

**Tewksbury School Committee**  
Wednesday, June 14, 2023  
Regular School Committee Meeting #13, 5:00 PM  
Tewksbury Memorial High School  
Large Group Instruction Room #1  
320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bridget Garabedian, Chair  
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Vice-Chair  
Kaitlyn Anderson, Clerk  
Nicholas 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 June 14, 2023 Regular School Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., reporting that the meeting will open in the Christine McGrath Performing Arts Center for the recognition of staff and students. After the recognitions the Committee will convene for the Executive Session at 5:45 and return to LGI-1 to reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**RECOGNITIONS**

**2023 TPS Retirees**

The School Committee, school administrators, staff, and the Union representatives recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of the Tewksbury Public Schools' 2023 retirees.

Tewksbury Memorial High School: Elaine (Lainie) Bennett, Food & Nutrition Services;  
Wynn Middle School: Joanne Kearns, School Secretary;  
Ryan Elementary School: Ronald Page, Building Custodian and Lisa Richard, Computer Teacher;  
Center Elementary School: Karen Bancroft, Grade 2 Teacher; Donna Bowden, Grade 2 Teacher; and Peter Thuillier, Building Custodian;  
Dewing Elementary School: Joy Wallace, School Secretary and MaryBeth Tierney, Education Support Personnel Aide;  
District-wide: Daniel Martin, Maintenance Staff.

**TMHS Esports Team**

The School Committee recognized the accomplishment of the TMHS Esports Team for a great season resulting in being named Rocket League Champions; they took the MSAA Esports 2023 Spring State Championship. Members: Toffy Beylone, Peter Impink, Andy Harlalka, Jonas Jiminez, and Chris Arbogast. Advisor/Coach Sanford Arbogast. Peter was present to accept the recognition on behalf of the Esports Team.

**APPROVED 7-19-2023**

### **Wynn Middle Drama Club**

The School Committee recognized the Wynn Middle School Drama Club for their performance of *Fire Exit*. The Wynn Drama Club received the MA Educational Theatre Guild's 2023 Middle School Drama Festival Gold Medal Award. Cast members: Blake Adams, Ellie Allard, Adrian Baez, Mia Bettencourt, Nathan Bettencourt, Sophia Campbell, Dori Casey, Kevin Daigle, Giana DiCicco, Brian Flynn, Jake Gigante, Kayla Gittens, Loranzy Head, Wyatt Holmes, Joey Kane, Martha Kapetanakis, Caroline Kaplan, Lily Kelley, Grace Kennedy, Katrina LePage, Laura Madsen, Gray McDonald, Aria Milner, Haley Rose Ricker, Isabella Robson, Luke Saengvanich, Leila Sibay, Leo Spizuoco, Daphne Tambi, Henry Vaillancourt, Abigail Veno, Christopher Wallace, Celeste Webb, Arden Yandow, and Cordelia Zwirek. Stage Managers/Team Captains: VJ Godin, Assistant Stage Manager & Jeff Wolfinger, Stage Manager and Wynn Drama Club Director, Jon DiPrima. Five students received the All-Star Company Award for Perseverance: Blake Adams, Kevin Daigle, Jake Gigante, Grace Kennedy and Cordelia Zwirek.

### **TMHS Theatre Company**

The School Committee recognized the TMHS Theatre Company for their performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. The TMHS Theatre Company was nominated for 18 TAMY awards and won six TAMY's including Best Overall Production. Cast and Crew members: Kayla Amara, Nate Bone, Julia Borushik, Brooke Bunyan, Sam Caballero, Abby Cadman, Maddie Caliendo, Shaun Carr, Emily Carriere, Darren Castiglione, Adam Chawkate, Ava Cognata, Jared Cohen, James Cozzo, Nathan Cyr, Audrey Daigle, Sarah Downing, Helen Flaherty, Danny Franklin, Hazel Garabedian, Bekah Godin, Marysa Gomes, Savanna Helm, Lindsay Holbrook, Samantha Holbrook, Maddox Horgan, Ryan King, Will King, Maeve Knyff, Finn Knyff, Sophia Kretzenger, Ella Lightfield, Janina Long, Natalie Mattuchio, Katherine Melendez, Greg Mercado, Chase Miele, Alex Naghibi, Sheila Parma, Sean Patrick Butler, Elena Pejic, Emma Pelland, David Penney, Eriel Portillo, Kelsey Ripley, Sabreen Sabir, Sienna Schrimpf, Hayley Shanahan, Karlla Silva, Sci Stoddard, Katherine Stonoha, Zach Sullivan, Collin Todd, Jillian Waugh, Matty Whittle, Jared Woodman, and Gray Zadig. Director: Celeste Pellegrino & Technical Director: David Moffat

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:45 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the May 10, 2023 and May 31, 2023 Executive Session minutes; and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers); and to discuss strategies regarding non-union personnel (superintendent).

The Committee will reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting in Open Session following the Executive Session.

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

At 6:25 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to adjourn the June 14, 2023 Executive Session and reconvene in Open Session.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

At 6:30 p.m., Ms. Garabedian announced that the June 14, 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. No one was recording the meeting.

As a point of reference, Ms. Garabedian announced that the School Committee opened tonight's meeting in the Christine Performing Arts Center auditorium at 5:00 p.m. for our recognitions tonight. The recognitions were recorded by the Tewksbury Media staff and will be available for viewing on the district website.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

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

Rania Elouahi, Student Council Representative, presented the Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School. Rania's final student report of the year:

- The clubs have held their last meeting of the year and are looking forward to starting-up next year;
- There will be a Club Fair at the end of the Summer;
- UMASS Lowell is offering an Engineering Summer Clinic;
- On May 30th, the TMHS Fine & Performing Arts department went on a field trip to the Franklin Park Zoo and Faneuil Hall;
- Many sports have ended and have had amazing seasons. Some qualified for MVC, State and All-State;
- The Girls Softball team are still playing in the state Semifinals;
- A Fall sports meeting was held on Monday, June 12th;
- The Senior Prom and Promenade and was held on June 6th;
- Senior Week was held last week with graduation on June 9th;
- On June 6th & 7th the Freshmen took the final MCAS of the year (Biology);
- AP classes have had their final meetings and student contracts are due by the end of the year;
- Classes for next year have been solidified and the Guidance Department is taking care of course issues;
- Gold Cards, for exemption of finals, were given out over the past few weeks;
- This is the last week of school; finals are scheduled on Thursday.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Zoo Project - Ryan Elementary School STEM**

Ms. Regan introduced the Ryan School STEM teachers, Ms. Lindsey and Ms. Hillson. Principal McInnes invited the students to introduce themselves and each gave the School Committee information on their project. The STEM Zoo Project was a year-long project in which the students redesigned habitats for animals to meet their needs. Principal McInnes announced that the whole school was involved in making the presentation happen. The students responded to questions and comments from the School Committee.

Ms. Garabedian moved to recess in order to allow students to exit the meeting. Mr. Russo seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Tewksbury SEPAC End-of-Year Recap**

Ms. Regan introduced Ms. Dina Mancini, Co-Chair of the Tewksbury Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC). Ms. Mancini addressed the Committee and presented an overview of the role and responsibility of the SEPAC and presented the highlights of the 2022-2023 school year. Ms. Mancini responded to questions from the School Committee members.

### **TPS STEM & IT Updates**

Jason Stamp, Director of IT & STEM, presented an update on the security audit relating that progress has been made on the Data Privacy Audit. He reported that our Tech coaches send out a weekly Tuesday Tech Tips to help teachers keep up-to-date on cyber security updates.

He presented an update on the math instruction, the progress the district has been making over the past two years and the next steps. Mr. Stamp responded to questions and comments from the School Committee.

Ms. Garabedian moved onto the next order of business while Ms. McDermott brought up her presentation.

### **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, she moved on to the approval of the minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Anderson moved to approve the May 31, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **PRESENTATIONS cont.**

#### **Standard-Based Report Cards**

Ms. McDermott presented the Standard-Based Report Cards implementation plan for the 2023-2024 school year. She gave an overview of the general purpose, a comparison of the present report card and the standard-based report card, and how to report grades. She shared a video from the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education on Standard Based Learning. Ms. McDermott responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

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

Ms. Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the payroll period ending June 8, 2023, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,603,099.29. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Parsons, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

### **SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS**

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

Ms. Regan wished everyone a happy Flag Day. She presented the Superintendent updates reporting that UMASS Lowell is once again offering the Engineering Camp program. She pointed out that a copy of the TMHS 88th Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2023 is in the Consent agenda. Another item on Consent is the Appendix B Athletic recommendations. The recommendation for the Appendix B Co-Curricular activities will be in the July packet. The TMHS Girls Softball team made it to the Division 2 State Semifinals scheduled tonight; due to the weather the game was postponed to tomorrow night. Students between the ages of 14-17 may get working papers at the district office. As a reminder, Ms. Regan announced that Friday is the last day of school and will be an early release day. Ms. Regan notified the Committee that the Ryan School has made an update to their 23/24 Student Handbook.

Due to a thunderstorm during the meeting, the School Committee meeting *live feed* was lost at 8:10 p.m. The meeting continued to be recorded.

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

Ms. McDermott reported that she attended her first Probability Carnival relating that kids created carnival games for students at the Center School and created the probability of students winning. She gave a *Shout-out!* to all those involved. She reported that over 100 teachers were interested in participating in the summer curriculum work. The summer curriculum will prioritize dual enrollment and the MSNT playbook; she will give an update at the July School Committee meeting.

Ms. McDermott reported that the final report cards will be posted on Aspen on the last day of school; parents may reach out to the school secretary if they have any difficulty opening the report card. She gave a friendly reminder for everyone to do their summer reading stating that parents may also read to or listen to their children read. Ms. McDermott responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

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

Mr. Libby reported that the Business Office is busy closing the FY23 fiscal year book and opening the FY24 book. We are keeping an eye on grants with expiring dates coming up and the TTA members have received their salary statement. In the Transportation Department, we continue to develop models for next year. If any schedule changes are made, he will report the information to the Committee. We are trying a method to identify who the riders will be and are considering a registration process. Mr. Libby reported that he met with an engineering firm regarding the heating and cooling systems at the Heath Brook and Dewing Schools. They will have a design and bid specifications out in early fall to be completed next summer. Mr. Libby responded to questions and comments 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. Seeing none, she 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. Mr. Parsons opposed. Motion carried 4-1.

### **Correspondence**

- a. TMHS & UMass Lowell Adventures in Engineering Summer Clinic
- b. 2023 TMHS Commencement

### **PERSONNEL ITEMS**

**New Hires:** Alex Mendoza, district-wide IT Support Technician, effective June 7, 2023; Sarah Buhler, Part-time Secretary, Heath Brook School, effective August 28, 2023.

**Transfers** - None

**Retirements** - None

### **2023-2024 Reappointment**

Suzanne Dibble - District-wide Occupational Therapist

### **2023-2024 Appendix B TMHS Athletics**

2023-24 TMHS Athletics

**2023-2024 Appendix B Co-Curricular Activities**

None

**Acceptance of Grants** - None

**Acceptance of Donations** - None

**Fundraisers/Raffles** - None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Elementary School Building Committee**

Mr. Russo reported that the next Elementary School Building Committee meeting is scheduled on June 22, 2023.

**Tewksbury SEPAC**

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the next SEPAC meeting is scheduled on June 15, 2023.

**Wellness Advisory Committee**

Mr. Russo reported that the next Wellness Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on September 6, 2023.

Ms. Regan will share the list of potential new members with Mr. Russo for him to assist in filling the roles.

**Policy Sub-Committee**

Ms. Garabedian reported that the next Policy Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled on June 23, 2023.

**POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS**

Ms. Garabedian reported that the Policy Sub-Committee reviewed policy JLC-R-2, Head Lice, and policy CM, School District Annual Report.

Ms. Garabedian reported that MCAS does not have policy JLC-R-2 in the sample policy manual and based on the fact that it is not a communicable disease any longer she recommends that the School Committee move to rescind JLC-R-2.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to rescind policy JLC-R-2 on a first and final reading. Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Mr. Parson, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Garabedian reported that the following policy has been reviewed and revised and is presented on the Informational Reading: CM, School District Annual Report. No vote is required at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Enrollment as of June 1, 2023**

Ms. Regan provided an enrollment update relating that enrollment has increased by 30 since the October 1st Count. She reported that next year the high school enrollment will be approximately 711, relating that each year we lose about 100 students from 8th to 9th grade. Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TPS Summer School & Enrichment Grid**

Ms. Regan reported on the summer programming enrichment opportunities relating that due to an increase in demand for AlphaBEST, the district has opened additional schools for their use. She reported that the district received \$75,000 from the AESOP grant for after school programming. Mr. Russo commented that the School Committee is tasked to approve grants asking if the grants will be on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Libby responded that once the Competitive Grants are approved it will be brought to the Committee. Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the Committee members.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST**

The School Committee members commented on the great end of year events at the schools. Ms. Anderson gave a brief update on the DEIAC committee relating that they hosted a Pride Lights celebration on June 1st.

**FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

July 19, 2023 School Committee Workshop at 4:30 p.m., followed by the Regular Meeting; August 16, 2023 School Committee Workshop at 2:00 p.m, followed by the Regular School Committee meeting.

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

*Elementary School Building Committee: June 22, 2023; TSEPAC Business Meeting: June 15, 2023  
Wellness Advisory Committee: September 6, 2023; Policy Sub-Committee: June 23, 2023 at 10:00.*

Ms. Garabedian announced that the Appendix B Sub-Committee, which the School Committee has been meeting with administration and the TTA leadership since the contract was signed last year, has an agreement to meet monthly and to have information to be delivered at the end of the year. She reported that they will be having the final meeting this month.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Parsons commented on Appendix B Athletics stating that he had questions on staffing between teams and different gendered teams for the same sport. He is requesting the rationale for the number of positions, stipends, expenditures, equipment and hours spent practicing and traveling and requested that Mr. Drouin come to a future School Committee. Mr. Russo responded that the Appendix B Committee has been reviewing the Appendix B and will report once completed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:53 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the June 14, 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)):

<b>AGENDA ITEM #</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>
1	School Committee Meeting Agenda: Regular Meeting 6-14-2023
2	Recognitions: TPS 2023 Retirees; TMHS Esports Team; Wynn Drama Club; TMHS Theatre Company
3	Executive Session Agenda May, 10-2023; May 31, 2023
9	Presentations: Ryan Zoo Project; Tewksbury SEPAC End-of-Year Recap; STEM & IT Updates; Standard-Based Report Cards
11	Minutes: May 31, 2023
12	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: June 8, 2023
14	Consent Agenda: Correspondence; Personnel Items
16	Policy: JLC-R-2; CM
17	Old Business: Enrollment Update June 1, 2023
18	New Business: TPS Summer School & Enrichment