

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

I. Call to Order: At 6:00pm noticing a quorum, Chair, Eric Friesner called to order the remote South Hadley School Committee meeting, a Zoom Meeting accessible via SHCTV15 and SHCTV.com

In Attendance: Eric Friesner, Chairperson; Danielle Cooke, Vice Chairperson; Lynda Pickbourn-Smith, Member; Lawrence Dixon, Member; Daniel Vieu, Member; & Mark McLaughlin, Interim Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools; Jennifer Voyik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations for South Hadley Public Schools & Tobias Smith, Student Representative.

II. Public Comment: None.

III. SHEA Report: None.

IV. Routine Items

A. Approval of Warrants (VOTE)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Warrant</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| December 12, 2023 | Warrant #2024-150 | \$151,421.26 |
| December 19, 2023 | Warrant #2024-157 | \$264,342.49 |
| December 26, 2023 | Warrant #2024-162 | \$206,951.54 |

(VOTE) Vice Chair Cooke made a motion to approve the following three warrants. The first is warranted dated December 12, 2023, it is warrant #2024-150 and it is in the amount of \$151,421.26; the next is warrant dated December 19, 2023, it is warrant #2024-157 and it is in the amount of \$264,342.49; and the final warrant is dated December 26, 2023, it is warrant #2024-162 and it is in the amount of \$206,951.54.

Dan Vieu seconded the motion.

There was one question pertaining to the 1/18/24 payroll not being included in this batch and the response was the timing of the holiday and posting the agenda did not align and this said payroll will be on the batch for the next meeting.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; Vieu – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

B. Approval of 1/4/24 (VOTE)

(VOTE) Chair Friesner entertained a motion to accept the minutes for 1/4/24.

Dan Vieu so moved.

Lynda Pickbourn seconded.

There was no further discussion.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; Vieu – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Subcommittee & Liaison Reports: None.

B. Report of Student Representative: Provided by Tobias Smith –

SHHS: The Service Club is going to be holding a food drive during basketball games on 1/20, 1/26, 1/29, 1/30, 2/2, 2/5, 2/7, & 2/9

The Bombyx Brass Collective will visit on 2/6/24 to collaboratively work with students, running rehearsals, practicing technique and song to be played that evening at a free concert

Amelia Blasko, Katlin Blasko, Caleb Cox, Rylee Moore, and Vivian Prince are participating in the UMass Honor Band on 2/10/24 at UMass Amherst

Leah Bobrowski, Sarah Cormier, and Amber Patruno had artwork chosen for the *Emerging Young Artists*. They are included in the exceptional artistic merit of New England's high school students through this highly competitive online exhibition and its award with over 800 submissions

Owen Dawson is *Hampshire Gazette's Football Player of the Year*

Michael Beauchemin, Caleb Cox, & Tovah Woldorf all had great performances at the MMEA Western District Concert on 1/13/24

The Class of 2025 is hosting a Chipotle fundraiser on 1/20/24 from 4-8 pm at the Chipotle on Memorial Dr in Chicopee

MESMS: Band & Chorus will be having their Winter Concert tonight

The SBIRT screening with 7th graders on 2/1/24

Scoliosis screenings for all students on 2/15/24 & 2/16/24

The semester switch will occur on 1/25/24 when students will be taking new Arts & Elective classes

Mosier: The PTO has done amazing work & their efforts will allow all students to go on field trips without cost this year

Plains: Mid-year assessments in math & ELA

C. Report of Interim Superintendent: Dr. McLaughlin provided some information on an agenda item that will be on an upcoming meeting. The State of Massachusetts has expressed increasing interest in the issue of chronic absenteeism at schools around the State. Chronic absenteeism is defined as 10% or more of school days. This is not new for South Hadley and Principal Liz Wood will be present at the next School Committee Meeting to discuss the initiatives and efforts that SHHS is engaging in to address this phenomenon.

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

D. Report of the Chair & School Committee: Chair Friesner shared that he has been meeting with District & Town personnel in preparation of the next phase in the Mosier Building Project.

E. Appreciations: Jenn Voyik – the district’s custodial staff; Danielle Cooke – Meghan Aucoin; Larry Dixon – Mosier PTO for field trip fundraising & Mark McLaughlin for calling the snow day; & Mark McLaughlin – Jenn Voyik on her work to get MCPPO certified.

VI. Review of 2024-2025 Calendar: Mark McLaughlin indicated that he was not looking for a vote on the 24-25 calendar tonight but rather wanted to discuss. He explained that the year has a few unique scenarios with 2024 being an election year, State, Town & Federal primaries and elections, in addition to Holiday break beginning on December 23rd.

VII. Review of Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policy: Mark McLaughlin took the School Committee through the suggested revisions to the policy. It has been just over a year since the last review of the policy. The District strives to be aligned with best practices and provides the most up-to-date version of the policy on the website.

(VOTE) Chair Friesner entertained a motion to approve the updated bullying prevention & Intervention policy with the changes discussed this evening.

Vice Chair Cooke so moved.

Larry Dixon seconded.

No further discussion.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; View – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

VIII. Update on Renaming of Plains Elementary School: Jenn Voyik shared that there has been some hold up on this discussion because the district, along with the MSBA have discussed grade reconfiguration in conjunction with the Mosier School Building Project. Once Jenn got the Committee up to speed on what has been happening over the past year, a new quote was reviewed and explained, as well as interest from the Plains PTO to raise funds to cover the cost.

(VOTE) Chair Friesner entertained a motion to authorize the fundraising to change in the future the name of Plains Elementary School to a new title to be made and voted upon by the School Committee in honor of Hank Skala.

Dan View so moved.

Larry Dixon seconded.

No further discussion.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; View – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

IX. Master Plan Annual Forum: Mark McLaughlin shared that he attended, and the theme was municipal communication. There were representatives from all the bodies within the Town. He shared a little about his experience of the event.

X. Donation of Filing Cabinet for SHHS: Jenn Voyik stated the details of the request to donate filing cabinets to the high school.

(VOTE) Chair Friesner entertained a motion to accept the donation as presented.

Larry Dixon so moved.

Dan Vieu seconded.

No further discussion.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; Vieu – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

XI. Information Only: Chair Friesner updated the Committee that they are officially an entity in This year's St Patrick's Day Parade.

XII. Unfinished Business

XIII. New Business

(VOTE) Chair Friesner entertained a motion to adjourn.

Vice Chair Cooke so moved.

L. Pickbourn seconded.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; Vieu – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Submitted by Kiesha Keitt, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Approved by the School Committee on 2/1/2024.