

Tewksbury School Committee
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Regular School Committee Meeting #13 - 5:30 PM
Center Elementary School
139 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bridget Garabedian, Chair
Kayla Biagioni-Smith, Vice-Chair
Jamey Cutelis, Clerk
Chris Moncada, 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 May 21, 2025 Regular Business Meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Garabedian announced that the May 21, 2025 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

2025 Ginsburg Family Award

Ms. Garabedian reported that the Ginsburg Family Award is for outstanding partnership with the Tewksbury Public Schools. The Ginsburg family has recognized groups and individuals that have had a significant impact on the district in the area of physical, tangible or monetary contributions and volunteering in the schools. She extended her gratitude to the Ginsburg family for their continued support and contributions to the Tewksbury Public Schools. Ms. Regan welcomed the Ginsburg's to the podium to present the award, announcing that Wicked Cheesy has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Ginsburg Family Award. Nominated by Principal Andy Long, Athletic Director Ron Drouin, and Kimberly Nadeau, owners of Wicked Cheesy, Brian and Stephanie Schofield, were honored for their contributions to the Tewksbury community. Marc Ginsburg presented the Schofield family with an award and a gift to support the district in an area of their choosing. Ms. Garabedian thanked the people that nominated the Schofield family; it was a tremendous nomination. Mr. Moncada read and presented a Proclamation of Recognition to the Schofields.

2025 Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award

Ms. Garabedian welcomed Krissy Polimeno to the meeting commenting that Krissy has been the most engaged and active community member for over 30 years and served 12 years on the School Committee. Ms. Garabedian reported that the Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Teacher Award is given to an educator that has had a significant impact on the Tewksbury Public Schools in the area of school involvement, volunteering, and giving time and energy to the quality of our education system. Who is also an advocate for students in schools. Ms. Regan invited Ms. Polimeno to the podium to present the awards, announcing that two educators were selected this year. Krissy Polimeno named Katie Buck, Kindergarten Teacher at the Heath Brook School, and Steve Boudreau, Physical Education Teacher at the Ryan Elementary School, as the 2025 award recipients. Katie was nominated by Susie and Shawn Vanseth, and Steve by Rich Russo and Heather Tuxbury. Both educators received an award and a gift from Ms. Polimeno. Ms. Biagioni-Smith read and presented a Proclamation of Recognition to both honorees.

Recognition of the Art Show Winners

The School Committee recognized 19 students who earned First Place honors in the District's 2025 Art Show. In addition, six students received special recognition as Best of Show for their outstanding artwork. Art teachers across the district attended the meeting to support their students and offer remarks. Mr. Moncada read and presented Proclamations of Recognition to both the student artists and the teachers. The students' artwork was displayed during the meeting.

At 6:20 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to take a short break, allowing everyone to exit the meeting. Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0. Ms. Garabedian reconvened the May 21, 2025 Regular School Committee at 6:27 p.m.

CITIZENS FORUM

None

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maggie Kinnon - TMHS Student Council Representative Report and Highlights

TMHS Sports Updates:

- Esports reign victorious once again, taking home the Rocket League State Championship, The team was composed of four seniors Evan Festa, Michael Wright, Toffy Beylouné and Sean Kocsmiersky, and coached by Mr. Arbogast.
- All spring sports' teams are gearing up for their playoff runs, many of our teams have already punched their ticket into the postseason. Leading the pack is Softball sitting at the 4 Seed in Division 2.
- Track will be taking on their MVC meet this Saturday, and Division 4 States the following week.
- Throughout the past couple of weeks, all sport teams have been able to hold their Senior Night ceremonies, celebrating all their hard work and dedication throughout the past four years
- Last but not least, Abby Tower just hit a big milestone in her athletic career, capturing her 100th hit in Softball last week.

TMHS Club Updates:

- The TMHS Theater Company would like to say thank you to everyone who attended a show this year! *The Little Mermaid* was a huge success with two of four shows sold out and the other shows had an extremely large turn out as well! Every performer and crew member came together to

create an unforgettable event for the Tewksbury Community! TMHS performers are looking forward to another great year of theater next year and we hope to see you there!

- The International Club has had a busy month, with three very successful events. On the 2nd, they helped during Town Clean Up Day, then on the same day, many members helped serve a spaghetti supper at the Senior Center. To round out their month, on Saturday they hosted a Car Wash with all the funds going to Doctors Without Borders.
- Interact Club and She's the First collaborated during the Empowering Girls Conference with twenty-four female students in attendance. The Conference, hosted by District Attorney Marian Ryan, held over 500 young women for a day of Confidence-Building, Self-Assertion, Goal Setting, and Building Healthy Relationships. The conference focused on empowering girls to have a positive impact on their peers and communities
- With the end of the year fast approaching, Class Councils are squeezing in final fundraisers. Both the Sophomores and Juniors will be hosting Car Washes in the upcoming weeks while the Freshmen are planning a class trip to Canobie Lake. All three Councils are also preparing for upcoming elections, where students can run for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Class Representative.

TMHS Miscellaneous Updates

- Testing season is almost over for TMHS students. Today marked the last Math MCAS for Sophomore students, while AP Language will be having their make-up test tomorrow. In the coming week, Freshmen will be taking their Biology MCAS.
- For our Seniors, they finally made it to the homestretch. They are in their last week of Senior Projects with the Senior Expo to be held in the gym on next Friday, May 30th. Many students will also have the opportunity to be recognized academically on both May 22nd for Scholarship Night and on May 29th at the Biliteracy Celebration which highlights our Seniors who have earned the Biliteracy Award and the Seal of Biliteracy. Throughout the week of June 2nd, Seniors will take part in various activities including the Prom, Canobie Lake, and a cruise, all leading up to Graduation on June 6th.

PRESENTATIONS

2024-2025 Special Education Increased Budget Needs

Ms. Regan presented a powerpoint presentation update on the 2024-2025 Special Education increased budget needs and the impact on our budget. The presentation illustrated the costs associated with servicing out students and sustaining a healthy budget for the Tewksbury Public Schools. Moving forward the district needs to advocate for more funding statewide for Special Education; Reorganize, expand, and align in-district TPS "pathways" at all schools district-wide; Focus on improved instructional supports for all students in general education; and Clearly communicate and continue to plan with our stakeholders. Ms. Regan, Ms. Tharrett, and Mr. Libby responded to questions and comments from the School Committee members.

Citizens Forum

No one was present to speak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cutelis moved to approve the April 30, 2025, School Committee Regular Business Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Moncada. Voting Aye: Mr. Moncada, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. Mr. Cutelis abstained. Motion carried 3-0-1.

Mr. Cutelis moved to approve the May 8, 2025, Special School Committee Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Moncada. Voting Aye: Mr. Moncada, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. Mr. Cutelis abstained. Motion carried 3-0-1.

SUBMISSION OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Cutelis moved, seconded by Mr. Moncada, to approve the Payroll Period ending, May 8, 2025 to be approved and certified in the amount and categories as shown, \$1,645,241.42. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Biagioni-Smith and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Regan announced that the district was awarded the My Career and Academic Planning grant (MyCap) to support strengthening student pathways. She gave a shout-out to Dr. Basteri and Karen Baker O'Brien for securing the grant funding. AlphaBEST is offering district staff day-care opportunities, 6:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., for the 2025-2026 school year. There are 20 spots available; if the spots are not filled with TPS staff, they will be offered to the Town staff. Ms. Regan invited the School Committee members to attend the Scholarship Award ceremony tomorrow night at the high school. As a reminder to staff and families, Friday, May 23rd is an early release day for students and staff and Monday, May 26th, schools are closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Milligan reported that Summer Programming information is included in the packet under Correspondence and Information Topics. One note in your packet, although Dr. Basteri is hopeful, we anticipate that the 21st Century Learning Penguin Pride Program, in our Pre-K buildings, may not run due to the lack of state funding. She provided an update on the Student Exchange Program at the high school, noting that 15 exchange students will be arriving in the Fall of 2025. Currently, six families have committed to hosting, but there is a need for nine additional host families. Those interested in hosting a foreign exchange student should contact Dr. Bailey Mahoney at Tewksbury Memorial High School.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Libby reported that Bus Evacuation Drills information is included in the packet under Correspondence and Information Topics. The drills are conducted twice a year during morning arrivals. The drills have been completed reporting the schedule was changed to complete both front and rear doors drills on the same day. We are reviewing the Bus Safety Handbook and looking at safety at the bus stops in the morning. Mr. Libby gave an update on the upgrades to our infrastructure and wireless access points reporting that the district received the funds approved at the Town Meeting and E-Rate funding. The work has started and they hope to have the schools completed during the summer.

Correspondence & Informational Topics

Superintendent Regan, Ms. Milligan, and Mr. Libby reported on the following topics in their reports.

- TPS District Art Show Winners 2025
- 2025 TPS Summer School & Enrichment
- Wellness Advisory Committee Membership Update
- Bus Evacuation Drill Schedules

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Garabedian asked if any member had questions and/or comments on any item on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Cutelis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded Mr. Moncada. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Personnel Items

New Hires: Kristine Jordan, Science Teacher at the Wynn Middle School, effective August 25, 2025

Retirements: Paul Bishop, School Custodian at the Center Elementary School, effective July 31, 2025; Joseph Burke, School Custodian at the Heath Brook School, effective June 30, 2025; Joanne Elwell, Education Support Personnel Aide at the Center Elementary School, effective June 30, 2025; Kim Stone, Reading Teacher at the Ryan Elementary School, effective June 30, 2025; Cheryl Silva, Education Support Personnel Aide, Dewing Elementary School, effective August 24, 2025; Robert Brigida, Mathematics Teacher at the Tewksbury Memorial High School, effective June 30, 2025

Appendix B 2024-2025 Co-Curricular Activities - None

Appendix B 2024-2025 TMHS Athletics - None

Raffles - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tewksbury SEPAC

Ms. Biagioni-Smith reported that the SEPAC met last week and elected the new officers. They are still looking for pals for students at the Center School. They are planning end-of-year activities and a CPR and AED training to be offered over the summer. There is a Caregiver Support meeting scheduled on May 27th at 7:30 p.m. The SEPAC also discussed looking outside the box for transportation ideas.

Wellness Advisory Committee

Mr. Moncada reported that the next Wellness Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on June 6th. Ms. Biagioni-Smith suggested putting bullying on a future Wellness Advisory Committee agenda to seek ideas to address bullying campaign initiatives. Ms. Garabedian commented that it would be helpful if the Wellness Committee would submit 2025-26 goals to the Superintendent.

Tewksbury School Facility Study Committee (TSFSC)

Ms. Regan gave a brief update reporting that she is working with the Town Manager regarding the proposals from the School Facility Study Committee.

Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Garabedian had nothing new to report.

POLICY CHANGES, PROPOSALS, AND ADOPTIONS

Mr. Moncada reported on the policy readings relating that the policies on the Informational Reading are for information only, no vote is required this evening.

Informational Reading: Recommendation to Revise Policies

GBEB, Staff Conduct; **IHBF**, Homebound Instruction

First Reading: Recommendation to Revise Policies

None

Second and Final Reading: Recommendation to revise policies **AC-R**, Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation; **IKF**, Graduation Requirements; **JICK**, Harassment of Students. Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to accept the revisions and approve policies AC-R, IKF, and JICK as presented. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

First & Final Reading: The following policies were reviewed and recommended to approve with no changes. **GBEBA**, Appropriate Language; **GBEC**, Drug Free Workplace; **GBED**, tobacco Use on School Grounds. Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to approve policies GBEBA, GBEC, and GBED as presented with no changes. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

First & Final Reading: Policy GBEBD, Appropriate Language, reviewed and recommended to rescind. Mr. Moncada moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to rescind policy GBEBD as the policy was duplicated in the policy manual. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

User Fee Review

Ms. Garabedian reported that the User Fee Review was presented at the last meeting and at the Special School Committee Meeting Listening Session on May 8th. Mr. Libby presented the proposed increases for the 2025-2026 school year. Tewksbury Memorial High School Athletics: Individual Sport is \$225; Family Cap is \$900. TMHS and Wynn Middle School Clubs & Activities' Fee is \$75; Individual Cap is \$300; Family Cap is \$450. Ryan School and Elementary Clubs & Activities' Fee is \$50; Individual Cap is \$200; Family Cap is \$300. He reported that going forward, fees will be reviewed annually.

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Cutelis, to approve the User Fee increases as presented for the 2025-2026 school year. Roll Call Vote - Voting Yes: Mr. Moncada, Mr. Cutelis, Ms. Biagioni-Smith, and Ms. Garabedian. All Aye. Unanimous Vote. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

TMHS DECA Club 2025-2026 Overnight and Out-of-State Field Trips

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moncada, to approve the TMHS DECA overnight and out-of-state field trip requests to attend the MA State Career Development Conference, in Boston, March 12-14, 2026; the Ultimate DECA Power Trip Conference, in Virginia, November 21-23, 2025; and the DECA International Career Development Conference, in Georgia, April 25-28, 2026. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

TMHS Student Council Overnight Field Trip Request

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moncada, to approve the TMHS Student Council's overnight field trip request to attend the MA Association of Student Councils' Annual Conference, in Hyannis, March 4-6, 2026. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

TMHS Athletics Overnight & Out-of-State Field Trip Requests

Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moncada, to approve the request from Mr. Drouin for the TMHS Athletics out-of-state travel for the 2025-2026 school year. All Aye. Unanimous vote. Motion carried 4-0.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATTERS OF INTEREST

Mr. Moncada gave a shout-out to the volunteers across the district. He is seeking feedback on the School Committee Listening Sessions to increase participation.

FUTURE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Tuesday, June 10th; July 9th SC Goals' Workshop and Regular Meeting; August 13, 2025 - 2:00PM
SC/Administrator Workshop and Regular Business Meeting - 5:00PM.

2024 FUTURE SUB-COMMITTEE & ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

TSEPAC Business Meeting: June 12, 2025
Wellness Advisory Committee: TBD
Policy Sub-Committee: TBD
Tewksbury School Facility Study Committee: TBD

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., Ms. Garabedian entertained a motion to convene an Executive Session. Ms. Biagioni-Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Moncada, to enter into the Executive Session to discuss Executive Session minutes and Collective Bargaining pertaining to the TTA (Teachers) Collective Bargaining Unit. The Committee will not reconvene in open session following the Executive Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Ms. Garabedian moved to adjourn the May 21, 2025 Executive Session and the Regular School Committee meeting with a motion from Ms. Biagioni-Smith, seconded by Mr. Moncada. 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)):

AGENDA ITEM #	DOCUMENTS
1	School Committee Meeting Agenda: May 21, 2025
4	Recognitions: Ginsburg Family Award; Krissy Polimeno Outstanding Educator Award; 2025 Art Show Best of Show & 1st Place Winners
6	Presentation: 2024-25 Special Education Increased Budget Needs
8	Minutes: April 30, 2025; May 8, 2025
9	Submission of Payment of Bills: May 8, 2025
11	Correspondence & Informational Topics: 2025 District Art Show Winners; 2025 TPS Summer School & Enrichment Info; Wellness Advisory Committee Membership; Bus Evacuation Drill Schedules

12	Consent Agenda: Personnel Update
14	Policy: AC-R, IKF, JICK, GBEDA, GBEC, GBED, GBEED
15	Old Business: User Fee Review
16	New Business: Out-of-State and Overnight Trip Requests
21	Executive Session Agenda: May 21, 2025 - Minutes: April 16, 2025; April 30, 2025; May 21, 2025