

**Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Regular School Committee Meeting #4
Tewksbury Town Hall - Main Hall
1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876**

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sullivan called the October 13, 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 or litigation.

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

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

At 6:31 p.m., Mr. Sullivan motioned to adjourn the October 13, 2021 Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. The Committee will reconvene in open session.

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

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 6:37 p.m., Mr. Sullivan reconvened the October 13, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Sullivan called for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of two Tewksbury gentlemen. Nicholas Romano, relating that his daughter, Ann Romano, was a former colleague who served on the School Committee years ago. Mark Donovan, Mark was an educator for thirty plus years and a wrestling coach at Shawsheen Technical High School.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Sullivan reported the October 13, 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

Jack Stadtman 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 Team is planning the *Meghan McCarthy Fashion Show* and are collecting sponsorships and raffle items.
- TMHS Drama Club is working on their upcoming performance of *Clue*.
- The National Honor Society (NHS) has completed the Hurricane Relief Fund Drive. They are now selling umbrellas.
- Student Council is holding weekly meetings on Thursday mornings. NHS has announced the new upcoming *Spirit Days* for next week. They are hosting a dinosaur costume fundraiser in which you may nominate a teacher to dress up in a dinosaur costume.
- Tune into YouTube for the *Morning Update Show*, live every morning.
- The Class of 2022 is encouraging the class to pay their dues in order to attend future events.
- Many of the TMHS clubs took part in the Tewksbury Clean-up day.
- TMHS will be hosting the Applefest Craft Fair in the gymnasium on October 30th. Many clubs will be selling Tewksbury merchandise.

PRESENTATIONS

None

CITIZEN'S FORUM

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

Ms. Noel in the audience requested to speak about the wearing of a mask. The Chair denied the request as it was not on the agenda.

Rob Hanley - Mr. Hanley addressed the School Committee requesting that the school district conduct more parent surveys in order to see what they really want and to track the results. Mr. Hanley commented that parents should be allowed to go into the schools and take a tour of the school their children are attending.

Doreen Healy - Ms. Healy addressed the Committee relating that according to TPS policy BEDH-E, the audience should be able to comment on anything during the Citizen's Forum. She requested that the previous woman should have been allowed to address the Committee regarding masks.

Erin Hudd, 67 Catamount Road - Ms. Hudd addressed the Committee relating that her child is impacted by the decisions made by the School Committee. Asking a rhetorical question, she asked when will this all end, remote, masks, and vaccines.

Dan Sousa, Shawsheen Street - Mr. Sousa addressed the School Committee inquiring if TPS is receiving funding for the input of CDC guidelines. He commented that it is unacceptable that the Committee moved the meeting to a venue without a mask requirement.

Denise Frost, 90 New Jersey Road - Ms. Frost inquired about the COVID relief funding, how it is spent and inquired why the district is holding funding for next year. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Malone responded that the funding from ESSER 3 grants does have set constraints and timelines.

Lisa Wilson, Lancaster Drive - Ms. Wilson addressed the Committee relative to requiring vaccinations asking the Committee to consider that there are residents and children in the community that have natural immunity. Ms. Wilson asked the Committee to look into stickers and comments that teachers are posting in schools as parents are not allowed in to monitor.

Mr. Sullivan asked if anyone else wanted to talk. Seeing no one, he moved on to approval of the Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the September 22, 2021, Regular School Committee meeting minutes.

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

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending September 30, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,420,308.48, seconded by Ms. Demos. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Malone, Superintendent

Mr. Malone reported that Purnima DeMorais has been hired as the Interim Principal for the North Street School. It is hopeful that she will start on November 1, 2021. TMHS National Honor Society (NHS) students are providing tutoring for TMHS students and lower grade students after school on Tuesdays and Friday mornings. He reported that Executive Session minutes for the 21/22 school year are approved; they have been redacted and are ready for release. Applefest Fair will be held on Saturday, October 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Tewksbury Memorial High School. He reported that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released an advisory to eliminate time-out rooms; the district is reviewing the document. The district is seeking community members and parents to help the district with open positions. There are openings in the nursing field and for classroom aides. If you know of anyone looking for a position, please direct them to SchoolSpring or contact the Center School. He gave a *Hats Off!* to Tewksbury Transit for maintaining all our transportation needs. The district is continuing with school safety specific to bus evacuation drills which will be conducted this month. He reported that we recently had our annual meeting with the Tewksbury Police Department leadership relative to the MOU for the School Resource Officer. We were joined by leadership from the Tewksbury Fire Department to plan the District Security Team schedule and to establish safety drills this year. Mr. Malone announced that October 10th was World Mental Health Day; we will focus on supporting our students and families in need.

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Regan announced that the district is in need of substitutes; daily substitutes for teachers and classroom aides are needed. She reported that last week the Seal of Biliteracy letter was sent to families with students in the high school relating that the letter is on the district website. October 8th was a Professional Development for staff and a half day for students. The PD workshop provided training for teachers, PLC leaders, and our aides and Delta-T aides. Today was PSAT testing for TMHS students in grade 10 and grade 11; 174 juniors and 185 sophomores participated. She commented that the School Committee pays for each student to take the exam. She reported that the highlight of the day is a presentation for the freshmen class on Native American History presented by the Greater Lowell Indian Council. Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby reported on the New Business Item a) FY23 Budget Timeline Process. He presented the FY 23 budget timeline reporting that it presents unique challenges with the second through fourth grades moving into the new elementary school in December 2022 and how that will impact staffing, supplies, transportation, and materials. He reported the district has a new software program to do modeling on transportation and the logistics of the move. He reported on the appropriate use of the COVID grant funding which extends to 9/2024.

Mr. Libby will be meeting with the department heads and principals over the next couple of months for their input of their needs, wants and priorities. On January 12, 2022, the district will hold a Budget Workshop and a Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on February 9, 2022. Mr. Libby responded to questions from the School Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Sullivan asked for approval of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Stadtman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Correspondence

1. Seal of Biliteracy Letter to Parents (File)
2. PSAT Day - October 13, 2021 (File)
3. Professional Development / Teacher Workshop: October 8, 2021 (File)

Enrollment Update: See Old Business

PERSONNEL ITEMS

New Hires (Files): Jennifer Cipolle, Classroom Instructional Aide, John Ryan Elementary School, effective October 18, 2021; Marcella Faletra, Classroom Instructional Aide, John Ryan Elementary School, effective October 12, 2021; Amanda Aylward, Classroom Instructional Aide, John Ryan Elementary School, effective October 6, 2021

Transfers: None

Reappointment: None

Retirement (File): Susan Mulno, Grade 3 Teacher at the Trahan Elementary School, effective June 30, 2024

***Appendix B: Co-Curricular:** None

***Appendix B: Athletics:** (File)

Tewksbury Memorial High School

Mark Weitz, Boys JV Golf Coach, effective September 20, 2021

*APPENDIX B POSITIONS ARE PENDING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Acceptance of Donations/Gifts: None

Fundraisers/Raffles: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Ms. Demos reported that the next Elementary School Building Committee meeting will be held on October 21st. The project is moving forward into the design and colors phase. The project is on time and on budget.

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Parsons reported that the Tewksbury SEPAC held a Business meeting on September 29th. The membership discussed needs to support students and families and identified the need for more support staff in the district.

He reported that the need for substitutes and aides is not just an issue in Tewksbury Public Schools but that it is a nationwide issue. The SEPAC offered praise to the district for reconfiguring the pick-up and drop-off process in the schools.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Ms. Garabedian reported that the next Wellness Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 10th. They have openings for serving on the Committee, please reach out to the School Chair, the district administration or herself.

Policy Sub-Committee

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS (File)

Mr. Stadtman reported that the Policy Subcommittee met last on October 15h.

Policy Recommended for Revision to TPS Policy JKAA -Physical Restraint of Students

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

Policy Recommended for Revision to TPS Policy ACAB -Harassment

Mr. Stadtman reported that policy ACAB, Harassment, is recommended for the Second and Final Reading.

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve policy ACAB, Harassment, on second and final reading. All aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Sullivan reported that JKAA, Physical Restraint of Students, will be on the second and final reading at the next School Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Enrollment - 2021 Unofficial October 1st Count (File)

Mr. Malone reported on the unofficial October enrollment counts relating that the district enrollment is 3,191 students which is up six students from last year. He reported on the historical enrollment data and the 25 year projected enrollment data.

Ms. Regan presented the freshmen class historical data over the past five years in response to a question proposed by Ms. Garabedian at the September School Committee meeting. She reported that the overall enrollment freshmen class size is consistent with the NESDEC predicted enrollment data. Overall we have smaller class sizes. She thanked the School Committee for their commitment to prioritize keeping class sizes under 25. Mr. Malone responded to a comment from Ms. Demos regarding the preschool class size, suggesting the district look at the numbers once the new school is open. Mr. Sullivan asked if the Committee had any further questions, seeing none, he moved onto the next order of business.

MCAS Update (File)

Ms. Regan presented an MCAS update reporting on the areas to be proud of pointing out that the TPS in-person student participation rate compared to the state average was 97-100% for grades 3-8 and the remote participation rate was 97% and the students had to come into the schools to take the MCAS. She then reported on historical data and reported that the principals will continue to look at data with OTUS.

Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members. Ms. Regan thanked our teachers, support staff, kids, families, and parents and guardians for partnering with us.

Naming of New School (File)

Ms. Regan reported that the School Committee has received a list of suggested names for the new elementary school. Mr. Sullivan related the process used for the Committee to be at this point. The Committee reviewed the list of suggested names. The Committee tended to gravitate to history and tradition and discussed possible names for the new school.

Ms. Garabedian moved to name the new elementary school The Shawsheen Center Elementary School, seconded by Ms. Demos. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Ms. Garabedian, Ms. Demos. Voting No: Mr. Stadtman, Mr. Sullivan. Vote to Abstain: Mr. Parson. Motion Failed 2-2-1

Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to name the new elementary school The Center Elementary School. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Ms. Garabedian, Ms. Demos, Mr. Stadtman, and Mr. Sullivan. Vote to Abstain: Mr. Parsons. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Tewksbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee (TDEIAC) (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. On behalf of the Tewksbury Public Schools, Ms. Baker O'Brien has been designated to serve on the TDEIAC.

Mr. Sullivan opened for comments from the School Committee members. Mr. Parsons nominated himself as the Committee representative on the Tewksbury Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (TDEIAC). Ms. Demos moved, seconded by Mr. Stadtman, to appoint Mr. Parsons to serve as the School Committee representative on the TDEIAC. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

2021-2022 School Committee Assignments (File)

Mr. Sullivan reported that the 2021-2022 School Committee assignment document has been updated and is included in the packet. The School Committee members will no longer be members of the District Security Team; Mr. Malone will provide quarterly updates at future School Committee meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 23 Budget Timeline Process (File)

Mr. Libby had nothing further to report.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Reminder to the community that the district is in need of substitutes and that Applefest will be held on October 30th. Mr. Sullivan thanked all those that attended the meeting tonight.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Mr. Sullivan announced the upcoming dates for future School Committee meetings:

- November 17, 2021; December 8, 2021

FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY MEETING DATES

Mr. Sullivan announced the upcoming dates for future Sub-Committee meetings & Advisory meetings:

- *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
- *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 8:08 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the October 13, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Ms. Demos, seconded by Mr. Stadtman. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gail Johnson, Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits used (GL c.30A, sect 22(a))

AGENDA ITEM #	DOCUMENT
1	School Committee Meeting Agenda
2	Executive Session Agenda
6	9/22/2021 Draft Minutes
7	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: Payroll period ending 9/30/2021
13	Consent Agenda Items: Correspondence: Seal Of Biliteracy Letter, PSAT Day 10/13/2021, Professional Development Workshop 10/8/2021; Personnel Items: New Hires; Retirement; Appendix B, Athletics
15	Policy: JKAA; ACAB
16	Old Business: a) Enrollment - Unofficial October Count b) MCAS Update c) Naming New Elementary School d) Tewksbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee e) 21/22 School Committee Assignments
17	New Business: FY 23 Budget Timeline Process