

Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, September 18, 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
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

Kaitlyn Anderson, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Brenda Theriault-Regan, Superintendent
Nancy Milligan, Assistant Superintendent
David Libby, Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Garabedian called the 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, Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Russo, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss the August 14, 2024 Executive Session minutes; and to discuss Collective Bargaining pertaining to TTA (Teachers); ESPA (Aides); Custodians; Secretaries; TAG (Tewksbury Administrator Group); Nurses and Food Services 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. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

At 6:24 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Mr. Russo moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to adjourn the September 18, 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

At 6:33 p.m., Ms. Garabedian reconvened the Regular September 18, 2024 School Committee meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Ms. Garabedian called for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Susan Lachance. Susan retired from the Tewksbury Public Schools in June 2007. She was a Reading Specialist at the Dewing School and then spent most of her career at the Heath Brook. Ms. Regan commented that Sue Lachance always had a warm smile and the joy of teaching.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Garabedian announced that the September 18, 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

Katrina Valeri, School Resource Officer, TPD and Jennifer McNeal, Aide - Precision HR Solutions

Ms. Garabedian introduced SRO Katrina Valeri and Jennifer McNeal relating that Officer Valeri and Jennifer attended to a student that had a medical emergency in the lunchroom at the Center School last week. Superintendent Regan, Principal Jay Harding and TPD Chief Columbus commented on how proud they are of the heroic responses of both Officer Valeri and Jennifer to this incident. On behalf of the School Committee, Mr. Moncada read and presented a Proclamation of Recognition to Officer Valeri and to Jennifer McNeal.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Rania Elouahi - TMHS Student Council Representative Report on TMHS News & Events

Sports Updates:

- The Fall Sports Season is in full swing. Sports offered include Soccer, Field Hockey, Swim and Dive, Cheer, Football, Golf, Volleyball and Cross Country.
- The Football Team won their first away game against Danvers last week and the first home game will be this Friday.
- The Varsity Volleyball Team has played six games already, winning three and losing three.
- The Swim and Dive Team is also holding their own, winning one Meet against Chelmsford, yet facing tough losses against North Andover and Andover.
- The Boys Varsity Soccer Team had their first game on September 10th. So far they've won two games, tied one, and lost once.
- Cross Country has an away meet tonight at Andover

Club Updates:

- Auditions for the TMHS Theater Company's fall show, *Footloose*, were held on Tuesday, September 10th from 2:00-6:00 P.M., in the auditorium
- NHS will be having a Bake Sale during the Open House which will be held on September 25th. We are also in the process of selling NHS T-shirts, planning a Trunk-Or-Treat and organizing the goods we will sell at AppleFest.
- The Class of 2025's Class Council is currently planning Homecoming. As of now, it will be held on October 10th.
- The Interact Club already has two volunteer opportunities for its members including Fridays and Saturdays at the Tewksbury Youth Soccer League's Concession Stand and at the East Street Fields from September 8th through October 27th for Tewksbury Youth Baseball.
- The Math Team has been practicing every Thursday after school and their first Meet will be held next month at TMHS.

- The TMHS Yearbook Club has been hard at work planning and developing the yearbooks. Seniors can find where to upload their photos for the yearbook in the 2025 Yearbook Google Classroom run by Mrs. Fabiano.
- DECA kicked off their year on September 13th during their meeting in LGI-1. Members have begun to think about what events they will compete in this year and even began to create their written projects.
- Student Council is in the process of planning the Homecoming Spirit Week.

PRESENTATIONS

None

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 was present to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Moncada moved to approve the August 14, 2024 School Committee/Administrator Retreat-Workshop minutes, seconded by Mr. Russo. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Moncada moved to approve the August 14, 2024 Regular Business meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Russo. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Moncada moved to approve the September 5, 2024 Tewksbury School Committee Negotiations Subcommittee minutes for the TTA and ESPA session. Ms. Garabedian reported that it is assumed that September 5th was the last Negotiating Subcommittee meeting with the TTA and ESPA Bargaining Units. In checking with the Town Clerk, it would be appropriate for the Subcommittee to vote on them at the Regular School Committee meeting.

Ms. Garabedian motioned, seconded by Mr. Russo, to approve the September 5, 2024 TSC Negotiation Subcommittee minutes. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Russo and Ms. Garabedian. Members Abstaining: Mr. Moncada and Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Motion carried 2-0-2.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith, to approve the Payroll Period Ending August 15, 2024 to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,456,969.87. 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 August 29, 2024 to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,287,725.08. 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 September 12, 2024 to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,535,281.09. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Russo, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan reported that the new school year started off great and overall the new hours are going well. She reported on the Consent Agenda items:

- Valley Collaborative's end-of-year newsletter, Dr. Scott included a message from DESE that they are creating and implementing financial protocols for review of educational Collaboratives. The Valley will be the BETA test site for this financial review. Ms. Regan will provide the Committee quarterly financials from the Collaborative.
- 911 Memorial Program: Local Scouts and the TMHS Concert Choir and Band performed at the memorial. She gave a shout-out to Cynthia Pellegrino for volunteering her services for the event.
- The Tewksbury VFW asked if students would make Valentine's Day cards for Veterans at the Bedford VA.
- The PACs provided their fundraising events for the 2024-2025 school year. The TMHS PAC has a new website, <https://tmhspac.wixsite.com/site1/meetings-by-laws>
- Donations - Mr. Parsons coordinated a donation of \$660 to support the Wynn Drama Program; she thanked the many donors for their generous donations.
- 21st Century Grant - The Dewing School will not receive the 21st Century Grant this year as they did meet all the requirements. Dr. Basteri reported we are slated to receive the \$100,000 for the After-School and Out-of-School Time Funding Grant; she is coordinating with the principals of the Heath Brook School and the Dewing School on how to use the funding to run two enrichment programs in the fall and spring and for the summer programming.
- Good news, on October 5th the Tewksbury Police Department is partnering with the district for the annual *Milk with a Cop Day*. They will be at the schools during lunchtime.

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

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Milligan presented the Summer Curriculum work reporting that the focus was on the Science Curriculum this summer. The Mentoring Program was held on August 20th and August 21st welcoming 11 new educators and ten veteran staff to serve as mentors. Many support staff (IT and Coaches) came and worked with the new teachers and will continue to meet with them over this year to support our new hires. On opening day, we welcomed staff with targeted Professional Development and we held Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) training with 100 staff members. The second day of CSTAG will be held next week to delve deeper into the protocols. The District Security Team will review this training at our meetings to review our safety and school protocols and will make updates if necessary for the security of the district. Other staff worked on reviewing and planning for the implementation of the updated District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) and our updated Homework Policy. Ms. Milligan encourages families to review the DCAP plan and the Homework Policy posted on the website. She reported that the MCAS embargoed results have been released to districts. She and Ms. Regan will be attending an informational meeting with the Acting Commissioner this week and will share this information with the principals. We will begin reviewing and analyzing the data. MACS has a new platform for districts and state reporting, based on this information we will be having a presentation later in the Fall on our findings. She reported that tomorrow is Peace Day; the Ryan School will be participating in Pinwheels for Peace tomorrow morning.

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

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Libby presented a transportation update reporting that this is the first year operating with the Ryan and Center Schools on the same buses, at the same time. Schools are much happier with transportation this year; we will seek feedback from the bus drivers. For Out-of-District transportation, we have some

other companies we can reach out to for specific transportation needs. We are working on transportation communication. He gave a shout-out to Eileen Osborne for all she does with the transportation needs. Mr. Libby provided an update on the current projects reporting that the Wynn HVAC is up and running; overall people are happy. At the Heath Brook there was a temporary door constructed to separate the area where the classrooms were flooded in order for work to continue and not to disturb the operations of the school. The project is nearing completion, the next step is installing ceilings and the delivery of glass however the glass seems to be delayed until mid-october. He reported that we are confident of a December completion date.

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. Mr. Russo motioned to remove the donation to the Wynn Middle School Drama Program for further discussion at this meeting. Ms. Biagioni-Smith seconded the motion. All Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Russo moved to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of the donation, seconded by Ms. Biagioni-Smith. All Aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Russo commented that he supports contributing to the Wynn Middle School Drama Program however there was attention given to this initiative by the organizer under false pretense specifically that the donations would be matched by Mr. Russo; that was never discussed with him. For the purpose of transparency and integrity he is not supporting the agenda item. Ms. Garabedian opened for comments from the Committee members.

Ms. Garabedian asked if there was a motion. Mr. Moncada moved to accept the donation to the Wynn Middle School Drama Program, seconded by Ms. Garabedian. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada and Ms. Garabedian. Voting to Abstain: Mr. Russo and Ms. Biagioni-Smith.

Ms. Garabedian reported that there is not a quorum, there are only two voting members so without Ms. Anderson present, the item does not pass. Motion failed. 2-0-2

Ms. Regan will reach out to the organizer of the donation.

Correspondence

- a. Tewksbury 9-11 Memorial
- b. Tewksbury VFW - Cards for Veterans
- c. PAC 2024-2025 Fundraising Event Calendars
- d. Valley Collaborative Communication

Personnel Items

New Hires: **Alyssa Collette**, Kindergarten Teacher at the Heath Brook School, effective 8/26/2024; **Breanna Flagg**, 1-year only Long-term Substitute Grade 3 MSNT at the Center Elementary School, effective 8/26/2024; **Nicole Calvino**, Grade 5 English Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher at the John Ryan Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024; **John Keating**, Education Support Personnel Aide at the Wynn Middle School, effective August 26, 2024; **Brad Lewis**, Grade 7 Computer Science & STEM Integration Teacher at the Wynn Middle School, effective August 26, 2024; **Liz Bairos**, Food & Nutrition Services team member, Center Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024; **Yu Savage**, Food & Nutrition Services team member, TMHS, effective August 26, 2024; **Casie White**, Assistant Director of FNS, effective August 19, 2024; **Laura Fox**, Education Support Personnel Aide at the Heath Brook School,

effective August 26, 2024; **Susan Hogan**, Part-time Interim Special Education Case Manager (.5), Districtwide, effective August 26, 2024

Reappointments - None

Retirements - None

Appendix B 2024-2025 Co-Curricular Activities

John Ryan Elementary School

PLC Facilitator positions:

Sandra Ferrara & Courtney Cooke (Graffeo) - Science PLC

Andrea MacMullin & Kaitlin Magsarili - English Language Arts PLC

Melissa Lane - District Art Show

Heath Brook School

Case Manager Special Education Team Chair: Brenda Meuse (.5)

PLC Facilitator positions:

Meagan Welch - Preschool PLC

Katie Buck & Stacey Paradis - Kindergarten PLC

Jennifer Price - Grade 1 PLC

Art Show: Kristen Kosiba

Lead Teacher: Mariellen Nastasi

Appendix B 2024-2025 TMHS Athletics - None

Acceptance of Grants - None

Raffles - TMHS Soccer Boosters, soccer season Senior Nights' 50/50 raffles, October 15, 2024 and October 17, 2024; TMHS Field Hockey Booster Club fundraiser 50/50 raffle, September 3, 2024 through November 10, 2024 (Fall Season).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tewksbury SEPAC

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the SEPAC has not met over the summer. The first TSEPAC meeting is scheduled on September 19th at Tewksbury Memorial High School. The agenda has been posted, emailed and shared with families and the PACs and it is on their Facebook page. In addition to the Business meeting at 7:00 p.m., there will be a sensory item swap and a Meet and Greet at 5:30.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Mr. Moncada reported that the Wellness Advisory Committee did not meet over the summer; the next Wellness Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on October 16, 2024.

Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Russo reported that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting will be held on September 23, 2024.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Enrollment Update as of September 12, 2024

Ms. Regan presented the enrollment update as of September 12, 2024 relating that there are 3,212 students which includes 22 additional from our August report. The district will be receiving the new NESDEC enrollment trends and predictions report in December.

NEW BUSINESS

None

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr. Russo reported that the Long Range Facility Committee had their kick-off meeting on September 4th and the next meeting is on September 25th. He and Ms. Garabedian are the representatives for the School Committee along with 11 other folks representing the Town. Ms. Biagioni-Smith shout-out to the Food Services staff at the Heath Brook that worked on getting the kitchen and cafe ready for the kiddos. She reported that the Town Meeting is scheduled on October 1st and encouraged the community to check out the Town website as there are a lot of upcoming events. Ms. Garabedian gave a shout-out to Mr. Libby thanking him for taking Mr. Moncada and herself on a tour of the Heath Brook to see the repairs due to the flood and the updates in the kitchen area.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

September 18th; October 1st-Special Town Mtg; October 16th; November 13, 2024; December 11, 2024

2024 FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

TSEPAC Business Meeting: September 19th; Wellness Advisory Committee: October 16th

Policy Sub-Committee: September 23, 2024

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Look at feedback on the Homework Policy. Provide an end-of-year synopsis of the PAC initiatives, how the funds were used, and what was purchased.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 p.m., Ms. Garabedian adjourned the September 18, 2024 Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Mr. Russo, seconded Ms. Biagioni-Smith. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

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: September 18, 2024
2	Executive Session Agenda: September 18, 2024
11	August 14, 2024 Retreat/Workshop Minutes & Regular Business Minutes; September 5, 2024 Tewksbury Negotiations Subcommittee (TTA/ESPA) Minutes
12	Submission Of Payment Of Bills: August 15, 2024; August 29, 2024; September 12, 2024
14	Consent Agenda: Correspondence - 911 Memorial, VFW Request for Valentine Cards, PAC Fundraising Events, Valley Collaborative Newsletter; Personnel Items; Donation; Raffles

17	Old Business: Enrollment September 2024
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