

Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Regular School Committee Meeting #11, 5:30 PM
Tewksbury Memorial High School
Large Group Instruction Room #1
320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bridget Garabedian, Chair
Richard Russo, Jr., Vice-Chair
Chris Moncada, Clerk
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCUSED

Kaitlyn Anderson, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Brenda Theriault-Regan, Superintendent
Lori McDermott, Assistant Superintendent
David Libby, Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Regan called the April 10, 2024 School Committee meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She announced that Katie Anderson could not attend the meeting this evening. Ms. Regan congratulated Bridget Garabedian on her re-election to the School Committee and congratulated Chris Moncada for his election to the School Committee.

REORGANIZATION - PRIMARY ELECTION OF OFFICERS

School Committee Chairperson

Ms. Regan opened nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Tewksbury School Committee. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved to nominate Bridget Garabedian for the position of Chairperson of the Tewksbury School Committee, seconded by Mr. Russo. Ms. Regan asked if there were any other nominations; there were no other nominations. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to close nominations for Chairperson. A vote was taken on the name of Bridget Garabedian for the position of Chairperson. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0. On a Point of Order, Ms. Garabedian announced that she accepted the nomination.

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

School Committee Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Garabedian opened nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Tewksbury School Committee. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moncada, to nominate Rich Russo for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Russo accepted the nomination. Ms. Garabedian asked if there were any further nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson; there were no other nominations. A vote was taken on the name of Rich Russo for the position of Vice-Chairperson. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

School Committee Clerk

Ms. Garabedian opened nominations for the position of Clerk of the Tewksbury School Committee.

Approved 5/1/2024

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to nominate Chris Moncada as the Clerk. Mr. Moncada accepted the nomination. Ms. Garabedian asked if there were any further nominations for the position of Clerk; there were no other nominations. A vote was taken on the name of Chris Moncada to the position of Clerk. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:35 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session, Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the March 13, 2024 Executive Session minutes; and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (teachers) and contracts. The Committee will reconvene in open session following the Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

At 6:09 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to adjourn the April 10, 2024 Executive Session and reconvene in open session.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

ADJOURN INTO PUBLIC SESSION

6:30 p.m., Ms. Garabedian reconvened the Regular April 10, 2024 School Committee meeting. She welcomed and congratulated Chris Moncada for his election to the Tewksbury School Committee and thanked the residents of Tewksbury for reflecting her to the School Committee. She reported that she met with Chris to review MASC materials and he met with the Superintendent to bring him up to speed.

Ms. Garabedian announced that during the Executive Session, the School Committee approved the March 13, 2024 Executive Session meeting minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Garabedian announced that the April 10, 2024 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.

RECOGNITIONS

VFW Post 8164 - 2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay Competition

Ms. Regan announced that Brady Anderson, a 6th grade student at the Ryan Elementary School, is the recipient of the 2023-2024 Patriot's Pen Essay contest. Representatives from the Tewksbury/Wilmington VFW Post 8164, Commander Vinnie Oliva and Jimmy Willimans, were present. Commander Oliva announced that Brady placed 1st in the Post and District competition and placed 2nd at the State competition. Brady was invited to read his essay on "How Are You Inspired By America". On behalf of the School Committee, Ms. Biagioni-Smith read and presented Brady Anderson with a Proclamation of Recognition. Commander Oliva thanked Kathleen Anderson and other educators at the Ryan School for encouraging students to participate in the Patriot's Pen Essay competition.

Mr. Moncada announced the opening of the VFW Auxiliary Post 8164 nationwide Art Contest. Students grades 9-12 are eligible to apply; the deadline for applications is March 31, 2025. For more information contact Mary Williams, Auxiliary Secretary at 978-851-6064 or the Tewksbury Central Office, at 978-640-7800.

TPS Retiree - Richard Pelletier, Director of Student Services

Ms. Regan invited Rick Pelletier, Director of Student Services, to the podium for recognition. She announced that Mr. Pelletier will be retiring on April 30, 2024, presenting a recap of the work Mr. Pelletier has done throughout his career. Candance Tharrett was present at the meeting saying a few words about Mr. Pelletier and his dedication to Tewksbury. The School Committee wished Mr. Pelletier the best of luck in his future endeavors. Mr. Pelletier thanked everyone for the well wishes and reflected on his 13 years with the Tewksbury Public Schools.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School

Rania Elouahi presented the events and happenings at TMHS this past month.

Club Updates:

- Model UN had their first competition this weekend at the Inn and Conference Center at UMASS Lowell.
- NHS Induction will be held on March 26th.
- Robotics won the State Competition earning the title, New England FIRST.
- Student Council attended the NEMASC Conference yesterday at North Reading High School and they held elections last Thursday for a new E-Board.

Sports Updates:

- Spring sports have now started with the Track Team holding their first meet of the season today and Baseball having their home opener today, and Lacrosse has a game tonight as well.

Miscellaneous Updates:

- There was a Resume Writing Workshop today during last Block, in LGI-2.
- There have been several College Tours offered by the Guidance Department. Additionally, there will be a College Fair this Friday.
- Junior Prom will be held in Salisbury tomorrow.
- We got out of school one hour early on Monday, April 8th, to observe the Solar Eclipse.
- Also on Monday, we began STAMP testing for French and Spanish 4, the AP Language classes.
- Senior Project began this week and last Friday was the last day for many seniors.

Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to move New Business item #18a up on the agenda. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Recommendation to Appoint Assistant Superintendent of Schools

At the recommendation of Superintendent Regan, Mr. Russo moved to appoint Nancy Milligan to the position of Assistant Superintendent of the Tewksbury Public Schools. Ms. Biagioni-Smith seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0. The Committee welcomed Ms. Milligan to the Tewksbury Public Schools.

Ms. Milligan was present at the meeting and said a few words of introduction.

PRESENTATIONS

TMHS Student Exchange Program

Bailey Mahoney, Karen Baker O'Brien, and Graca Dudley gave a presentation on implementing a Student Exchange Program at Tewksbury Memorial High School. They will work with the *Forum Prometour* company for the Student Exchange Program. The proposal is for our students to go to school in Spain during February and it would be preferred if the exchange kids came here in September or October. The proposed program is for the 2025-2025 school year. The presenters responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion in support of the proposal. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, for Ms. Mahoney, Ms. O'Brien, and Sra. Dudley to move forward with research and to complete the school profile form for a TMHS Student Exchange Program for the 2025-2026 school year. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Wynn Middle School Cell Phone Pilot

Mr. John Weir and parent Ms. Tuttle gave a presentation on a Cell Phone Pilot program at the Wynn Middle School. The school did research on the affects cell phone use has on students. They received a grant to purchase Yondr pouches. Students will secure their cell phone in the Yondr pouch during the school day. The Wynn will pilot the program starting April 22, 2024. Mr. Weir responded to questions and comments from the School committee members. The Committee supports what the school is doing. This is informational only, no vote is required by the School 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. Seeing none, she asked to approve the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Russo moved to approve the March 13, 2024 Regular School Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Mr. Moncada abstained, 3 Yes and No Opposed. Motion carried 3-0-1.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the payroll period ending March 14, 2024, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,629,983.14. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the payroll period ending March 28, 2024, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,620,242.39. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. No Opposed. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan reported that the Policy Sub-Committee is looking at our Homework policy for the district. Mr. Stamp and Ms. Cenanovic developed a Homework Policy Survey for grades 5-12, families, and teachers. She said that we would appreciate the feedback. Ms. Regan reported on the Solar Eclipse the response from students. The Tewksbury Select Board is considering the district's request for a Long Range Facility Committee. The next steps are to review the former Mission Statement and to develop a new Mission

Statement. She reported that nominations are due on April 12th for the Ginsburg Family award and the Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator award. She reported that there are efforts happening at all schools to combat cell phone use. TMHS is using shoe-tree holders; kids put their cell in the tree and pick them up at the end of class. This limits distractions so kids can learn. She reported that Rick Pelletier is retiring at the end of the month and Candace Tharrett will be the acting Director of Student Services and Special Education. She reported that the high school is expanding Dual Enrollment offerings with six additional courses. She gave a shout-out to the TMHS Administrative team along with Mary Jo Kelleher and Karen Baker O'Brien for the commitment to create opportunities for the high school for the 24-25 school year. Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Lori McDermott reported that she and Ms. Regan attended the Genius Hour at the Wynn Middle School, thanking Mr. DiPrima and Ms. Shao. The Wynn hosted their first Multicultural night reporting that it was well attended. She and Ms. Regan got to see Ms. White in action, relating that for the past four years she has visited classrooms giving hands-on science lessons. The Center School will perform *Peter Pan, Jr.* on April 25th and April 26th; the TMHS Theater Company will perform *The Adams Family* on April 25th and April 26th; and the District-wide Art Show and Band & Chorus Concert will be held on May 4th & 5th. Thanks to Cindy Basteri for attaining the grants to offer the Penguin Pride Program at the Heath Brook this summer and the 21st Century Program at the Dewing School. She reported that May 1st is a Building-based Professional Development day and an Early Release for students. We wrapped up the ELA MCAS for grades 3 and 4 last week and will finish the ELA at the Wynn and Ryan this week. The Tewksbury Beautification Committee's Spring Clean-up day is on May 4th; please bring a donation for the food pantry.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Libby updated the Committee on the Heath Brook projects reporting that we opened the Subcontractor bids for roofing, electrical, HVAC, and ceiling work. Next week we will open the General Contractor bid. We are moving along towards the finalized price. The Wynn School HVAC project is moving along and is scheduled to start shortly after school gets out in June. He reported we have a bid out on the copier contract as the current contract will expire at the end of June. We have 36 machines, four we own and 32 are leases to replace. We have asked for an increase in color machines for 14 across the district. Mr. Libby gave the Committee an update on the Bus App reporting that the half-days have been programmed; the bus company has gone through our calendar and programmed for all half days left for this school year. Mr. Moncada suggested providing the bus company with the 2024-2025 school year calendar to prepare for next year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Garabedian asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Moncada asked about the Day on the Hill. Ms. Regan reported that the Day on the Hill will be held on May 6th. It is an opportunity to meet with Legislators. Seeing no further questions, Ms. Garabedian asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Correspondence

- a. 40th Annual TPS Art Show, Band & Chorus Concert - May 3rd & May 4th
- b. Spring Town Clean Up Day - May 4, 2024
- c. Expansion of Dual Enrollment Opportunities for Students
- d. MASC Day on the Hill 2024 - May 6, 2024

Personnel Items

New Hires - None

Reappointments - None

Retirements - None

Transfers - None

Appendix B TMHS Athletics

- Liana Angelis, Tennis Coach
- Ryan Day, Boys Lacrosse JV Coach

Acceptance of Grants - None

Acceptance of Donations - None

Raffles - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tewksbury SEPAC

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the Tewksbury SEPAC will be meeting tomorrow and elections for the Board will be held on May 16th with nominations due by May 6th.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the Wellness Advisory Committee met last week. They discussed Yondr pouches and vaping in the schools. Maria Ruggerio shared the results of the 2023 Student Risk Survey for the Wynn Middle School and Tewksbury Memorial High School. The Wellness Committee will review the data results.

Policy Sub-Committee

Ms. Garabedian reported that the Policy Sub-Committee met on March 22nd. The Sub-Committee reviewed the policy on homework and the policy on fundraising. The next Policy Sub-Committee meeting will be on April 25th.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

Ms. Garabedian reported that the Policy Sub-Committee reviewed policy ADDA, Background Checks and recommended to the School Committee to approve and adopt with no changes. Mr. Russo moved to approve and adopt policy ADDA, Background Checks on the First and Final Reading, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Garabedian reported that the Policy Sub-Committee reviewed regulation, ADDA-R, DCJIS Model CORI Policy and recommended to the School Committee to approve and adopt with no changes. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved to approve and adopt regulation, ADDA-R, DCJIS Model CORI Policy on the First and Final Reading, seconded by Mr. Russo. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

FY 25 Budget Review Approval

Mr. Libby reported that the FY 25 Budget will be on the Warrant at the Annual Town Meeting in May. He reported that the district will be able to change it if needed. He recommended that the School Committee approve the recommended FY 25 Budget in the amount of \$75,151,409.

Mr. Russo moved that the School Committee approve the recommended FY 25 Budget in the amount of \$75,151,409, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

2023-2024 TSC Negotiating Sub-Committee Assignment 23-24

Ms. Garabedian presented the updated School Committee's Negotiating Sub-Committee assignments for the 2023-2024 school year. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo to approve the updated School Committee Negotiating Sub-Committee assignments for the 23-24 school year. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

TMHS Project Lead the Way Grant

Ms. Regan reported that Tewksbury Memorial High School is the recipient of the Project Lead the Way grant in the amount of \$40,000.00. Ms. Regan gave a shout-out to Karen Baker O'Brien, Mary Jo Kelleher and Dr. Basteri.

Mr. Russo moved to approve and accept the 3-year grant from Project Lead the Way in the amount of \$40,000.00, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

AlphaBEST Contract Addendum

Mr. Libby gave an overview of the AlphaBEST Contract Addendum reporting that AlphaBEST is requesting a slight tuition increase for the morning program and the after school program for the next two years. There will be no change to the summer program.

Mr. Russo moved to approve AlphaBEST's Contract Addendum for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years as presented, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

2024-2025 School Choice

Ms. Regan recommended for the School Committee not to participate in School Choice for the 2024-2025 school year due to the continued concern of the increased student population at the Center Elementary School and the potential reconfiguration of school grade levels and reorganization of facility use.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation not to participate in School Choice for the 2024-2025 school year due to the continued concern of the increased student population at the Center Elementary School and the potential reconfiguration of school grade levels and reorganization of facility use. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

2023-2024 Last Day of School

Ms. McDermott recommended that the School Committee vote to approve June 14, 2024 as the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year relating that this will be an early release day.

Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to accept and approve June 14, 2024 as the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

2025 School Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Regan reported that the 2025 School Committee meeting schedule is a draft for the review of the Committee. We will ask for a vote at the next School Committee meeting on May 1st. Ms. Garabedian asked the Committee members to notify Ms. Johnson if they would like any changes.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr. Russo reported that the District Security Team met on Monday; topics discussed were the Yondr pouches and vaping. He added that we have had the last ALICE drill for this school year. He gave a shout-out to Ms. Niles and staff at the Heath Brook School for putting together a full schedule for Ms. Garabedian and him to shadow staff for a day. Mr. Moncada reported that his is grateful and thankful for being a part of the School Committee. He reported that the PACs are seeking volunteers for end of the year events. Ms. Biagioni-Smith reminded everyone of the upcoming plays at the Center School, TMHS, and the Wynn Middle School; May 4th is the Town Clean-Up day; and the Wynn held a Multi-cultural night event that was well attended. Ms. Garabedian thanked the Heath Brook staff for welcoming her and Mr. Russo on Friday. She reminded the community to send in nominations for the Ginsburg Family Award and the Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award. She announced that the School Committee is holding a reception on May 1st, 5:00 p.m., to recognize Tewksbury Public School volunteers. The reception will be held in the cafeteria at Tewksbury Memorial High School. She wished everyone a happy April break.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

May 1st, Regular Mtg; May 6th, Annual Town Mtg; May 8th, Special Town Mtg/Annual Town Mtg Reconvened (School Committee will be in attendance); May 22nd, Regular Meeting

2024 FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

TSEPAC Business Meeting: April 11th; Wellness Advisory Committee: June 5th;
Policy Sub-Committee: April 25th

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Food & Nutrition Services Updates & Highlights; Robotics Team; TSEPAC End-of-Year Report (June)

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the April 10, 2024 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. 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)):

- School Committee Meeting Agenda: April 10, 2024
- Executive Session Agenda: April 10, 2024
- Recognitions & Presentations: VFW-Patriot's Pen/Retirement; TMHS Student Exchange Program; Wynn Middle School Cell Phone Pilot
- Minutes: March 13, 2024
- Submission Of Payment Of Bills: March 14, 2024; March 28, 2024
- Consent Agenda: Correspondence; Personnel Items
- Policy: ADDA
- Old Business: FY 25 Budget Approval; 23-24 TSC Sub-Committee Assignments
- New Business: Recommendation to Appoint Assistant Superintendent of Schools; TMHS Awarded Project Lead The Way Grant; 2024-2025 AlphaBEST Contract Addendum; 2024-2025 School Choice; 2023-2024 Last Day of School; 2025 School Committee Meeting Dates