

**Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
Regular School Committee Meeting #5
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
Nicholas G. Parsons, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

John R. Stadtman, 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 November 17, 2021, Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (File)

Mr. Sullivan entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session to review and approve the Executive Session minutes and 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 review and approve the Executive Session minutes and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with employee groups and/or personnel matters or litigation, seconded by Mr. Parsons. The School Committee will reconvene in open session at 6:30 p.m.

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

At 6:34 p.m., Ms. Demos moved to adjourn the November 17, 2021 Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Garabedian. The Committee will reconvene in open session.

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

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 6:36 p.m., Mr. Sullivan reconvened the November 17, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Sullivan reported the November 17, 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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Notes From Tewksbury Memorial High School

Jack Stadtman presented the notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School.

- The TMHS Drama Club hosted multiple showings of their recent production of *Clue*. They are excited to start on their next production of *Forbidden Broadway*.
- Student Council is holding weekly meetings on Thursday mornings.
- The Spirit Day Dippin' Dots Award has been postponed due to a dry ice shortage.
- The *Morning Update Show* is broadcasting live on YouTube every morning, tune-in to get the latest school updates.
- Class of 2022 and with the help from all the other Class Councils held a Homecoming to remember last week. Thank you to the teachers that helped out and students that attended.
- In late October, the high school held the annual Applefest Fair. This gave the Clubs an opportunity to fundraise and advertise.
- TMHS DECA Team held the annual Meghan McCarthy Fashion Show. Out of the 71 active members, 64 participated in the fashion show or volunteered. Thank you to the TMHS Theater Company for helping out and supporting the production. Thank you to Mr. Bernard and a big *shout-out* to Co-Directors of the fashion show Ava Gilligan, Mia Gaglione, and Jack Stadtman. They collected over \$17,000 on behalf of the Meghan McCarthy Research Fund. The show was taped and will be broadcast on the local channels.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Sullivan announced that Tommy Bradley and Mark Bradley are ending their coaching careers this year at Tewksbury Memorial High School, relating that for them, it has always been about the kids. Mr. Malone remarked that Tommy and Mark have made a significant impact on the kids and the district. The School Committee recognized Tommy Bradley, TMHS Boys Basketball Coach, and Mark Bradley, TMHS Girls Basketball Coach, for their leadership and for their years coaching at Tewksbury Memorial High School.

TMHS Boys Basketball Coach - Tommy Bradley

Mr. Drouin commented that Tommy and Mark are great leaders. Tommy is a long time football and basketball coach, building relationships with kids. Tommy is a Hall of Fame athlete at TMHS and UMass Lowell. He gives his time to kids in the community. On behalf of the School Committee, Ms. Demos presented Tommy Bradley with a Resolution of Recognition.

TMHS Girls Basketball Coach - Mark Bradley

Mr. Drouin commented that Mark has been the girls coach for 14 years, has over 150 wins, and he took the Girls Basketball Team to the North Final at the Tsongas Center, the furthest the girls basketball team have ever gone. He started the basketball summer camp and helped the TMHS Basketball Boosters grow. On behalf of the School Committee, Ms. Garabedian presented Mark Bradley with a Resolution of Recognition.

At the request of Mr. Drouin, the School Committee will recognize the Girls Volleyball Team at the January School Committee meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

None

CITIZEN'S FORUM

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

Dina Mancini and Maureen Castiglione presented a SEPAC update relating that Friday is SEPAC Awareness Day encouraging everyone to wear yellow on Friday, November 19th to support Special Education kids and families. The next SEPAC Business meeting will be held on November 18, 2021. They presented the SEPAC goals.

Marc Tortorisi, Kendall Road: Mr. Marc Tortorisi asked the School Committee to pass a resolution in opposition to Critical Race Theory and Race Based Curriculum. Mr. Sullivan commented that the School Committee is not a political board. We have specific guidelines and focus on policy. We do not make political resolutions.

Rob Hanley, Kenneth Road: Mr. Hanley suggested that the district and School Committee send out more surveys to determine if what the School Committee is doing is in-line with what the parents want. Mr. Hanley also commented on Parent/Teacher conferences relating some were held virtually and he thought it should be fair that parents meet in the schools to see their child's classroom.

Mr. Sullivan thanked those that addressed the Committee and moved on to the approval of the minutes. Ms. Garabedian requested to edit the draft minutes, under Moment of Silence, to reflect that Mr. Romano's daughter Ann Romano, was a former School Committee member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (File)

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the October 13, 2021, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Demos, 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 October 14, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,413,025.66, seconded by Ms. Demos. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Garabedian moved to approve the payroll period ending October 28, 2021, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown \$1,421,048.91, seconded by Ms. Demos. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Malone, Superintendent

Mr. Malone reported on vaccination opportunities and presented a COVID update. He thanked the nurses for their work with pool testing and contact tracing and reported that the mask requirement has been extended to January 15, 2022. He announced that last week was National School Psychologist Week offering thanks to our school psychologists, adjustment counselors, and social workers that are meeting the social emotional needs and clinic needs of our students. He reported that the district is still having difficulty finding substitute teachers for our schools. We have done some recruiting and looked at the pay rate and are still in need of substitutes. We are reaching out to the community to see if anyone is interested in substituting. We are also looking for classroom aides and one-on-one aides. The district hired some new staff including two additional occupational therapists and two additional adjustment counselors but lost a psychologist. Mr. Malone thanked everyone that participated in the Open Meeting Law training on October 21st, presented by Dorothy Presser of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. He gave a *shout-out* to Lori Carriere and Carolyn Gaglione for undertaking the Applefest Fair thanking them for their leadership and hard work. Mr. Malone reported on an item specific to Tewksbury Memorial High School relating that NEASC, the association that accredits the high school, accepted their five year progress report relating that this is a benchmark piece to continue the accreditation process. The 2019-2020 Executive Session minutes have been released subject to being redacted. He presented an update on the out-of-state field trip requests reporting the high school has a Costa Rica trip for April 2022, a trip to visit US National Parks in the western states in April 2022, and the Wynn Middle School is trying to reconvene the 8th grade Washington, D.C. trip. We are fine tuning pieces around travel restrictions, the current status of the pandemic in these areas, and the trip insurance.

He reported the District Security Team (DST) met on October 28th to discuss and review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tewksbury Police Department and the Tewksbury Fire Department.

The DST is also looking at how to get back to conducting A.L.I.C.E. drills and safety drills, as was done before the pandemic. Mr. Malone reported that he has made the decision to retire and has submitted his retirement paperwork with the state. He related that this is a four month process with an anticipated date of retirement to be effective February 28, 2022.

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

The Committee commented on Mr. Malone's decision to retire, offering him well wishes. Mr. Malone responded to questions regarding the vaccination rate and how it is verified. Ms. Demos requested an update relative to the out-of-state trips for the January School Committee meeting.

Ms. Theriault-Regan, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Regan reported that there will be an optional COVID and Flu vaccine clinic, through the Ayer Family Pharmacy, on Friday, November 19th, at the Senior Center. Information has been distributed to families and staff. She announced that Purnima DeMorais, North Street School Interim-Principal, is making her presence and relationship building at the North Street School with students, staff, and parents. She offered to set up meetings for the School Committee members to meet with Principal DeMorais. Ms. Regan announced that Tewksbury is the recipient of the Quality Service Learning & Social Emotional Project Grant. This comes in two parts. In the 21/22 school year we received \$10,000 to integrate quality learning service into the curriculum at the Wynn School during the school day and additionally in the 21/22 school year, \$25,000 from the Afterschool and Out of School Time (ASOPT) grant, will fund the summer programming for the Heath Brook Penguin Pride Program, the Wynn After School Program, and the TMHS Credit Recovery Program; and \$45,000 additional ASOPT funds to continue the tuition free Heath Brook Penguin Pride Program, the tuition free Wynn Summer Program, and the tuition free Credit Recovery Program. She thanked Dr. Basteri for continuing to find support for our schools. She announced that the Tewksbury Police Department's new member of the TPD has been introduced to the community. The comfort dog will serve and comfort students in Tewksbury relating that the TPD is looking for a name for the dog, deadline for submission is November 30th. The dog will be delivered to School Resource Officer Eric Hanley on November 28 and will begin extensive training with Aunty Dog in Tewksbury.

Ms. Regan reported that at the October School Committee meeting we discussed the blip in enrollment in the freshmen class. We have seen other blips with a decrease in Special Education and Title I enrollment. She pointed out on the Consent Agenda, we hired an ESL teacher for 1-year only due to enrollment increases in bilingual students and ELL students. Ms. Regan reported that this week is American Education Week offering thanks to our staff and parents. She related that schools and parents got creative this year to celebrate American Education Week, relating that the four elementary schools invited parents to record themselves reading a book and send the recordings to the teacher to be shared with the class. The Ryan School shared a live stream for parents to view the school, the Wynn School is hosting an appreciation lunch for the teachers next Tuesday, and the TMHS PAC will have a teacher appreciation dinner tomorrow. She reported that Wednesday is an early release day for students and staff and there is no school on Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments from the School Committee. Ms. Garabedian offered thanks to Dr. Basteri for all her work.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager

Mr. Libby updated the Committee on a couple of solar projects we are considering in the district in conjunction with the town. We have had meetings with an energy company named Solect Energy and have discussed the projects with Mr. Montuori. The high school was designed with solar panels in mind and could be converted to a solar building; we are also looking at the Ryan School. We are working with a consultant through the state called Power Options to see if the deal makes sense. Mr. Libby will keep the Committee updated.

Mr. Sullivan opened for questions and comments 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 Ms. Garabedian, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Correspondence: None

Enrollment Update: None

PERSONNEL ITEMS (Files)

New Hires (Files): Anastasia Kurmanova, 1-year only district-wide ESL Teacher, effective November 1, 2021; Ashley Peters, Building Custodian at the Trahan Elementary School, effective October 25, 2021; Juan Lozada, Building Custodian at Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective October 26, 2021; Chrissy Souder, 1-Year only, School Adjustment Counselor for the Heath Brook and Trahan Schools, effective November 16, 2021; Francesca Pasciuto, School Adjustment Counselor at the North Street School, effective November 16, 2021; Iman Djarraya, district-wide Covid Support Contact Tracer, effective November 15, 2021

Transfers (File): Stephen DeFrancesco, Classroom Instructional Aide, transfer from the John Ryan Elementary School to Tewksbury Memorial High School

Reappointment: None

Retirement (File): Robin Reading, Grade 6 Teacher at the John Ryan Elementary School, effective November 5, 2021

***Appendix B: Co-Curricular:**

Lindsey Bowden-White - Special Education PLC Facilitator
Jillian Nashawaty - Special Education Lead Teacher

***Appendix B: Athletics:** None

Tewksbury Memorial High School

*APPENDIX B POSITIONS ARE PENDING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Acceptance of Donations/Gifts: None

Fundraisers/Raffles: Wynn School PAC Calendar Raffle Fundraiser, February 2022-March 2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Ms. Demos reported that the school building is progressing nicely. The name was the latest thing we went through. It will be named the Center Elementary School. This had to be done in order to start with signage. The next Elementary School Building Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Parsons thanked the SEPAC members for connecting with families and networking and for the thorough update during the Citizen's Forum this evening.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Ms. Garabedian reported that the Wellness Advisory Committee's meeting this month was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2022. She commented that they may schedule a meeting earlier.

Mr. Sullivan announced that Mr. Stadtman was not available for the School Committee meeting tonight.

Policy Sub-Committee

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS(File)

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

Mr. Parson reported that policy JKAA, Physical Restraint of Students, is recommended for second and final reading.

Mr. Parsons moved, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to approve policy JKAA, Physical Restraint of Students, on second and final reading. All aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Professional Development / Teacher Workshop: November 2, 2021 (File)

Ms. Regan presented the November 2, 2021 Teacher Workshop update relating that the district offered over 37 professional development sessions. We planned and implemented high quality PD sessions relating that they aligned to the district goals. She reported that our contracted consultant, Cale Birk, is currently in the district for four days working with our administrator team and PLC Facilitators on the goal of observable impact around fostering a sense of belonging and progress monitoring. He is meeting with each PLC team at each school. They are working on generating their Team Impact Planning (TIP) planner. That is what they are working on now to make successful plans for students. Ms. Regan will keep the Committee updated on the progress.

MCAS Update (File)

Ms. Regan presented an updated MCAS assessment testing schedule for Tewksbury. She reported that the information has been published on the district website.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Donation to the Robotics Team: FIRST Robotics and Disney (File)

Mr. Libby reported that Scott Morris, Robotics Team Advisor, procured another funding source for the TMHS Robotics Team through FIRST Robotics and Disney, receiving a donation from Grainger for a vertical drill press, valued in the amount of \$666.65.

Ms. Garabedian moved, seconded by Ms. Demos, to approve the donation for a Vertical Drill Press from FIRST Robotics and Disney. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Demos, Ms. Garabedian, and Mr. Sullivan. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Sullivan offered a thank you to Mr. Morris for getting more equipment for the students in the Robotics Club.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr. Parsons reported he attended his first meeting with the DI Advisory group. The discussion was on the primary goal to develop a better understanding of the town, the people in it, and the experience they have in Tewksbury.

Ms. Garabedian thanked the high school for the invitation to the Veterans' ceremony. She reminded the community that the Ryan School Festival is this Friday; Ms. Garabedian and Ms. Demos plan on attending the festival. Ms. Demos thanked the Committee for the opportunity to attend the Annual MASC/MASS Conference adding that Patricia Meuse received the Lifetime Award at the conference. Ms. Demos is excited to know what name is selected for the TPD emotional support dog. For the record, Mr. Sullivan clarified that Ms. Demos attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC) conference, not a mask conference. Mr. Sullivan offered congratulations to the Girls Volleyball Team.

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

Mr. Sullivan announced the upcoming dates for future School Committee meetings, Sub-Committee meetings and Advisory Committee meetings:

- School Committee: December 8, 2021; January 12, 2022

- *Elementary School Building Committee*: November 18, 2021; December 9, 2021
- *Tewksbury SEPAC Board Meeting*: 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*: March 23, 2022; May 18, 2022
- *Policy Sub-Committee*: TBD

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

January Update for the out-of -State Travel Trips.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:49 p.m., Mr. Sullivan adjourned the November 17, 2021 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Ms. Demos, seconded by Mr. Parsons . All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

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
10	10/13/2021 Draft Minutes
11	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: Payroll period ending
13	Consent Agenda Items: Personnel Items: New Hires; Retirement; Appendix B, Athletics, Fundraiser Request
15	Policy: JKAA
16	Old Business: a) Professional Development / Teacher Workshop November 2, 2021 b) MCAS Update
17	New Business: Donation from FIRST Robotics and Disney to TMHS Robotics Team