Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Regular School Committee Meeting #3
Tewksbury Memorial High School
Christine McGrath Performing Arts Center
320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCUSED

Shannon M. Demos, Vice-Chairperson

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the September 22, 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.

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

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Garabedian, Mr. Stadtman, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. No Opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

At 6:31 p.m., Mr. Sullivan motioned to adjourn the September 22, 2021 Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. The Committee will reconvene in open session.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Garabedian, Mr. Stadtman, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. No Opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 6:37 p.m., Mr. Sullivan reconvened the September 22, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Sullivan reported the September 22, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting will be televised and recorded and may be viewed live on Comcast Channel 22 and Verizon Channel 34 or YouTube/TewksburyTV.com. Under the Open Meeting Law, the public is permitted to make an audio or video recording of an open session at a public meeting. Mr. Sullivan inquired if anyone in the audience was recording tonight's meeting. Seeing no one, Mr. Sullivan moved to the next order of business.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION

None

Mr. Malone reminded the audience to wear a mask as required by MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Mr. Sullivan stated that masks are required to be worn by anyone in a school building. He announced that there are masks available in the back of the auditorium, giving the individuals not wearing a mask the opportunity to put a mask on. Mr. Sullivan asked one final time for those without masks to mask-up. Since the individuals were not conforming to mask-up, the Committee called for a five minute recess.

At 6:41 p.m., Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to take a five minute recess. The Committee reconvened at 6:59 p.m. Mr. Sullivan thanked the audience for their patience and continued the meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Notes From Tewksbury Memorial High School

Jack Stadtman presented the notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School.

- DECA Team has started up and are looking for new members. They will also participate in the Town-wide Clean-up in early October.
- TMHS Drama Club has started working on their latest production of Clue.
- All classes at TMHS held elections and the results will be announced tomorrow. Jack wished good luck to the runners and congratulations to the winners.
- The National Honor Society (NHS) is running a Hurricane Relief Drive, collecting items to be sent to the victims. All donations may be left near the office or in the library.
- Student Council is holding weekly meetings on Thursday mornings and are planning new upcoming Spirit days.
- Tune into YouTube for the *Morning Update Show*, live every morning.
- The International Club will also be participating in the Town-wide Clean-up.

PRESENTATIONS

TMHS Domestic Trip to National Parks - Bailey Mahoney, World Languages (File)

Ms. Regan introduced Bailey Mahoney, World Language Teacher at Tewksbury Memorial High School. Ms. Mahoney is seeking the approval of the School Committee for a domestic overnight trip to national parks. Bailey presented a brief overview of the US National Parks trip to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park via EF Tours. The trip is planned during the 2022 April vacation and transportation is via motor coach.

Athletic Complex Update - Ron Drouin, Athletic Director

Mr. Malone introduced Ron Drouin, Athletic Director. Mr. Drouin gave a presentation of the new athletic complex pointing out the Field House, field, press box, stands, and the concession stand. Drouin offered thanks to all those involved including the residents, Town officials, school administrators and the School Committee.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the Committee. The Committee thanked Mr. Drouin for the presentation and gave a huge thank you to the residents for their support.

Ms. Mahoney entertained questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked Ms. Mahoney for the presentation and the opportunity presented for students.

Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the TMHS National Parks trip to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Park, seconded by Ms. Garabedian. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Garabedian, Mr. Stadtman, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. No Opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

At 7:20 p.m., Ms. Garabedian motioned, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to take a five minute recess until 7:25 p.m. All Aye. No opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

At 7:28 p.m., Mr. Sullivan reconvened the School Committee meeting. At this time, the police escorted the individuals not wearing a mask out of the meeting and the high school.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Mr. Sullivan asked if there was anyone in the audience that wanted to speak on anything on the agenda.

Conner Bourgoin, School Street, Waltham: On behalf of the teachers, Mr. Bourgoin addressed the School Committee relating that the teachers do not have a contract asking the Committee to consider the recent proposal and get the teachers and aides a contract.

Al Mancini, 15 Kenneth Lane: Mr. Mancini addressed the School Committee stating that the priority of the district should be on teachers and the school system.

Mr. Sullivan asked if there was anyone else in the audience that would like to speak, seeing no one, Mr. Sullivan officially closed the Citizens Comment at 7:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the August 18, 2021, Regular School Committee meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Garabedian, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the August 18, 2021, School Committee & Administrator Workshop meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Stadtman, Ms. Garabedian, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending August 19, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,313,160.61, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending September 2, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,409,390.21, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending September 16, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,402,768.68, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Malone, Superintendent

Mr. Malone reported that the district has established a search committee for an Interim-Principal at the North Street School and interviews will be conducted this week. He reported Principal Cronin's last day is September 28th. We may have the Lead teacher step-up and/or have district administrators provide coverage until the hiring process is completed.

Mr. Malone congratulated all staff, students, and parents/guardians for a successful opening of the schools. He offered a *Hats Off!* to the nursing staff for the tremendous job they've done with the new guidance specific to the Test and Stay program and close contact. This is a huge issue for the nurses but a great benefit for staff and students to stay in the buildings. He reported the Town vaccination rate for ages 12-15 is 55% and ages 16-19 74%, with a minimum of one dose, relating that the district will continue to monitor vaccination rates and what impacts that might have on the district. He reported the Commissioner planned on giving a statement this week on the determination, on or about October 1st, specifically related to COVID vaccination rates and masking but the meeting was interrupted by a fire alarm resulting in an evacuation. Mr Malone related that the district received notice that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has randomly selected the Tewksbury Public Schools for an onsite comprehensive accountability review; he will keep the Committee updated. As a reminder, he announced that the School Committee and many district administrators will take part in an Open Meeting Law training on October 21st.

Mr. Malone wanted to address a clerical update in the K-4 student handbook in regards to home and hospitalization tutoring; he reported that there is an update needed in regards to DESE regulation. The handbooks are in the purview of the School Committee. He noted that in past practice, if there were clerical updates during the year, typically the Committee would delegate Mr. Malone to make the updates. Mr. Malone asked if the Committee would like to continue with past practice or if not, he could do a presentation next month on the clerical update regarding a regulatory piece.

Mr. Sullivan asked the School Committee members how they would like to move forward. The Committee members were in agreement to delegate the responsibility to Mr. Malone to make updates to the student handbooks as long as the Committee was informed of the changes. The Committee delegated Mr. Malone to oversee the DESE regulatory clerical update in the *K-4 Student Handbooks. *Addendum: After consultation with the Director of Student Services, Mr. Malone will complete the clerical update to student handbooks across the district.

Mr. Malone announced that the Town-wide PAC meeting will be held on September 27, 2021 at Tewksbury Memorial High School in LGI-1. Mr. Malone commented on the Open House processes at the schools relating that some were held virtually adding that a poll of staff showed that there is a better turnout with virtual open houses.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the School Committee. Mr. Sullivan thanked Mr. Malone and all the staff for the workshop presentation. No further comments from the School Committee members.

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Regan reported on the opening days, August 30th and August 31st, Professional Development and staff training offerings. She gave thanks to staff and families for a great return to school. She reported the district received notice from the Office of the Governor that the district has been awarded \$20,000 to integrate SEL into our academic learning program. She reported the district is slated to receive 2.77 million dollars through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER 3) grant. There are new requirements of the grant including that the grant funds must be used by September 30, 2024, the application is due on October 4, 2021, and the district must have community input. She pointed out on the Consent agenda we have included the results of a survey which was used to determine how the district would use the funds which is also a requirement of the ESSER 3 grant. She reported that once approved, the plans on how to allocate the grant funding will be published on the district website. Ms. Regan reported that September 11, 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the 911 tragedy, thanking the staff and students for their contributions to this year's 911 Memorial. She thanked Mackenzie Hickey, Project 351 Alumni and TMHS student, for the Gratitude Banner she is working on to honor first responders and active and veteran military.

Mackenzie is working with Principal Jon Bernard and Lead Art Teacher, Nicole Laperrie, to create the banner that will be hung at TMHS. Once completed the Tewksbury Police Department Chief of Police Ryan Columbus and the Tewksbury Fire Department Chief Joe Kearns, will be invited in the celebration of the completion of the banner. Ms. Regan thanked TMHS Music Director Celeste Pellegrino and her musicians and singers for performing at the 911 Memorial.

Ms. Regan reminded families that the school cancelation notice is on the Consent agenda relating that the biggest change is the removal of remote learning days.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the School Committee members. Ms. Regan responded to a question regarding snow days, stating that remote learning days for inclement weather would not count towards a day of school so there will be snow days. No further questions from the School Committee.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby presented a transportation update stating the bus driver shortage has not affected the district; Tewksbury Transit has drivers for both busses and vans. He reported there were a few small adjustments made to the bus routes at the beginning of the year. Mr. Libby presented a grant update announcing that Tewksbury was awarded an extension to the 21st Century Grant program at the Dewing School. The extension is through the Exemplary Programs Grant and has been extended for three more years. He offered thanks to Dr. Basteri, Principal Gerrish, and the staff at the Dewing School.

Mr. Libby responded to questions from the School Committee; he reported that he does not have a count of student riders at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Garabedian commented on the low enrollment in ninth grade. Ms. Regan will look into it and report back to the Committee. Mr. Sullivan offered a *Shout Out!* to Vinny Oliva, Commander at the Tewksbury VFW, for bringing the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot Pen to the students at Tewksbury.

Mr. Sullivan asked for approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Sullivan announced that Ms. Demos had a conflict at work and could not attend the meeting tonight.

Correspondence

- 1. 2021-2022 Voice of Democracy Competition (File)
- 2. 2021-2022 Patriot's Pen Competition (File)
- 3. 2021 Mentor Stipends (File)
- 4. Tewksbury 9-11 Memorial (File)
- 5. ESSER III Stakeholder Input (File)

Enrollment Update

September 16, 2021 (File)

PERSONNEL ITEMS

<u>New Hires</u> (Files): Alana Benner, Classroom Instructional Aide, Ryan Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Natalee Bushen, Kindergarten Classroom Aide, Heath Brook School, effective August 30, 2021; Stacey Connors, Classroom Instructional Aide, Trahan Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Michael DeMartinis, Grade 6 Computer Teacher, Ryan Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Pauline Field, 10-month Secretary, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective September 9, 2021;

Keith Frost, 1-year only Unified Arts Support Teacher (%) Reading Intervention Aide (%), Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Jessica Garrity, Speech & Language Pathologist, District-wide 1-year only, effective September 13, 2021; Tamie Harris, Integrated Preschool DLC Classroom Instructional Aide, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Marie Hines, Integrated Preschool Teacher, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; John Lindsey, Classroom Instructional Aide, Ryan Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Amanda Muir, Digital Literacy Specialist, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Michelle Raffi, 1-year long-term substitute Kindergarten Teacher, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Shawn Rock, Chemistry Teacher, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective August 30, 2021; Yumiko Wahl, Integrated Preschool DLC Classroom Instructional Aide, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Todd Cutrona, 1-year COVID School Support Staff, Ryan Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021;

Daniel D'Amore, 1-year long-term substitute Physics Teacher, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective August 30, 2021; John Feitor, 1-year COVID School Support Staff, Wynn Middle School, effective August 30, 2021; Jennifer Griffin, 1-year COVID School Support Staff, North Street School, effective August 30, 2021; Erin Johnson, 1-year COVID School Support Staff, Heath Brook School, effective August 30, 2021; Loren Stewart, 1-year COVID School Support Staff, Trahan Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Kathryn Wallace, 1-year COVID School Support Staff, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; Suvitha Pillai, Integrated Preschool Classroom Instructional Aide, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021; William Saunders, Grade 7 Moderate Special Needs Teacher, Wynn Middle School, effective September 15, 2021; Garth Sharp, part-time IT Support Technician, Center School, effective October 5, 2021

<u>Transfers</u> (Files): Alicia Taylor, K-2 DLC Classroom Instructional Aide, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 30, 2021

Reappointment (File):

Terry Gerrish, Director of the Mentor Program, District-wide, effective July 1, 2021

Retirement (File): Gail Bliss, District-wide Occupational Therapist, effective June 30, 2022

*Appendix B: Co-Curricular (File)
Tewksbury Memorial High School
David Garcia - Marching Band Director

*Appendix B: Athletics: (File)
Tewksbury Memorial High School
Brandon Melo - Boys JV Soccer Coach

*APPENDIX B POSITIONS ARE PENDING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Acceptance of Donations/Gifts: None

<u>Fundraisers/Raffles</u> (Files): TMHS PAC fundraising events: Applefest Craft Fair, October 30, 2021; Trivia Night, March 2022; Calendar Raffle, April-May 2022; Ryan PAC fundraising events August 2021 through December 2021; Dewing & North Street PAC fundraising events September 2021 through December 2021; Heath Brook & Trahan PAC fundraising events September 2021 through June 2022; Wynn Middle School Pie Sales fundraiser, September 27, 2021 through October 13, 2021; TMHS Student Council fundraising event October 11, 2021 through October 15, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Mr. Malone stated the ESBC is finalizing the turnover for some of the Ryan School parking lot relating that they had installed new drainage and the lot is paved. A part of the Field Complex has been turned over to the district as well. There are new fences giving more space back to the Ryan School. The access road is about half done.

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The district is having conversations with Consigli regarding parking for the contractors. He reported that the objective is to finish the exterior and install windows in order to focus on the interior this winter.

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Parsons reported that the Tewksbury SEPAC meeting scheduled on September 23rd has been changed to September 30th. You can find information on how to join the meeting on the SEPAC Facebook page, on the Town website, or email the SEPAC at tewksburysepac@gmail.com. He added that the SEPAC continues to build collaboration between the SEPAC and the Special Education department around programming for this upcoming year.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Ms. Garabedian reported that today was the first meeting of the Wellness Advisory Committee. The Committee is reaching out to students and anyone else who would like to join. If interested in joining please contact Kelly Constantino, Lead Nurse at the high school. The next meeting is scheduled on November 10th.

Policy Sub-Committee

Mr. Stadtman reported that the Policy Sub-Committee met on August 25, 2021 to review policies which will be discussed tonight. Mr. Sullivan thanked Mr. Parsons for his work and input on the Policy Committee.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

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

JKAA -Physical Restraint of Students

Mr. Stadtman reported that policy JKAA, Physical Restraint of Students, is recommended for an Informational Reading.

Mr. Parsons commented that DESE has some new guidance; he will share the information with the Committee.

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

ACAB -Harassment

Mr. Stadtman reported that policy ACAB, Harassment, is recommended for First Reading.

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

OLD BUSINESS

2021 Summer Reading Participation (File)

Ms. Regan presented the 2021 Summer Reading Program participation rates. The Committee thanked the students, families, and the teachers for their participation. There were no questions from the School Committee.

Tewksbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee (File)

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Tewksbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee has been established by the Tewksbury Board of Selectmen (BOS). Mr. Malone presented an overview of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, the general purpose and charge of the Committee. He reported that under the Board of Selectmens' membership criteria, membership includes the Superintendent or his designee relating that Karen Baker O'Brien has been designated to serve on the Advisory Committee. Also, there will be a high school student representative, possibly two, and one School Committee member.

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

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to table the appointment of the School Committee member to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, until the October 13, 2021 School Committee meeting in order for all School Committee members to be present and included. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Naming of New School (File)

Mr. Sullivan reported that the district has a clear policy on the naming of schools. According to the policy a submission of a name may be made by any resident or by the Superintendent, in writing, and should be submitted to the School Committee Chair. During the Citizen's Comment portion of the School Committee meeting tonight the public is welcomed to submit a name for the new school. Written requests may be submitted to the School Committee Chair, please include the name and the reason for the name. Mr. Sullivan read the names that have been submitted to the Elementary School Building Committee and the Chair. The School Committee will take submissions and will vote on the name at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Regan reported that the Town-wide PAC meeting will be held on Monday, September 27, 2021 adding that the submission to name the new school information will be shared with all School Councils.

2021-2022 MCAS Updates (File)

Ms. Regan presented the MCAS testing scheduled window for the 2021-2022 school year relating that there will be updates on the schedule over the next coming months. She reported that the 20/21 MCAS results were released yesterday stating that the TPS participation rate was 99%. Ms. Regan will present additional information at the next School Committee meeting.

Open Meeting Law (OML) Complaint.filed 9-16-2021 (File)

Mr. Sullivan reported an Open Meeting Law complaint was received dated September 16, 2021. I have disseminated the complaint to School Committee members as required by law. The law also requires the Committee to meet to review the complaint within 14 business days. This meeting we are meeting to review the complaint. The public body must respond to the complaint in writing and must send the complainant a response and a description of any action the public body has taken to address the allegations of the complaint. The public body must also send the Attorney General a copy of the complaint and a copy of the response. The public body may delegate this responsibility to an individual member of the public body, its counsel or a staff member, but only after the public body has met to review the complaint. The public body at issue and the complaint is each building School Council and as such the School Committee does not have personal knowledge on which to respond to the complaint.

He reported that at the August 18th School Committee meeting, the Committee voted to have additional OML training for our School Committee members, Mr. Malone, Superintendent, Ms. Regan, Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Johnson, Secretary to the School Committee, and our School Council members as well. Some members have already attended the training via a webinar and additional in-person training will be held in October.

It is the recommendation of Mr. Sullivan that the School Committee vote to delegate the responsibility to respond to the complaint to Superintendent Malone working with Legal Counsel.

Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Ms. Garabedian, to have Superintendent Malone, in conjunction with our Legal Council, to respond to this OML complaint.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Garabedian, Mr. Stadtman, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. No Opposed. Motion carried 4-0.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

None

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE & FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY MEETING DATES

- Elementary School Building Committee: October 14, 2021; November 18, 2021
- *Tewksbury SEPAC Board Meeting*: September 23, 2021; October 21, 2021; November 18, 2021; December 16, 2021; January 20, 2022; February 17, 2022: March 17, 2022; April 28, 2022; May 19, 2022 (Elections); June 16, 2022.
- Tewksbury SEPAC School Safety Sub-committee: TBD

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- Wellness Advisory Committee: November 10, 2021; March 23, 2022; May 18, 2022
- Policy Sub-Committee: TBD

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Student Travel Policy (Mr. Parsons)

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the September 22, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Ms. Garabedian, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. All Aye. No Opposed. Motion carried 4-0.