

Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Regular School Committee Meeting #10 at 5:30 PM
Tewksbury Memorial High School
139 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bridget L. Garabedian, Chair
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Vice-Chair
Kaitlyn M. Anderson, 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 April 12, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:30 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session to discuss the March 8, 2023 Executive Session minutes and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers).

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the March 8, 2023 Executive Session minutes and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers). The Committee will reconvene in Open Session for the Regular School Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Russo and Mr. Parsons will join the Committee in the Executive Session.

At 6:04 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith to adjourn the April 12, 2023 Executive Session. The Committee will reconvene in Open Session.

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

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

Ms. Regan reconvened the Regular School Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Regan invited Katie Anderson to lead the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Regan announced that the April 12, 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. Regan asked if anyone in the audience was recording tonight's meeting to please identify themselves. Let it be known that Peter Currier of the Lowell Sun was taping the meeting.

REORGANIZATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Ms. Regan congratulated Katie Anderson on her election to the School Committee.

School Committee Chair

Ms. Regan entertained nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Tewksbury School Committee. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to nominate Bridget Garabedian for the position of Chairperson of the Tewksbury School Committee.

Ms. Regan asked if there were any other nominations for the position of School Committee Chairperson. Seeing none, she asked for a vote to elect Bridget Garabedian to the position of School Committee Chair. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Regan congratulated Ms. Garabedian and turned the meeting over to her.

School Committee Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Garabedian asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson to the Tewksbury School Committee. Ms. Biagioni-Smith nominated herself for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Parsons seconded the nomination. Ms. Garabedian asked if there were any further nominations for the position of School Committee Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Russo nominated himself for the position of Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Parsons seconded the motion.

Ms. Garabedian opened for discussion. Ms. Garabedian reported that the nominee with the most votes will be elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Roll Call vote for Ms. Biagioni-Smith to the position of Vice-Chairperson: Ms. Anderson, Mr. Parsons and Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Roll Call vote for Mr. Russo to the position of Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Russo. Ms. Garabedian cast her vote for Ms. Biagioni-Smith.

Ms. Biagioni-Smith was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried 4-1.

Ms. Garabedian opened nominations for the position of Clerk. Ms. Biagioni-Smith nominated Katie Anderson as the Clerk. Mr. Russo seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ms. Garabedian asked for those in favor of electing Katie Anderson to the position of Clerk. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

None

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Garabedian called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Rita Boudreau. Ms. Boudreau had worked at the Heath Brook School as Kindergarten teacher for 20 years.

PRESENTATIONS

Comprehensive District Review & Entry Findings - Brenda Theriault-Regan

Ms. Regan addressed the School Committee members and the community giving a presentation on the *Comprehensive District Review (CDR) & Entry Findings*. She presented an overview of the CDR and the district profile pointing out some of the highlights on the report. She presented a summary of her Entry Plan findings. The report is posted on the website.

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

Mr. Russo motioned to resume the Student Representative report to this portion of the meeting. Mr. Parsons seconded the motion. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School

Rania Elouahi presented the notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School.

The Student Council has been busy attending leadership conferences and planning school events. They are planning events for Teacher Appreciation week. On April 14th, Student Council members will host the Special Education Prom and will be volunteering at the College Fair. On April 11th, many members attended the NEMASC conference at North Reading High School. March 8th through March 9th, nine members of the Student Council attended the annual MASC conference in Hyannis.

On March 9th, DECA went to the SCDC conference at the Marriott Copley Boston Hynes Convention Center.

TMHS Theater Company is presenting *Beauty and the Beast* on April 27th-April 29th; Spring sports are started, they include Lacrosse, Track, Baseball, Softball, Tennis and the Dance Team.

The last quarter of the year has begun. The AP exams are scheduled on May 1st and May 11th. MACS testing for grade 10 will be on May 16th & 17th and grade 9 MCAS testing will be on June 6th & 7th. The National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony was held on March 28th. The Junior Prom took place on April 6th and Senior Projects will be displayed on June 2, 2023. Rania wished everyone a nice Spring vacation.

ELA Curriculum Pilot Project - Felicia Cenanovic, Director of Literacy & Kelly Cracchiolo, Literacy Coach

Ms. Cenanovic addressed the Committee presenting an overview of the ELA Curriculum Pilot Project. She reported that 36 staff were involved in the two ELA curriculum pilot programs, *EL Education* and *Wit & Wisdom*. Ms. Cenanovic presented the survey results reporting that *EL Education* was recommended by more staff over *Wit & Wisdom*. Ms. Cracchiolo reported that the teachers liked how SEL was embedded in the *EL Curriculum*. Ms. Cenanovic recommended the purchase of *EL Education* as the new ELA curriculum for grades K-6.

Ms. Cenanovic responded to questions from the School Committee

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to move Old Business, ELA Curriculum Purchase Recommendation, up on the agenda. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. McDermott presented the recommendation requesting the School Committee approve the purchase of the new K-6 ELA curriculum resources, *EL Education*, by Imagine Learning, with a six year subscription in the amount of \$629,516.00.

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the purchase of the six year subscription for the new K-6 ELA curriculum resources, *EL Education*, in the amount of \$629,516.00.

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

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 Breshnahan, 14 Champion Street, Tewksbury: Ms. Breshnahan addressed the Committee requesting that a policy be put in place to support the needs of all students and for schools to communicate more with parents.

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. Anderson moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the March 8, 2023 Regular meeting minutes. Motion carried 4-0-1. Ms. Anderson abstained.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Ms. Anderson moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the payroll period ending March 16, 2023, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,640,423.43.

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

Ms. Anderson moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the payroll period ending March 30, 2023, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,522,140.56.

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

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Reported that the College Fair will be held at TMHS on Friday, April 14th; March was Women's History month, pointing the Committee to pictures in the Consent Agenda; the TMHS Spring musical is scheduled on April 28th and 29th; and the 39th Annual Art Show and Band & Chorus Concert will be held on May 4th and 5th. Next week is April vacation, when we return on May 10th it will be Teacher Appreciation Week. She announced that the TPS Policy Manual is back online.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. McDermott presented the professional development topics and presenters from the March 15th Professional Development day. She reported that the ELA MCAS testing was completed at the Center Elementary School last week. Ms. McDermott reminded families to keep an eye on the MCAS calendar for any updates. She reported that the Standard-Based Report Cards Committee continues to work on the process of bringing Standard-Based Report Cards to grades K-4. Lastly, she announced that the district was awarded the *Accelerated Literacy Learning through High-Quality Instructional Materials* Grant in the amount of \$200,000.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Libby updated the Committee on transportation relating to the unprecedented driver shortage. We have reduced routes between the high school and the Wynn and rerouted and consolidated routes at the Ryan School. He acknowledged and thanked the drivers for picking up the extra work. He presented a brief update on the North Street and Trahan Schools reporting that the district is slowly cleaning out the schools by yard selling in-district and to other districts. He presented an update on the HVAC projects at both the Ryan School and the Wynn School relating that we have signed a contract with an engineering company to begin work in the spring of 2024 and to be completed in the summer of 2024. They are going to look at the Dewing and Heath Brook as well to see what the schools need in order to improve them for use over the next 10 years. In response to a question from Mr. Russo, Mr. Libby gave an update on Tewksbury Transit unionizing adding that the district has received a transportation bid from Tewksbury Transit. He reported that the district will look into making the bricks around the Trahan flagpole available for people.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Garabedian asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. She commented that she enjoyed the pictures included in the Consent Agenda. Ms. Garabedian asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence

- a. Professional Development/Teacher Workshop: March 15, 2023
- b. March is Women's History Month
- c. Mosquito Education Program Information
- d. May 5th & 6th: 39th Annual Art Show / Band & Chorus Concert
- e. Accelerated Literacy Learning Grant

PERSONNEL ITEMS

New Hires: David Bolster, Building Custodian, Center Elementary School effective April 3, 2023; Brian Staples, Building Custodian, Wynn Middle School effective April 11, 2023; Joseph Russell, 1-year only COVID Support Staff, Ryan Elementary School, effective April 3, 2023.

Transfers - None

Retirements - MaryBeth Tierney, Education Support Personnel Aide at the Dewing Elementary School, effective June 23, 2023; Elaine Bennett, Food & Nutrition Services staff, Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective June 30, 2023

Reappointments - None

Appendix B TMHS Athletics - None

Appendix B Co-Curricular Activities - None

Acceptance of Grants - None

Acceptance of Donations - None

Fundraisers/Raffles - Wynn PAC Food Truck Festival fundraiser and raffle request on May 25, 2023 at Tewksbury Memorial High School

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Garabedian reported that next month we will update the School Committee assignments.

Elementary School Building Committee

Mr. Libby reported that the Change Order Committee met today. We are hoping that May will be our final request for change orders and then be able to give the MA School Building Authority (MSBA) the final cost of the new school. We are prioritizing additions to the project that have been realized since moving into the building. He is scheduled to meet with Mr. Harding tomorrow and they will work on categorizing Mr. Harding's change order list of 83 items.

Tewksbury SEPAC

Mr. Parsons reported that he and Ms. Biagioni-Smith attended the March 30, 2023, SEPAC Business meeting. They heard from School Resource Officer (SRO) James Ryser reporting on the training required for SRO's. Ms. Gerrish gave an overview on the depth of training that general education and special education teachers receive and processes in place to address different circumstances related to student incidents. BCBA, Kyle Benson, presented information on time-out rooms and cool down spaces. The district BCBA's will be offering a workshop for parents and guardians on deescalation strategies. He reported on a few recommendation needs the SEPAC suggested for the district. The next Business meeting is scheduled on April 27th. Ms. Biagioni-Smith added that the SEPAC is putting together sub-committees to survey the community on needs. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for updates. Ms. Garabedian invited the SEPAC to the June meeting to present a recap for the School Committee.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Mr. Russo reported that the next Wellness Advisory Committee meeting will be held on May 3rd. He will email Ms. Regan recommendations for additional resources to add to the Wellness Committee. He reported that the Wellness Committee would like to meet every other month beginning for the 2023-2024 school year.

Policy Sub-Committee

Ms. Garabedian reported that at this time there are no new policies to present.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

23-24 Budget Review Approval

The Superintendent recommends the School Committee approve the FY 24 Budget in the amount of \$54,985,262.00. This will require a Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Libby presented an update on the recommended FY 24 Budget since the last Public Hearing on the Budget adding that the district is fortunate that the Finance Committee and the Town Manager support the district.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the final FY 24 Budget, as presented in the amount of \$54,985,262.00, to go to Town Meeting.

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

ELA Curriculum Purchase Recommendation

Moved up on the agenda.

2024 School Committee Meeting Calendar

Ms. Regan reported that the Committee has received the 2024 School Committee meeting calendar to review. Ms. Garabedian asked Committee members to let her know if they would like to make any changes to the drafted schedule. The Committee discussed the suggested schedule and will consider adding additional meetings related to specific topics.

NEW BUSINESS

Last Day of School 2022-2023 School Year

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve June 16, 2023 as the last day of the 2022-2023 school year.

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

School Choice 2023-2024 School Year

At the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, not to participate in School Choice due to the continued work associated with the construction of the Center Elementary School, the uncertainty of the continuation of our schools, potential staffing adjustments and maintaining lower class size at our lower level schools.

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Ms. Biagioni-Smith thanked the junior class and their representatives for inviting the Committee members to the Junior Prom adding that she and Ms. Garabedian attended. Ms. Garabedian stated that she would like an invitation to the Senior Project when they are presented. Ms. Regan commented that she will share the end of year event calendar with the Committee members. Ms. Garabedian reported that May 4th is MASC's Day on the Hill, promoting legislative advocacy; Committee members should let Ms. Johnson know by tomorrow if they'd like to attend. The deadline for nominations of the Ginsburg Family award and the Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator award is April 13th. Mr. Parsons volunteered to be the School Committee representative on the MIAA Cross Country Sub-Committee and Ms. Biagioni-Smith will be the representative on the Special Education Sub-Committee.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting; May 17, 2023 SC Training/Workshop; May 31, 2023 Regular Meeting; June 14, 2023

FUTURE FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY MEETING DATES

Elementary School Building Committee: April 27, 2023; TSEPAC Business Meeting: April 27, 2023

Wellness Advisory Committee: May 3, 2023; Policy Sub-Committee: TBD

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the April 12, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Ms. Biagioni-Smith seconded by Mr. Russo. 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 4-12-2023
11	Presentations: CDR & Supt Entry Findings; ELA Curriculum Pilot Project
13	Minutes: March 8, 2023
14	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: March 16, 2023 & March 30, 2023
	Consent Agenda: Prof Dev Workshop March 15, 2023; Women's History Month (March) Mosquito Ed Prog Info; Art Show/Band & Chorus Concert; Accelerated Literacy Learning Grant Personnel Items; Wynn PAC Fundraiser May 25, 2023
19	Old Business: FY24 Budget Approval; ELA Curriculum PPurchase Recommendation; 2024 School Committee Meeting Schedule
20	New Business: 23-24 Last Day of School; 2023-2024 School Choice Vote