

**Tewksbury School Committee**  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023  
Regular School Committee Meeting #9, 5:30 PM  
Center Elementary School  
139 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  
David Libby, Business Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Garabedian called the March 8, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The meeting is held at the Center Elementary School thanking Principal Harding and Assistant Principal Rob Rogers for accommodating us this evening. She also thanked the Town Media, Brian Dorrington and Jason Marshall.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:32 Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss the February 8, 2023 Executive Session minutes and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers).

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the February 8, 2023 Executive Session minutes and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers). The Committee will reconvene in Open Session for the Public Hearing on the Budget and will reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

At 5:43 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith to adjourn the March 8, 2023 Executive Session. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET**

At 6:05 p.m., Ms. Garabedian reconvened the March 8, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting and opened the Public Hearing on the FY 24 Budget Workshop.

Mr. Libby, Business Manager, addressed the School Committee and the community reporting that he first presented the FY24 budget to the School Committee at the Budget Workshop in January, the first budget hearing was held in February and this is the 2nd budget hearing adding that he will present the FY24 budget to the Finance Committee on March 13, 2023.

Mr. Libby gave a presentation on the FY24 budget reporting that the School Committee will vote on the budget at the April 12, 2023 School Committee meeting. The overall school budget is a 3.4% increase. If you include fixed costs that is a 2.7% increase; salaries are 70.7% of the budget; Capital Outlay, priority projects, is 2.1% of the budget. Mr. Libby reported that the overall budget is: Salaries \$38,690,763; Operating Costs \$15,187,649; Capital Outlay \$789,603; totaling \$54,668,015. The budget information details may be found on the website. This concludes the presentation. Mr. Libby responded to questions and comments from the School Committee.

At 6:28 p.m., Mr. Parson moved, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to adjourn the Public Hearing on the Budget and reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

At 6:31 p.m., Ms. Garabedian announced that the March 8, 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.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Garabedian asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

She reported that during the Executive Session, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the February 8, 2023 Executive Session meeting minutes.

### **RECOGNITION**

#### **VFW POst 8164 Voice of Democracy**

The Committee will reschedule Voice of Democracy winner Brooke Bunyan to a future meeting. Ms. Regan asked Ron Drouin, Athletic Director, to begin the recognition for members of the wrestling team.

#### **MA All State Girls Wrestling Tournament Runner-Up: Brooke Lightfoot**

Mr. Drouin introduced Brooke Lightfoot, a freshman on the TMHS Wrestling Team and All-State Girls Wrestling Runner-up. Ms. Biagioni-Smith read and presented Brooke with a Proclamation of Resolution.

#### **MA All State Boys Wrestling Tournament Champions: Nicky DeSisto**

Mr. Drouin introduced Nicky DeSisto, a freshman on the TMHS Wrestling Team and All State Boys Wrestling Tournament champion. Mr. Russo read and presented Nicky with a Proclamation of Resolution.

#### **MA All State Boys Wrestling Tournament Champions: Jack Callhan**

Mr. Drouin introduced Jack Callahan, a senior on the Varsity Wrestling team and All State Boys Wrestling Tournament champion. Mr. Sullivan read and presented Jack with a Proclamation of Resolution. T

#### **Division 3 Head Wrestling Coach of the Year: Steven Kasprzak**

Mr. Drouin reported that Coach Kasprzak was named the Division 3 Head Wrestling Coach of the Year, relating that he was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Sullivan read a Proclamation of Resolution recognizing Steve Kasprzak for being named Coach of the Year.

On behalf of the Committee and the district, Ms. Regan recognized TMHS Athletic Director Ronnie Drouin for being awarded Athletic Director of the Year. He will be recognized and presented with the award at the annual meeting of the *Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association (ASSADA)* on March 31st.

Principal Long and Mr. Drouin addressed the Committee and the community regarding the incident on March 2nd involving the Boys Ice Hockey Team. Ms. Garabedian thanked them for attending the meeting tonight and for the update.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

### **Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School**

Rania Elouahi was not in attendance due to a scheduling conflict.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Early College Planning - Karen O'Brien**

Karen O'Brien shared a powerpoint presentation on Early College Planning at Tewksbury Memorial High School. She updated the Committee on the current Advanced Placement course offerings, the ongoing partnership with Middlesex Community College for our Dual Enrollment program and that she is working with SNHU on expanded Dual Enrollment opportunities for our students. She reported that the Guidance Counselors will meet and share the presentation with the students at TMHS tomorrow. Ms. O'Brien responded to questions and comments from the School Committee.

Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to move the Program of Studies up to this portion of the agenda. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to move New Business item a.)TMHS 2023-2034 Program of Studies up on the agenda. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Program of Studies**

Ms. O'Brien gave a brief overview of the TMHS 2023-2024 Program of Studies pointing out that many course descriptions have been changed. Ms. Regan reported that the video presented for students will be published on the website. The Committee discussed opportunities for the middle school students. Ms. O'Brien reported that we have created an abridged version of the Program of Studies for the Wynn Middle School. Ms. O'Brien responded to questions and comments from the Committee.

## **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.

Danielle Bresnahan-Parent/PAC Member/Lunch Monitor, 14 Champion Street, Tewksbury: Ms. Breshnahan addressed the Committee regarding better communication at schools and if there is a policy to notify parents when students are exposed to negative behavior.

Ms. Garabedian reported that it is our policy not to respond during Citizen's Forum but she will get back to Ms. Bresnahan.

Peter Molloy-TMHS Teacher, 3 Village View Road, Chelmsford: Mr. Molloy addressed the Committee requesting an apology for not keeping his confidentiality.

Ms. Garabedian announced that the School Committee meetings are open meetings; it is a business meeting in public, it is not a public meeting. The Citizen's Forum portion of the meeting is for people to share; not an

exchange. The Board will not comment during the Forum. Ms. Garabedian asked if there were any further speakers. Seeing no one, she moved on to the approval of the minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved to approve the February 8, 2023 Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Russo. Motion carried 4-0-1. Mr. Sullivan abstained.

### **SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the payroll period ending February 16, 2023, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,505,180.34. 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 March 2, 2023, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,462,655.76. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS**

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Ms. Regan presented her updates reporting that the district is seeking nominations for the Ginsburg Family Award and the Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award; the Bedford VA Veterans thanked the elementary schools for valentines; members of the Central Office donated money to the Tewksbury Soup Kitchen in lieu of exchanging gifts for the holidays; and the high school is looking for dress donations for the *Bell of the Ball*. At TMHS, 26 students with high needs were honored by DESE with the new academic achievement award for their extensive growth on the 2022 MCAS assessments. Ms. Pellegrino made sure that kids in the Recreation Adult Resource Association (RARA) will have the opportunity to see *Beauty and the Beast*.

Ms. Regan reported that she received a request from the Dewing PAC for a Golf Ball Drop fundraising event relating that it did not make the agenda. She asked that the Committee take the fundraiser under consideration during the Consent Agenda.

#### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Ms. McDermott gave an update on the ELA curriculum reporting that the piloting teachers continue to meet monthly and other teachers have the opportunity to observe the pilot classes on both *Wit and Wisdom* and *EL*. She reported that Cale Birk will present at the March 15th Professional Development day. March is National Reading month and Read Across America. Tomorrow we will hold the first meeting on Standard Based Report Cards to be implemented for the 2023-2024 school year. The Day on the Hill is scheduled for May 4th. She reminded the community to continue to check the MCAS calendar.

#### **Business Manager's Report**

Mr. Libby pointed out that on Old Business, he included an update on expenditures thus far for 2023. He gave an update on transportation relating that we are struggling with a driver shortage; we are combining routes and running double routes; and the bus company is anticipating two drivers back next week. We have been texting and notifying parents and appreciate their patience. Mr. Libby responded to questions from the School Committee members.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Garabedian asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Regan reminded the Committee that they will also be voting on the Dewing PAC fundraiser request.

Ms. Garabedian asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Correspondence**

- a. 2023 Annual Ginsburg Family Award Nomination Form
- b. 2023 Annual Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award Nomination Form
- c. Donation to Tewksbury Food Pantry
- d. Friends of VA Bedford Veterans - Thank You Letter
- e. Center Elementary School Spirit
- f. MA DESE Recognition of Student Achievement Award
- g. Next Generation (NG) MCAS 22/23 TPS Testing Window Updates (February 14, 2023)
- h. Merrimack College - Supervising Practitioner Course Vouchers
- i. MASC - Day on the Hill, May 4, 2023

### **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

**New Hires** - Christa Richard, Education Support Personnel Aide, Dewing Elementary School, effective February 13, 2023

**Transfers** - None

**Retirements** - None

### **Appendix B TMHS Athletics**

### **Appendix B Co-Curricular Activities Tewksbury Memorial High School**

**Acceptance of Grants** - None

**Acceptance of Donations** - None

**Fundraisers/Raffles** - Center Elementary PAC Adult Paint Night & Basket Raffles fundraising event, April 25, 2023 and April 26, 2023; Dewing PAC Golf Ball Drop Fundraiser in the Spring 2023.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Elementary School Building Committee**

Mr. Sullivan reported that the Elementary School Building Committee will meet at the Town Hall tomorrow night. The punch list is almost completed relating that there is an issue with the gym floor we are working through. Mr. Sullivan thanked the Committee members for their trust in him during his tenure on the ESBC.

#### **Tewksbury SEPAC**

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the SEPAC met last week, the next Business meetings are scheduled on March 30th and April 27th. Please continue to check out their Facebook page; there may be a virtual support group meeting in March. The SEPAC is looking to post a social hour in the next couple of months. Lastly, there is a parent workshop on March 15th; you can register for the event on Facebook.

#### **Wellness Advisory Committee**

Mr. Russo reported that the Wellness Advisory Committee met on March 1st. Maria Ruggiero joined us speaking on the vaping curriculum introduced for the Wynn Middle School and eventually at the high school level. March is National Nutrition month; the schools are tasked to create ways to promote this for different

age levels. The Wellness Committee is in the process of making a recommendation to expand the Committee, as policy allows for, to invite different stakeholders to be involved. Lastly, we are looking at scheduling meetings every other month beginning for the 2023-2024 school year.

### **Policy Sub-Committee**

Mr. Sullivan reported that there are no new updates.

### **POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **2022-2023 Recommended Substitute Pay Rates**

Ms. Regan gave an update and market analysis for daily substitutes. She reported that the district is still facing difficulty hiring day-to-day substitutes and recommends increasing the substitute pay rate. Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to increase the substitute pay rates as presented to be effective immediately. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Russo, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Quarterly Expenditure Report March 2023**

Mr. Libby covered the Quarterly Expenditure report in his update.

#### **TMHS 2023-2024 Program of Studies**

Moved up on the agenda.

#### **2022-2023 Superintendent Evaluation Timeline**

Ms. Garabedian asked the Committee to review the 22/23 Superintendent's Evaluation Timeline as presented.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST**

Mr. Russo wished the TMHS DECA state finalists the best of luck at the competition. The Committee members thanked Mr. Sullivan for his contributions and for his accomplishments while serving on the School Committee during the past six years. Ms. Biagioni-Smith thanked the PACs for the work they have done especially during the past month. Mr. Parsons reported that March is Women's History month and today is International Women's day, offering his thanks to Ms. Garabedian, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Ms. Regan and Ms. McDermott. He reported on the Tewksbury Diversity, Equity, Action Advisory Committee's film series in celebrating Black History month these past few weeks, thanking the Tewksbury Library for hosting these events and the many volunteers. He added that the Advisory Committee is holding a Focus Group; they are conducting a survey for information and general listening sessions to help build community and support for LGBTQ. In response to issues in athletics now, he would like to remind the Tewksbury community to think about their role and opinions and try to keep them in focus. Ms. Regan commented on Mr. Sullivan's tenure on the School Committee and leadership of the Committee and the district through the most difficult of times. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Sullivan was presented with a commemorative basketball for his six years of service. He thanked the Committee and the administration and commented that he did not get here alone, offering thanks to his colleagues throughout the district and the Town of Tewksbury and to his family.

### **FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

April 12, 2023 Reorganization Meeting & Regular Meeting; May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting; May 17, 2023 SC Training/Workshop; May 31, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

Elementary School Building Committee: March 9, 2023; TSEPAC Business Meeting: March 16, 2023  
Wellness Advisory Committee: May 3, 2023; Policy Sub-Committee: TBD

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:03 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the March 8, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Johnson, Recording Secretary

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

<b>AGENDA ITEM #</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>
1	School Committee Meeting Agenda: Regular Meeting
2	Executive Session Agenda
3	Public Hearing Budget FY 24
7	Recognitions: Wrestlers, Coaches
8	Presentations: TMHS Early College Planning
11	Minutes: February 8, 2023
12	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: February 16, 2023 & March 2, 2023
14	Consent Agenda: Correspondence; Personnel Items; CES PAC Raffle
17	Old Business: 22-23 Recommended Substitute Pay Rates; Quarterly Expenditure Report March 2023
18	New Business: TMHS 23-24 Program of Studies; 22-23 Superintendent Evaluation Timeline