Stadtman, Member
Nicholas G. Parsons, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Stadtman, Student Council Representative to the School Committee
Gail Johnson, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the May 12, 2021, Regular School Committee meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (File)

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.

Ms. Demos moved to enter into the Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with employee groups and/or personnel matters, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. The School Committee will reconvene in open session following the Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. for the Regular School Committee meeting.

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

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the May 12, 2021 Executive Session with a motion from Mr. Parsons, seconded by Ms. Garabedian. The Committee will reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting.

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

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 6:31 p.m., Mr. Sullivan reconvened the May 12, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Sullivan called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Brianna McCarthy, a teacher at Methuen High School and the Assistant Girls Hockey Coach at Tewksbury Memorial High School. Our thoughts and prayers are with the McCarthy family.

Approved 6/9/2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Garabedian led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Notes From Tewksbury Memorial High School

Jack Stadtman presented the Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School:

- DECA is still going strong. All members who have participated in DECA states may pick up their merchandise which they would have received in Boston.
- TMHS Esports is still up and running and continues to place high within other schools in New England in games such as Rocket League. They are always looking for new members. If interested, tune-in to the *Morning Update* for details.
- TMHS Theater Company is presenting a virtual production of *Charlie Brown* on May 21st and May 22nd.
- The Class of 2022 is hosting a BBQ at *Kimballs Farm* over the summer. Any student currently in the Class of 2022 may contact anyone on the Officer's Team if interested in attending.
- Congratulations to all TMHS students recently inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS).
- Student Council continues to host weekly meetings to discuss virtual activities for the school.
- The *Morning Update Show* is still broadcasting Monday through Friday.

PRESENTATIONS

None

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Mr. Sullivan inquired if anyone had signed-up wishing to speak on any item on the agenda.

- 1) Erin Hood, 67 Catamount Road, Tewksbury: Ms. Hood asked the Committee to advocate for the removal of masks for students and allow for children to socialize. Mr. Sullivan thanked Ms. Hood for her input.
- 2) Sara Steele, 9 Pocahontas Road, Tewksbury: Ms. Steele inquired if the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) classroom at the Heath Brook School is closing and how that would impact the DLC class size at the Dewing School next year. Mr. Malone responded to her concern relating that there is no plan to close the DLC class at the Heath Brook School.

Mr. Sullivan moved on to approval of the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Ms. Demos, to approve the April 14, 2021 Organization School Committee meeting minutes.

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

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Ms. Demos, to approve the April 14, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting minutes.

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

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending April 15, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,401,535.18, seconded by Ms. Demos.

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

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending April 29, 2021 to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,435,566.80, seconded by Mr. Parsons.

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

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Malone, Superintendent

Mr. Malone reported that each year the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) must identify each school district's special needs for technical assistance or interventions in the area of Special Education. As a result of this determination, DESE has not required this district to engage in any specific targeted technical assistance.

Mr. Malone announced highlights in the district:

- Tewksbury Memorial High School has been named in the top 20% of high schools in the United States.
- *Teacher Appreciation Week* was celebrated this past week.
- Friday was *Food Service Appreciation Day*.
- Today is *School Nurses Appreciation Day*.
- NHS Induction will be held May 13th with two virtual ceremonies.
- May 27th is the TMHS Scholarship Night with a virtual ceremony.
- Some students from TMHS participated in MASC Day on the Hill, a virtual event.
- Patriot's Pen winning essays are posted on the district website.
- AlphaBEST messaged out to parents about summer programming relating that they are currently running before and after school programs. They are also looking into using the Rec Center.

Mr. Malone reminded the community to take extra precautions during school days while children are arriving on buses and during dismissal.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the Committee. He announced that he will not be able to attend Scholarship Night but wanted to acknowledge the many groups that continue to give back relating that this year scholarships, in the amount of \$125,000, will be awarded to 112 TMHS students.

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan reported the district received an updated revised MCAS testing schedule. It has been distributed and posted on the website. She added that the district has performed successful infrastructure trials in preparation for the MCAS testing. RLA students will be able to take the MCAS remotely and they will each receive a new device in order to take the MCAS. Parents should contact the building principals, grades 3-8, if your child has not received a device. Ms. Regan reported that on May 17th grades 9th, 10th, and 11th (optional) will begin to take the MCAS. Forty-five juniors have opted-in to take the MCAS in part to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy and/or the Abigail Adams Scholarship. There will be another opportunity for seniors to take the MCAS next fall. Ms. Regan announced that last Friday was the Annual Art Show, a virtual event this year with over 800 participants.

She announced the Best of Show results offering congratulations to students and thanking the art teachers. The TMHS Theater Company will present a virtual production of *Charlie Brown* on May 21st and May 22nd. May 18th is a half-day Professional Development day for staff and an early release day for students. May 28th is an early release for staff and students and as a reminder you can find the Calendar Legend on the website which lists early release times.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the Committee members. In response to a question from Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Regan reported that she will report at the next meeting the date for current juniors to take the MCAS next year in order to qualify for the Seal of Biliteracy and the Abigail Adams Scholarship.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby presented a financial update reporting that the FY 22 budget was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$51,938,935.00. He presented a COVID-19 Grant status update and an ESSAR grants update.

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Seeing no one, Mr. Sullivan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Garabedian commented that she is glad to see kids getting back to extracurricular activities.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Correspondence

- a. Patriot's Pen & Voice of Democracy Essay Competition Applications (File)
- b. RLA Family MCAS Spring Testing Update (File)

Enrollment Update

See Old Business

PERSONNEL ITEMS (File)

Reappointments (File): Aides, Food & Nutrition Services, Nurses, Secretaries, and Miscellaneous Staff (List included in SC Packet)

New Hire (File): Peter Mague, part-time Mail Carrier for the Tewksbury Public Schools, effective June 1, 2021

Appointment (File): Michelle Dick, Assistant Principal, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective July 1, 2021

Appendix B TMHS Athletics (File): Scott Wilson, Boys Spring Track Coach at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective April 26, 2021

Resignation/Retirements/Terminations (File): Sandra Frost, Elementary Teacher at the Trahan Elementary School, effective April 15, 2021

Acceptance of Donations/Gifts: None

Fundraisers/Raffles (File): Heath Brook/Trahan PAC Drive-In Movie Night fundraiser, May 21, 2021, at the Merrimack Valley Pavilion; TMHS Theater Company Booster Club fundraiser/raffle Dine-Out Night at Cafe Sicilia, May 20, 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Ms. Demos was not able to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Mr. Malone reported that there were no major changes. Progress continues on the exterior framing and HVAC decisions will be made at the ESBC meeting tomorrow night. The Field Committee continues to meet and the field project is on time. The project is ahead of schedule and we are trying to nail down the opening date and what it will look like in the fall.

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Parsons reported that SEPAC is holding a virtual election meeting on May 20th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. relating that nominations are closed. Information to access the meeting has been posted with the Town Clerk and messaged out. Topics to discuss will include elections, updates from the Tewksbury Public Library, school safety concerns, summer school planning, by-laws for a student representative, and a discussion to re-establish Friends of the SEPAC organization. In April they held their second parent support group of the year. He reported that new attendees are welcome to join.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Ms. Garabedian reported that at this time the Wellness Committee has not been meeting. There is a plan to reestablish the meeting schedule next year.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

Policy Recommended for Revision to TPS Policy on First Reading (File)

IHBG -Home Schooling Policy

Ms. Demos reported that policy IHBG - Homeschooling Policy, was presented on the Informational reading on November 20th. Due to input, the policy has been revised and is presented on First reading. The policy will be presented at the next School Committee meeting for Second and Final reading. The community is welcome to reach out to Ms. Demos, Mr. Parsons, or Mr. Malone if they have any comments or concerns with the policy.

OLD BUSINESS

April 30, 2021 Class Count and Enrollment Update (File)

Ms. Regan, at the request of Ms. Demos, presented a class count and enrollment update. She reported that the K-8 schools would be able to fit additional desks in the classrooms for the remainder of the year and to maintain social distancing. Ms. Regan highlighted the class counts and enrollment at TMHS and if any classes needed overflow space. In response to questions from Ms. Demos, Ms. Regan responded that the district is confident that we can accommodate the overflow in the fall.

2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule (File)

Mr. Sullivan reported that the School Committee members received the 2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule at the last meeting calling for a motion to approve the schedule.

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the 2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule as presented.

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

Discussion of More In-person

Mr. Malone presented the More In-Person update relating that as of May 28th, with the return of the Wynn and high school students, all schools are operating on a full-day schedule with the full return of students from the Hybrid Model. The Task Force continues to look at the data relating that the positivity rate is at 2.05% and single digits of cases in the schools. The Task Force's mission and function was to look at the models and guide us on which model to be using. We are looking at the transition of RLA kids returning to school in the fall and have received good input from parents. We presented the new close contact guidelines and the district has been approved to extend pooled testing to the end of the school year. We are thankful for the school nurses, particularly Kelly Constantino and Elaine Walsh. We will be messaging out to families the new travel advisory. He reported the district is monitoring the idea of vaccinations in schools although we have not made a determination but are open to the discussion. On Monday, we voted to disband the Task Force as we are no longer looking at models since the students have returned to full in-person. Mr. Malone reported that there were several members on the Task Force who were instrumental to the district and we are very thankful to the individual members on the Task Force. He requested that the School Committee recognize the members of the Task Force. He commented that although the Task Force has dissolved it will be no less a burden on the district for the future decisions we need to make as we look at how to manage the intricate things that come with the pandemic: keeping students safe, supporting kids in remote, we need to look at where kids are and identify learning gaps, how to address this long-term, what opportunities can we offer in the summer, and what the fall will look like.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments and questions from the School Committee members. Mr. Sullivan commented that we are grateful for all the Task Force has done and that he would like to do something to recognize the members of the Task Force.

NEW BUSINESS

2021-2022 PK-4 Elementary Student Handbook & 2021-2022 John Ryan Elementary Student Handbook

Ms. Regan requested to table the elementary student handbooks (PK through grade 6) due to the student arrival and dismissal details in the handbooks which will need to be reassessed.

Mr. Sullivan asked if the Committee had any comments or concerns, seeing none, he called for a motion.

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to table the elementary student handbooks from New Business. The student handbooks will be on the June meeting agenda.

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

Citizen's Comment

1. Doreen Healy, 53 Baldwin Road, Unit 1702, Billerica. Ms. Healy Inquired why there was nothing in the handbooks about student restraints. Mr. Sullivan asked Ms. Healy to contact a Committee member or the Superintendent to discuss her concern.

School Committee Member Appointment to the Elementary School Building Committee & School Committee Assignments (File)

Mr. Sullivan reported that there is an opening on the Elementary School Building Committee. He asked the Committee members for a motion to appoint a School Committee member to the Elementary School Building Committee (ESBC).

Ms. Garabedian moved to appoint John Stadtman to the ESBC, seconded by Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. Parsons moved to appoint himself to the ESBC. Motion was not seconded.

Mr. Sullivan called for a roll call vote to appoint Mr. Stadtman to full-fill the duties as a member of the ESBC.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Demos, Ms. Garabedian, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0. Roll call vote. All Aye.

Mr. Sullivan asked Ms. Johnson to update the School Committee Assignment document.

FY 22 Valley Collaborative Board Member Appointment (File)

Mr. Malone reported that the Tewksbury Public Schools is a member of the Valley Collaborative and that he currently sits as a member of the Board. He stated that we hope to continue to work together to support our students. Mr. Sullivan asked if the Committee would support Mr. Malone as the FY 22 Valley Collaborative Board member.

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Stadtman, to appoint Mr. Malone as Tewksbury's representative to the FY 22 Valley Collaborative Board of Directors.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Demos, Ms. Garabedian, and Mr. Sullivan. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0. Roll Call Vote. All Aye.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Ms. Garabedian reported she attended the SC/TTA Labor Management meeting relating that it was very collaborative and went well. Ms. Demos commented on the ESSAR funds inquiring if the funds could be used for SEL and gaps in learning. She would like to prioritize SEL for the RLA kids returning in the fall. Ms. Demos asked about the pooled testing and how many families participated and suggested the district participate in distributing vaccines at the schools. She commented on the new hires relating that she is happy to have Eileen Osborne at the Center School, Ms. Dick at the high school, and gave a *shout-out* to Mr. Wilson for joining the track team.

Mr. Stadtman commented that it is refreshing we are all back together again and it is great having kids back in class.

Mr. Sullivan presented an update on summer programs with regards to youth sports relating that Flag Football will be offered the week school gets out and the Boys and Girls Basketball programs (grades 2-8) will be running clinics outside at the Livingston fields, June 21st-24th and June 28th-July 1st.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE & FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

June 9, 2021; July 21, 2021; August 18, 2021

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:42 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the May 12, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Ms. Demos and seconded by Mr. Stadtman.

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