

MINUTES OF REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
January 25, 2021
Video Conference Meeting accessible via SCTV15

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<p>Chairperson Kyle Belanger called the virtual meeting of the South Hadley School Committee to order at 6:00pm.</p> <p>Present: Kyle Belanger, Chairperson; Allison Schlachter, Vice Chairperson. Charles Miles, Maddy Foley, Student Representative</p> <p>Also, present: Dr. Diana Bonneville, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent</p> <p>Chairman Belanger said that “Allyson Garcia & would join us in a few minutes”.</p> <p>Approval of minutes – No minutes</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Approval of warrants – January 5, 2021</td> <td>#2021-150</td> <td>\$244,612.09</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 7, 2021</td> <td>Bi-Weekly</td> <td>\$655,054.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 12, 2021</td> <td>#2021-158</td> <td>\$46,296.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 19, 2021</td> <td>#2021-164</td> <td>\$121,310.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 21, 2021</td> <td>Bi-Weekly</td> <td>\$665,320.21</td> </tr> </table> <p>Motion to approve warrants by Christine Phillips; seconded by Allison Schlachter; roll call vote; motion passes 4/1</p> <p>Allison Schlachter would like to address what happened this past weekend with the hockey team. “Hard decisions were made, and basketball & swimming will go forward. “She made the decision to cancel hockey due to safety concerns, but the decision is not sitting well with her. There were texts and emails about the School Committee making unpopular decisions. The behavior from these parents was certainly not setting an example for their children. She would like to make a motion to allow the hockey team to have a season with COVID restrictions; seconded by Christine Phillips; Eric contacted the arena and time slots are still available. Kyle Belanger said, “ this aligns with what I was thinking”. Christine Phillips has seen the club hockey play with no COVID issues and stands behind the idea of being able to go forward and be successful with hockey. Charles Miles says “we are in this position because we can’t make sacrifices and listen to the medical professionals that say no. We have lost so many people to this virus.” Roll call vote, Schlachter aye, Phillips aye, Miles no, Belanger yes. We will go forward with hockey. Christine Phillips said, “we needed to step back and reflect on this with no pressure”.</p> <p>Lisa Wykowski wanted to say “thank you for reconsidering and I am sorry you get the abuse. You come together in peace and a democratic vote. My senior can play”!</p> <p>Christine McKiernan said, “ I am a parent of 2 athletes. I would give this all up to send the kids back to school. There is far lower risk to come back to the classroom other than sports. Where are our priorities? My kids are disengaged on Zoom and the younger and Special Needs students should be back in school. Women are losing their jobs to stay home and care for their kids. Teenage drugs, alcohol, and obesity along with social emotional health is skyrocketing and special needs kids are having double the problems. It is time to prioritize kids back to the classroom and follow the medical professionals’ advice.”</p> <p>Beth Tsilibocos said, “I would just like to take a moment to thank you so much for letting hockey move forward and thank you for all you do”.</p>	Approval of warrants – January 5, 2021	#2021-150	\$244,612.09	January 7, 2021	Bi-Weekly	\$655,054.21	January 12, 2021	#2021-158	\$46,296.07	January 19, 2021	#2021-164	\$121,310.36	January 21, 2021	Bi-Weekly	\$665,320.21	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>Minutes</p> <p>Warrants</p> <p>Vote</p> <p>Public Comment</p>
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Jason – “Thank you to the Committee for allowing hockey. I respect Mr. Miles and his figures, and I hope our students can go back to school. We will continue to have clusters from outside of town and when polio was here, they went to school in iron lungs. Our grandparents always tell us to wash our hands because they have survived many diseases. I hope we can get back to school and work along with the Board of health to keep the students healthy”.

Mary Meon- “we want to thank for reconsidering the hockey decision. Then its really time to get our kids back to school and get back into a routine. You have the support of the community to get kids back to school”.

Greer Clark- “ I have 2 kids in high school and regarding getting kids back into school. I am a physician and getting students back in school should be our priority. School Committee has a tough decision to get our students back in school with COVID regulations. We need to learn to live with this as safely as we can and get our students back to school”.

Yesica Rodriguez- “ I am the mom of a 12-year-old student in the middle school and I have seen his progress getting lower and lower, he is non-verbal, and he has a 1-1 at school. He is not getting an education. I hope you can figure this out and I implore you to get my student back at school”.

SHEA- Last week the Superintendent signed a letter to the Governor requesting teachers to receive vaccines sooner. We are all looking for air quality reports and getting teachers’ vaccines so they can come back to school and teach. He asked that we continue to stay remote until the numbers come down and the vaccines are here to keep our community safe.

Dr. Bonneville reported that 38 school districts and union boards wrote to the Governor to request teachers and school personnel safe by getting vaccine’s earlier. On MLK Day we celebrated community service in honor of Martin Luther King by having “Bag the Community.” We had 474 cars donate can goods to our food pantry.

Maddie Foley spoke about the Student Union joining in a group empowerment training this week. Student Council is also hosting a “butter braid” fundraiser and the proceeds would go to “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” in South Hadley. Student Council members will be participating in a Peer Mentor training that will focus on how to begin dialogue and conversation, with hopes that the peer mentor program in the district will start sometime in April

Budget transfers (2) requests in the packet:

- Budget transfers for OOD placement we were not expecting, and we can cover this tuition from SPED.
- We have a teacher from HS teacher line to salary line.

Chairman Belanger would entertain a motion to accept the transfers as written: Charles Miles moved; Christine Phillips seconded; roll call vote: motion passes unanimously 4/0.

SHEA

Superintendent Report

Student Representative

Budget Update

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPED Legal Services \$10,000 to stay the same - Software for SPED % increase based on historical numbers - System Wide Admin- contract update coming up - SPED Clerical Dept-decreased slightly, thought we were budgeting contracts - SPED Postage- has been combined with Superintendent Office - Decreased SPED office supplies - Central Office other exp- mileage and memberships for Beth to belong to Mass Pac & Council for Exceptional Children (increase) - Summer Para's -will need extended year or summer schools for learning shortfalls. Offset by grant for summer paras. - Para decrease due to IEP changes and graduation - Mid Para increase- due to additional paras that will be needed next year - Mosier Paras decrease- student moving to MS - Plains Paras increase- based on student (preschool) that came in with 1-1 - SPED HS teachers- same except for step up raise increase and the HS will need 4 additional SPED teachers for students coming in from 8th grade. So, we will move some salaries to School Choice. Language based disability class at the MS. 1 will be going to HS and the HS has 6 students that would benefit from this program. We will need a modified class for life skills and SPED Portfolios. - Potential for brining students back, so we had these programs started to bring back OOD students. - \$631,000 from the government towards compensatory services and for summer school and extended year from COVID. - Mid SPED teachers- increase for step up and raises. - Mosier Specialist- step ups and raises (add teacher & decrease paras) DATA - Plains Sped- decrease change in staffing - Mosier & Plains stipends- \$3800 increase to \$4373 (42% increase) (same as curriculum facilitators-a negotiated rate) - SPED Teacher Subs- Paras covering - Sped Teacher sub for Plains-coverage for outside visits) - Decrease in Mosier subs - HS Mid & Mosier tutoring @ \$2000 and taking some from a grant. - OOD Contracted Services decreased from \$1300 to \$1200 - Contracted Milestones, Sunshine Village & Clarke \$82,877 - Decrease MS Professional Services- Holyoke Hospital & Clarke School - Decrease in Mosier contracted services with Clarke - Decrease in Plains contracted services with Clarke - Decrease in SPED Instructional supplies - Decrease in System Instructional other- mileage - Decrease in HS student mileage to UMASS - Regular Therapists MS increase step up and raises (OT, PT, Speech) - Regular Therapists Mosier increase step up and raises(OT, PT, Speech) - Regular Therapists Plains increase step up and raises (OT, PT, Speech) - ETA's 1@ MS and 1 move in student-student remote - Speech Therapy- Plains contracted out this year & advertised (Teletherapy will offset the cost) 	<p>Vote</p>
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- ODD Therapeutic Contracted Services
- Services in home program from Tate Behavioral
- Services with student with home device.
- In home student with counseling
- CES provides sight & hearing services
- HS increase-student back from May Institute-Student is at home and needs a direct student provider (Itinerant)
- May Institute \$124,000 decrease to \$50,000 for services at home.
- Instructional Software increase because of online curriculum for our students, teachers have requested them for next year.
- Adjustment Counselors increase for Liz Wood to go back to head of Guidance with step up & potential raise.
- MS SPED Teachers staying same with step ups and pot. salary.
- Mosier requested a .8 and .2 at Mosier, this year they would like a full-time person at Plains. (More data requested from SC on new salaries)
- Testing Supplies on COVID relief grants by ½
- Psychologists- step up and 5 increase
- No change in Psychology contracted services \$4000 for assessments or Neurophysiological evaluations.
- Decrease in system wide transportation (students brought back from May Center-grant money budgeted for those 3 student)
- Student attending school in CT. parents are paid state rate to drive.
- Public School transportation increase for student attending program in Amherst schools.
- OOD state tuition decrease to private instate private school(save 2%)

Charles Miles asked for the budget on an excel spreadsheet. Christine Phillips asked JenVoyik if we had not received grant money what would our budget look like? Jen replies “we would be \$700,000 short for next year”.

New Positions added- Asst. Superintendent in Grants & Curriculum.
(\$125,000)

JLMC- had a lengthy discussion before the School Committee meeting. Charles Miles shared the information in a graph-**Attached**

The School Committee had a discussion after the presentation by Charles. They were questioning the % of staff immunized or when will that happen? Could we delay Special populations until February 22nd? Eileen Garvey discussed the pooled testing webinar about COVID testing in schools. State is offering pooled testing free but then it will cost the district \$9,500 per week to continue testing students. The Governor has said that teaching staff and administrators would be in the second stage, which should start in February.

Eileen Garvey spoke about the Board of Health which only has 2 staff members, Sharon Hart and Marge Bernard. Some of their work encompasses more than just South Hadley, which does not include 64 cases of students and staff and more students as of late.

Dr. Bonneville said “staffing is always in flux; we are all conscience of practicing common sense. We have been notified that vents need to be cleaned before air

Re-entry to school during COVID

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exchange rates can be measured accurately. Special Education testing needs to continue; we are not meeting students needs and we are not in compliance. We return high needs on February 22 and the daycare cohort on March 1. We can not wait for vaccines to start coming back into school and I do not see 3% coming for a long time.” Christine Phillips commented that the timelines we are talking about is getting to the point where lots of communities and students are returning to school. Families are looking for some answers and we need to concentrate on that. Scott Beaulieu said bringing in students and teachers into the schools while we are increasing in #s is risking infecting many people. The high levels of community spread would be terrible for everybody.”

Allyson Garcia suggested dates for having students return to school:

Feb. 22- Special populations

March 1 Childcare cohort and Hybrid for MS & HS

March 15 for all younger children to start hybrid

Allison Schlachter noticed that this is right around vacation. She pleaded with the community watching the School Committee meeting to “not travel during vacation. You cannot return to school without a negative COVID test, and if you have a family member at home that is sick or has COVID please don’t come to school.

Allyson Garcia would entertain a motion to return Special populations & Childcare cohort on Feb 22nd, then on March 1 hybrid for MS & HS students. On March 15th all hybrid students in Plains & Mosier; seconded by Christine Phillips; roll call vote: motion passes unanimously.

Vote

Chairman Belanger decided to proceed with the rest of the items on the agenda. The next item was submitting to the MSBA a Statement of Interest to have construction and updating of the Mosier Elementary school.

Chairman Belanger entertained a motion to send MSBA a 2021 Statement of Interest; so, moved by Charles Miles; seconded by Christine Phillips; roll call vote: motion passes unanimously.

Vote

School Committee discussed one of their members being on the search committee representative on the TA search committee. Everyone talked about having too much on their plate and they decided they would talk about it and get back to Kyle.

The Custodial contract negotiating team decided to award \$1000.00 COVID stipends to each custodian, \$500.00 to the new custodian to the district.

Chairman Belanger would entertain a motion to approve the Custodial contract as presented. Moved by Christine Phillips; seconded by Allison Schlachter; roll call vote: motion passes unanimously.

Vote

Chairman Belanger decided to table the Master Plan until the February 1, 2021 meeting.

Chairman Belanger would entertain a motion to adjourn; moved by Charles Miles; seconded by Christine Phillips; roll call vote: motion passes unanimously.

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<p>Adjourned @ 10:11</p> <p>True copy:</p> <p>do</p> <p>Diana Bonneville, Ph.D. Interim Superintendent of Schools</p> <p>Date approved: _____</p>	<p>Vote</p> <p>Adjourned</p>
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