

Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
Regular School Committee Meeting #7
Tewksbury Memorial High School - LGI-1
320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bridget L. Garabedian, Chair
Keith M. Sullivan, Vice-Chair
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Clerk
Nicholas G. Parsons, Member
Richard Russo, Jr., Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Brenda Theriault-Regan, Superintendent
Lori McDermott, Assistant Superintendent
Eileen Osborne, Assistant Business Manager

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS EXCUSED

David Libby, Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Garabedian called the January 11, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss the December 7, 2022 Executive Session minutes and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers).

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the December 7, 2022 Executive Session minutes and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers). The Committee will reconvene in Open Session for the Budget Workshop and reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

At p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith to adjourn the January 11, 2023 Executive Session. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP

At 6:00 p.m., Ms. Garabedian reconvened the January 11, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting and opened the FY 24 Budget Workshop.

Dr. Osborne addressed the School Committee presenting the FY 24 Budget Workshop reporting on the budget process relating that the district uses the District Strategy when developing the budget.

She reported that the budget consists of four major parts: Salary, Operating, and Capital Outlay, which are managed by the schools, and Fixed Costs which are managed by and shared with the town. She reported that the district is a little behind schedule in the budget process due to the opening of the new Center Elementary School, adding that we are still getting an idea of how much the allocation of resources will be for the new school. The district used last year's actuals, this year-to date, and we looked at ways to move things around. Dr. Osborne reported that the Esser Grants will end in 2024 and we will be adding the preschool restructuring into the budget. Salaries are 70% of the budget, Operating Costs are 28%, and Capital Outlay is 2% of the school budget. The recommended FY 24 school budget is a 3.02% increase which is consistent with the Town Manager's recommended budget. Salaries are \$38,690,763, an increase of 2.98%; Operating Costs are \$15,187,649, an increase of 3.46% and Capital Outlay totals \$761,974. Dr. Osborne presented an overview of the grant funding, the capital project list and the 54 separate revolving accounts. Next steps in the budget process is to continue discussions with department heads, principals, town officials, teachers and staff.

Dr. Osborne responded to questions from the School Committee members. Ms. Garabedian thanked Dr. Osborne for presenting the Budget Workshop.

At 6:21 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to recess. Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to take a short recess and return at 6:30 p.m. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Sullivan led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

At 6:31 p.m., Ms. Garabedian announced that the January 11, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting will be televised and recorded and may be viewed live on Comcast Channel 22, Verizon Channel 34, or YouTube.com/TewksburyTV. Under the Open Meeting Law, the public is permitted to make an audio or video recording of an open session at a public meeting. Ms. Garabedian asked if anyone in the audience was recording tonight's meeting to please identify themselves. She reported that during the Executive Session, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the December 7, 2022 Executive Session meeting minutes.

RECOGNITION

TMHS Girls Varsity Volleyball Team - MIAA DIV III State Champions

Mr. Drouin addressed the School Committee and the community commenting on the terrific season the TMHS Girls Varsity Volleyball team had. They are the MIAA Division III State Champions. 21-4 is their overall record and they had the most wins in the history of the high school. Team members are: Carrina Barron, Chloe Burns, McKayla Conley, Olivia Cueva, Ava Fernandes, Vanessa Green, Kiley Kennedy, Jennie Lester, Madelyn Montejto, Charlotte Morris, Julia Moura, Ava Nordbruch, and Tori Rowe. He announced that Coach Allison Luppi was named Boston Globe Coach of the Year; Carrina Barron was named Player of the Year; Kiley Kennedy, Ava Fernandes and Tori Rowe were 1st Team All Conference. Ms. Biagioni-Smith read and presented the Girls Volleyball team members and their coaches with a Resolution of Recognition.

TMHS Esports Team - MSAA Esports Rocket League State Champions

Mr. Drouin reported that the Volleyball team was not our only championship team at the high school. He announced that the TMHS Esports team are the MSAA Esports Rocket League State Champions.

They defeated Burlington in the Semi-finals and went on to beat Shrewsbury in the Finals. Mr. Parsons read and presented the Esports Team members with a Resolution of Recognition.

Team members Peter Impink and Andy Harlarka and Advisor/Coach Mr. Arbogast were present to accept the proclamation. Members Toffy Beylouné and Jonas Jiminez were unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Mr. Drouin reported we had the first ever MVC Leadership Summit at the Tsongas Arena today. Ten students from each of the 11 schools in the Conference attended. Topics included a Community Service piece, Anxiety and Athletics and Ethics/Diversity adding that the MIAA sponsored most of the event. It was a great success and the TMHS students attending would like to invite the speakers to present at the high school. Mr. Drouin gave an update on the championship banners at the high school reporting that we do not have any banners hanging in the gym. We ran out of room and ordered new, condensed banners. We are in the process of hanging the new banners and are looking to see what we can do with the old banners. He is working with Booster groups and others to see if we might raffle off the old banners with the proceeds going back to the athletic programs at the high school.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School

Rania Elouahi was not in attendance as she had a conflict with a Track Meet she was participating in.

PRESENTATIONS

TPS Preschool Options

Terry Gerrish, Alexis Bosworth addressed the School Committee giving a preschool presentation on the next level of preschool for the schools and for the town. Mr. Pelletier, Director of Student Services was also present and Dr. Basteri, Director of Community Services, was unable to attend the meeting. They reported that the goal is to create equal access to preschool programs at the Dewing School and the Heath Brook School. Students will attend the school as assigned by their home address. They presented the proposed models for the 2023-2024 school year and reported that they worked with Mr. Libby on the numbers, tuition and how to have a net zero impact on the district.

Ms. Gerrish and Ms. Bosworth responded to questions from the School Committee. The Committee appreciated the presentation and thanked them for coming.

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Ms. Garabedian asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to speak on anything on the agenda, and if so, to please state their name, address, and the specific agenda item that they would like to speak on this evening. Seeing no one, Ms. Garabedian moved on to the next order of business.

Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to move New Business item 18. b.) Preschool New Curriculum Recommendation, up on the agenda. Mr. Sullivan motioned to move the Preschool New Curriculum Recommendation request up to this portion of the agenda, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Preschool New Curriculum Recommendation

Ms. McDermott reported that we are seeking additional resources for the preschool program and reported that the resources have been on display at the schools and are available here if you would like to review them now. She presented an overview of the resources reporting that the schools piloted three programs with a unanimous vote to purchase the *Frog Street* textbooks and resources.

Ms. McDermott recommended that the School Committee support the purchase of the *Frog Street* textbooks and resources adding that this would require a vote of the School Committee. Ms. McDermott responded to questions from the School Committee.

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to purchase the *Frog Street* program as the new preschool program curriculum for the 2023-2024 school year. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Mr. Russo, Mr. Parsons and Bridget Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to move New Business item 18 a.) Drama Program Out-of-State Field Trip Request, up on the agenda. Mr. Sullivan motioned to move the Drama Program Out-of-State Field Trip request up to this portion of the agenda, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried. 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Drama Program Out-of-State Field Trip Request

Ms. Regan introduced Mr. DiPrima, Mr. Moffat and Ms. Pellegrino. They are proposing an out-of-state field trip for the Wynn and TMHS drama students. The request is to go see the play *& Juliet* on Broadway in New York City. Mr. DiPrima reported that this event is offered to strengthen a bridge between the Wynn Middle and the high school, to make connections and introduce theater to the middle school students. He reported that there are two changes from what was done in the past. The first, based on a suggestion from Jamey Cutelis, is to eat at the Ellis Stardust Diner and the second is a post show talk-back, to talk to cast and crew after the show. There will be 45 openings on a first come, first served basis. They will not be doing fundraising this year, but will look at it for next year. Mr. DiPrima responded to questions from the School Committee.

Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the out-of-state field trip for the Wynn and TMHS Drama students to see the 2023 performance of *& Juliet* on Broadway, New York City. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved to approve the December 7, 2022 Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Russo. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the payroll period ending December 8, 2022, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,493,126.32. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the payroll period ending December 22, 2022, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,530,815.39. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Mr. Russo, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the payroll period ending January 5, 2023, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,460,523.38. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Mr. Russo, Mr. Sullivan, and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan reported that the Tewksbury Fire Department hosted two CPR training sessions for the Food and Nutrition Services' staff. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Chief Kearns. Ms. Regan presented an update on the opening of the Center Elementary School. There will be field trips for students and tours for families prior to the opening of the school.

On day one, 755 students arrived and were met by all the teachers in the cafe. The parent drop-off is going well although the biggest challenge is the bus transportation. Lunch is going well and the kitchen staff are amazing. Contractors are working on details and the punchlist. The project was on time and on budget. She added that Principal Harding, Assistant Principal Rogers and Head Custodian, Barry Patterson deserve trophies for all they have done. We are planning the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for February 3, 2023. This will be held during the day, by invitation only. On February 4th, the school will hold an open house for the community. The March 8th School Committee meeting will be held at the Center Elementary School.

Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

Assistant Superintendent Report

Ms. McDermott presented an update on the elementary schools' English Language Arts (ELA) textbook pilot program relating that we continue to receive positive results and feedback from teachers. We will bring a proposal to the School Committee in April. Ms. McDermott reported that kindergarten registration is open for the 2023-2024 school year. Information is on the website along with all the documentation necessary to register online.

Business Manager's Report

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Garabedian asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Regan pointed out the hiring of Kerry Joyce, a highly qualified 12 month secretary at the Wynn Middle School. Please stop by and introduce yourselves. Ms. Garabedian asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Mr. Sullivan moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elementary School Building Committee

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Elementary School Building Committee's next meeting will be held tomorrow night. On the ESBC agenda there is an item to consider meeting less frequently. He will present a further update at the next School Committee meeting.

Tewksbury SEPAC

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the Tewksbury SEPAC will offer a virtual Basic Rights Workshop on January 19th, 6:30 p.m. You may register by emailing the SEPAC or go to their Facebook page.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Mr. Russo reported that the next meeting is scheduled on March 1, 2023.

Policy Sub-Committee

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Policy Sub-Committee has not been meeting. We are looking at scheduling meetings again soon. He received an email from an individual regarding a policy issue; we will put the policy on a future School Committee agenda.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

Mr. Sullivan reported that the following policies have been reviewed and revised and are presented on the Second and Final Reading asking for a motion to approve the policies as presented.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the revisions to following policies as presented on second and final reading: **EB** Safety Program; **EBB** First Aid; **EBC** Emergency Plans; **EBCD** Emergency Closings; **EC** Buildings and Grounds Management; **ECA** Buildings and Grounds Security; **ECAC** Vandalism; **EDC** Authorized Use Of School-Owned Materials; **EEA** Student Transportation Services; **EEAA** Walkers And Riders; **EEAE** School Bus Safety Program; **EEAEB** Drug and Alcohol Testing For School Bus and Commercial Vehicle Drivers; **EEAG** Student Transportation In Private Vehicles; **EEAJ** Motor Vehicle Idling On School Grounds. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Professional Development December 22-23, 2022 and January 3-4, 2023

Ms. McDermot presented the Professional Development schedule for the PD days on December 22nd and 23rd and January 3rd and 4th and gave a brief update.

NEW BUSINESS

2023-2024 School Calendar

Ms. Regan presented the 2023-2024 School Calendar draft seeking a vote of the Committee to approve the calendar.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith to approve the 2023-2024 School Calendar as presented. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

2023 TPS MCAS Calendar Schedule

Ms. McDermott presented the 2023 MCAS calendar schedule developed for the Tewksbury Public Schools. She stated that this is for information only; no vote is required from the School Committee. The schedule will be posted on the district website and published in the Smores.

Superintendent Year Review Mid-Year

Ms. Garabedian presented the Mid-Year review of Superintendent Brenda Regan. She reported that the Committee reviewed the goals set by Superintendent Regan in August of 2022. The Committee used the evaluation tool developed by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for the evaluation. Superintendent Regan exceeded expectations in all areas and met or exceeded her goals. She had developed and presented an Entry Plan, the new Center Elementary School building project was delivered on time, she supported relations, built trust and had good outcomes for students. Her outcomes at the end of the 22-23 school year will have a positive impact on the district. Ms. Regan thanked the Committee for their support, for the ongoing communication and the evaluation. She added that this is a team effort.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr. Russo gave a *Shout-out!* to the TMHS students that participated in the DECA competition at UMass Lowell today relating that he was a judge at the event.

Mr. Sullivan gave a *Shout-out!* to the residents for their commitment and support for the Center Elementary School, a state of art, safe and secure learning environment for grades 2, 3 and 4.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

February 8, 2023 (Budget Public Hearing), March 8, 2023 (Budget Public Hearing); April 12, 2023 Reorganization Meeting & Regular Meeting

FUTURE FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY MEETING DATES

Elementary School Building Committee: January 12, 2023; TSEPAC Business Meeting: January 19, 2023 (Basic Rights Workshop); Wellness Advisory Committee: March 1, 2023; Policy Sub-Committee: TBD

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:59 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the January 11, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. 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: Regular Meeting
2	Executive Session Agenda
3	Budget Workshop
7	Recognitions
9	Presentation: Preschool Options
11	Minutes: December 7, 2022
12	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: December 8, 2022: December 22, 2022; January 5, 2023
14	Consent Agenda: Personnel Items
16	Policy Review
17	Old Business: Professional Development, December 22-23, 2022; January 3-4, 2023
18	New Business: Drama Program Out-of-State Field Trip; Preschool New Curriculum; 2023-2024 School Calendar; 2023 TPS MCAS Calendar Schedule; Superintendent Mid-Year Review