

Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, May 22, 2024
Regular School Committee Meeting, 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
Kaitlyn Anderson, Member
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Garabedian called the 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, Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the May 1, 2024 Executive Session minutes; and to discuss Collective Bargaining Pertaining to TTA (Teachers); ESP (Aides); Custodians; Secretaries; TAG (Tewksbury Administrator Group); and Nurses, Bargaining Units The Committee will reconvene in open session following the Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

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

At 6:17 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to adjourn the May 22, 2024 Executive Session and reconvene in open session.

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

ADJOURN INTO PUBLIC SESSION

At 6:30 p.m., Ms. Garabedian reconvened the Regular May 22, 2024 School Committee meeting. She announced that during the Executive Session, the School Committee approved the May 1, 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 May 22, 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

Ginsburg Family Award

Ms. Garabedian thanked all those that submitted nominations for the 2024 Annual Ginsburg Family Award. She thanked the Ginsburg family for their support and contributions to the Tewksbury Public Schools. Ms. Regan invited the Ginsburg's up to present the award announcing that Marc Ginsburg chose two nominees this year. Ms. Regan introduced the nominees. Brent Lanterman was present to accept the award on behalf of Corning Life Sciences and our second recipient is Carolyn Gaglione, a member of the TMHS PAC. Each was presented with a glass award and a check from the Ginsburg Family to be donated to the district in an area of their choosing. Katie Anderson read and presented Mr. Lanterman and Ms. Gaglione with a Proclamation of Recognition.

Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award

Ms. Garabedian reported that the district received 12 nominations for the 2024 Annual Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award. She thanked Ms. Polimeno for her generosity and continued support of the Tewksbury Public Schools. Ms. Regan invited Ms. Polimeno up to present the award announcing that Krissy Polimeno selected two nominees this year for the award. The recipients are Graca Dudley, a Spanish Teacher at Tewksbury Memorial High School and Susan Hogan, a Special Education Case Manager at the John Ryan Elementary School. Ms. Polimeno presented Sra. Dudley and Mrs. Hogan with a glass award. Kayla Biagioni-Smith read and presented them with a Proclamation of Recognition.

Boston Herald & Boston Globe All Scholastics

Ron Drouin, Athletic Director, introduced the TMHS Boston Herald & Boston Globe All Scholastics, the best athletes in Massachusetts. Nicky DeSisto is the recipient of the Boston Herald and the Boston Globe All Scholastics for Wrestling. Matt Cooke is the recipient of the Boston Herald and the Boston Globe All Scholastics for Hockey. Jeremy Insogna is the recipient of the Boston Herald and the Boston Globe All Scholastics for Hockey. Mr. Russo read and presented each of the athletes with a Proclamation of Recognition.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Notes from Tewksbury Memorial High School

Rania Elouahi presented the notes and events from TMHS for April.

Sports Updates:

- Most sports are beginning to wind down, with several teams having their last matches, games, and meets this week
- The Track and Field Team attended MVCs on May 18th at Chelmsford High School. We will be going to D4 States this Thursday and Saturday at Westfield High.
- The Tennis Team has also been holding their own, ranked 17th out of 56. They have their final match of the season today and tomorrow, with the girls match being at Notre Dame and the boys being at Lowell High School and home. Their state tournament will be held following the season.

- The TMHS Cheer Team will be hosting tryouts Tuesday, May 28th to Friday May 31st at the North Street Elementary School Cafeteria.
- The Girl's Softball Team have been taking huge wins recently against Billerica, Woburn, Central Catholic, Chelmsford, and more.
- The Boy's Baseball Team is top 10 in the power rankings. The freshmen have a match today against Westford and the Boy's Varsity Team tournament will be held Friday and Saturday at Haverhill.

Club Updates:

- On the week of May 6th, the Student Council had planned a very successful teacher appreciation; they provided breakfast, lunch, ice cream, raffles, and much more for the teachers.
- Additionally, looking ahead, members of the Student Council and NHS will be volunteering at graduation to facilitate this event.
- Six members of the International Club, including myself, volunteered at the Senior Center on April 20th to serve lunch to the seniors on Italian Night. Additionally, the International Club held a carwash at Town Hall on Sunday April 28th.
- DECA members had attended the International Career Developing Conference in Anaheim, California from April 27th-April 30th. Several students competed and participated in Leadership Workshops.
- The TMHS Theater Company put on a grand production of the *Addams Family* from April 25th to April 27th.
- The TMHS Community Closet will be taking donations up until Friday May 24th.
- The Class of 2025 has been hosting a very successful Flocking Fundraiser, in which one must pay for us to put a flock of plastic flamingos at a particular location. Sales have been closed, as we've gotten 80 orders and raised almost double what we expected.
- The Class of 2025 is currently in the process of planning next year's Senior Week and Pprom.

Miscellaneous:

- This year, the last day for all seniors was on May 17th.
- Senior Prom will be held at CruisePort in Gloucester on June 3rd at 6 P.M. with the Promenade preceding it.
- AP Exam testing took place in the last two weeks, however, AP Exam makeups are being held until the end of this week.
- Additionally, AP Exam meetings are taking place after school until June 6th.
- Mr. Bland's AP Biology Class will be visiting the Corning Manufacturing Plant on Wednesday, May 29th in Kennebunk, Maine.
- Yesterday, May 21st, along with today, sophomores completed two sections of the Math MCAS.

RECOGNITIONS

Wynn Drama Club

Ms. McDermott introduced the Wynn Middle School Drama students. Jon DiPrima commented that this is a group of hard working, talented students. The Wynn Drama Club, Cast and Crew, participated in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's 2024 Middle School Drama Festival. They performed the play *The Hearing* and brought home Tewksbury's 4th Gold Medal in Theater. Thomas Butler and Brayden Bettencourt received All-Star Company Awards for Technical Theater. Lilyana Thorne, Caroline Cyr, and Joseph Todd earned All-Star Company Awards in Artistic Performance. Kayla Biagioni-Smith read the proclamation.

Robotics Team Recognition & Presentation/Demonstration

Ms. Regan introduced the Robotics Team Advisor, Scott Morris and members Renuka Late, Jarred Woodman, William Mullins, Maya Sachdev, Donovan Conway, Dylan Warren, Joanna Greene, Alex Grove, Amelia Lombardi, Chris Arbogast, Luc Jodoin, and Rose Soe. Ms. Regan reported that the Robotics Team is in their 20th Year and won the North Shore District Competition in Reading Robotics for the 1st time in 16 years. Chris Moncada read and presented the team with a Proclamation of Recognition.

PRESENTATIONS

Homework Policy Survey Results

Jason Stamp, IT and STEM Director, and Felicia Cenanovic, Literacy Director, presented the data results collected from stakeholders for the homework policy. The data was collected in order to revise the current Homework Policy, IKE. They gave a presentation and the summarization of the survey results. Mr. Stamp and Ms. Cenanovic responded to questions and comments from the School Committee.

Cyber Security Update

Jason Stamp, IT Director, gave a presentation on types of cyber threats that we encounter at the Tewksbury Public Schools. He reported that the district has protocols in place and presented his recommendations to: Remove the staff email tables on the website and offer more training for staff. Dr. Osborne found grants for cyber security training. We would like to start a 2-factor authentication and to build into the curriculum, best practice for students to learn more on cyber security. Mr. Stamp responded to questions and comments from 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. No one requested to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Moncada moved to approve the May 1, 2024 Regular School Committee meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Anderson. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Ms. Anderson, to approve the payroll period ending May 9, 2024, to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,622,000.16. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 5-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

As the end of the year is upon us, Ms. Regan acknowledged and gave a shout-out to the administrators, teachers and staff. She gave a brief update on our grade level enrollment for staffing reporting that enrollment has decreased over by over a 1,000 students in the past 10 years. Many classes at the high school have low numbers, some with no students. We have to be fiscally responsible and we are looking at staffing at the high school and the reduction of staff; courses will not be cut, however some classes may not run if there are no students. We have been meeting with any and all staff that may be affected; the district is committed to keep class sizes low. Ms. Biagioni-Smith would like to review the percentages, enrollment, capacity, buildings and enrollment projections at a future School Committee meeting. Ms. Garabedian requested to see the high school enrollment for the beginning of the year, January 2024. Ms. Regan reported that the district staff have been trained on processing SORIs and the SORIs will be added to the hiring process. She reported that the School Committee members received a copy of the

Valley Collaborative's Business Report in the agenda packet relating that item is informational only. The Committee is invited to the Valley's Annual Business meeting on June 6th. She reported that the district received a \$16,000 Civics Grant for the Wynn Middle School. May 6th and May 7th is the Wynn Knowledge Bowl in Lowell; she congratulated the team and teacher for placing 2nd. Ms. Regan reported that chronic absenteeism at the district is improving; our attendance rate has gone up to 96.6 and absences went down. She reported that 169 students participated in the AP Dual Enrollment courses. Next year the high school will offer 17 AP courses and 13 Dual Enrollment courses. Ms. Regan reported that June 14th is the last day of school; graduation and the All Night Long celebration is on June 6th. She reported on the events that are planned during Senior Week. Ms. Regan responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. McDermott reported that the Art Show was held on May 4th and May 5th offering congratulations to the Best of Show winners. She pointed out that in the Consent Agenda is a draft of the Summer School Schedule stating that there is a wide variety of opportunities for students. She presented an MCAS update congratulating grades 3-8 for completing the assessments; she gave a shout-out to all involved. The 9th graders will take the biology assessment in June. Ms. McDermott reported that a DESE Test Security Specialist came to the district and checked on our MCAS security measures; we passed with flying colors. The Summer Reading Program will be presented at the June 12th School Committee meeting. Ms. McDermott responded to questions and comments from School Committee members.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Libby presented the Business Office update reporting that we are preparing for the end of year and will wrap-up the fiscal year in June. We are preparing for the summer programming and looking at grants that will be expiring in 2024. He gave a brief update on the HVAC project at the Wynn stating that it is moving along with a completion deadline of August. Mr. Libby reported that we had to rebid for the Heath Brook project and received a lot of interest. He gave an update on the Copy Bid reporting that a five-year contract bid for copiers was awarded to Canon. 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. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

Correspondence

- a. 40th Annual Fine & Performing Arts Exhibition
- b. ESORI Electronic Sex Offender Registry Information
- c. Valley Collaborative's Quarterly Reports on Collaborative Business - FY24 - 3rd Quarter
- d. 2024 Summer School Schedule

Personnel Items

New Hires - None

Retirements: None

Transfers - None

Appendix B Co-Curricular Activities - None

Appendix B TMHS Athletics - None

Acceptance of Grants - None

Acceptance of Donations - See New Business

Raffles - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tewksbury SEPAC

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the SEPAC held elections at the last meeting. She offered congratulations to Annie Seichter and Peg Ricardo as Co-Chairs and wished the best of luck to Dina and Al Mancini as they moved on. She welcomed the new officers Michelle, Sarah and Chrystal and reported that there are still some openings. There are a number of events coming up and they would like to continue meetings with the administrators and principal in the Fall. The next meeting will be held on June 20th and the SEPAC will present an end-of-year report at the June 12th School Committee meeting.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Mr. Moncada reported that the next meeting will be held on June 5th.

Policy Subcommittee

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

Informational Reading: Policies reviewed and recommended to revise

IKB, General Homework Policy

Mr. Russo reported that the Policy Subcommittee met last week and reviewed policy IKE, General Homework and the policy is presented on the Informational Reading. Ms. Regan pointed out that the policy, in the online packet, was the wrong version; we will update the online packet.

First Reading: Policies reviewed and recommended to revise

Mr. Russo reported that policy ADF, Wellness Policy, is presented on the First Reading.

OLD BUSINESS

3rd Quarter Budget Expenditure Update & Summary

Mr. Libby presented the 3rd quarter Budget Expenditure report and budget summary. He responded to questions from the School Committee members.

NEW BUSINESS

DECA Travel: Overnight & Out-of-State

At the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Lori McDermott, Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the TMHS DECA Team's Out-of-State and Overnight DECA travel requests for the 2024-2025 school year. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

TMHS Athletics Out-of-State Travel Requests

At the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Lori McDermott, Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the Out-of-State Travel requests for the TMHS Athletics for the 2024-2025 school year. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

TMHS Donation Acceptance

At the recommendation of Assistant Superintendent Lori McDermott, Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the donation of a Quest 3 VR Headset (valued at \$500.00) to the TMHS E-Sports Rocket League from Brian Dorrington, on behalf of the Telemedia Department for the Town of Tewksbury.

Valley Collaborative FY25 Board Member Appointment

At the recommendation of Superintendent Brenda Theriault-Regan, the Committee supported her appointment as the district's representative on the Valley Collaborative FY25 Board of Directors. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-0.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr. Russo extended well wishes to the Class of 2024. Mr. Moncada thanked the residents for attending the Town Meeting and supporting the district's budget and Article 14. Ms. Garabedian reported that we continue to bargain with good faith with the Tewksbury Teachers Association (TTA) and the Education Support Personnel, Aides; the next meeting is May 29th; these are open meetings. We have begun bargaining with the Secretaries, Tewksbury Administrator Group (TAG), Nurses, and the Custodians' Units relating that these meetings are held in Executive Sessions.

Ms. Garabedian asked the School Committees to consider holding office hours in order for people to drop in to meet with Committee members to discuss issues. She stated that we could put this item on a future agenda. If you are interested, please let her know.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

June 12th; July 24th; August 14th

2024 FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

TSEPAC Business Meeting: June 20th; Wellness Advisory Committee: June 5th
Policy Sub-Committee: TBD

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Garabedian reported that the School Committee will hold a Workshop prior to the Regular School Committee meeting on July 12th to evaluate the Committee's personal goals and to assess their goals. The Committee will attend the Workshop/Retreat with the district administrators on August 14th and will present the School Committee goals at the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the May 22, 2024 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Russo, seconded by Ms. Anderson. 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: May 22, 2024
2	Executive Session Agenda: May 22, 2024
8	Presentation: Homework Policy Survey; Cyber Security Update
10	May 1, 2024 Minutes
11	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: May 9, 2024
13	Consent Agenda: Correspondence; Personnel Items
15	Policy IKB, ADF
16	Old Business: 3rd Quarter Budget Expenditure Summary
17	New Business: TMHS Out-of-State Field Trip Requests; Donation; Valley Collaborative FY25 Board Member Appointment