

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

I. Call to Order

Noticing a quorum, Chairperson, Allison Schlachter called the virtual School Committee Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A Zoom video conference meeting accessible via SHCTV15 and SHCTV.com made possible by Governor Baker's June 16, 2021, remote meeting provision to the March 12, 2020, COVID-19 Emergency

In Attendance: Allison Schlachter, Chairperson; Eric Friesner, Vice Chairperson; Danielle Cooke, Member; Lynda Pickbourn-Smith, Member; Kyle Belanger, Member; Mark McLaughlin, Interim Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools; and Jennifer Voyik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations for South Hadley Public Schools.

Guests: Chris Fontaine, Principal of MESM; & Cindy Flynn, Principal of Mosier & Mary Walsh, Director of Health Services.

Absent: Junoon Giridhar, Student Representative & Amy Foley, SHEA President.

II. Public Comment: NONE

III. SHEA Report: NONE

IV. Routine Items

A. Approval of Warrants (2 VOTES)

Date	Number	Amount
January 31, 2023	Warrant #2023-183	\$417,469.34
February 7, 2023	Warrant #2023-191	\$234,640.55
February 16, 2023	Biweekly Payroll	\$1,088,465.53

(VOTE) D. Cooke made a motion for those eligible to approve the following warrant dated January 31, 2023, #2023-183 in the amount of \$417,469.34.

E. Friesner seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke -Abstained; L. Pickbourn – Abstained; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter – Aye.

This motion passed, 3 in favor and 2 abstentions.

(VOTE) D. Cooke made a motion to approve the following two warrants, warrant #2023-191 dated February 7, 2023, in the amount of \$234,640.55 and biweekly payroll dated February 16, 2023, in the amount of \$1,088,465.53.

E. Friesner seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

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E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke -Aye; L. Pickbourn – Abstained; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter – Aye.

This motion passed, 4 in favor and 1 abstention.

B. Approval of Minutes (VOTE) 1/26/23 & 2/2/23:

(VOTE) Chairperson Schlachter made a motion to approve minutes from 1/26/2023.

E. Friesner so moved.

D. Cooke seconded.

No further discussion.

E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke -Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter -Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

At 6:28p.m. Chairperson Schlachter revisited to vote on minutes for 2/2/2023.

(VOTE) Chair Schlachter entertained a motion to approve the minutes from 2/2/2023.

E. Friesner so moved.

D. Cooke seconded.

E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke -Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter -Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

A. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Racial Justice Task Force:** D. Cooke didn't have much to share as the task force was scheduled to meet on 2/15/23 but was unable to due to the cancellation of after-school events at SHHS. They will be meeting a couple times in March at that point the Equity Commission information will be relayed.

B. Advisory Committees

C. Site-based Committees

D. Report of Student Representative: NONE

- E. Report of Interim Superintendent:** M. McLaughlin reported on the lockdown that took place at SHHS on Wednesday 2/15/23. It was disclosed that School Resource Officer Helems suggested via email to Administration, the events were likely going to happen within South Hadley as there had been several districts throughout the State the day before with lockdowns. M. McLaughlin commended Assistant Superintendent Jenn Voyik, Principal Liz Wood, and the collaboration with the South Hadley Police Department and the South Hadley Fire Department. He indicated that although the district cannot prevent such circumstances, they can be efficient and smart in response.

Discussion took place to explain the language, what each code means and matters in which privacy is important and valued.

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- F. Report of the Chair and School Committee:** Chairperson Schlachter inquired how the district, the community can support students and families through these ever-changing times. She wasn't asking the question as much as wanted others to think about it to further discuss on a later date. M. McLaughlin assured the committee that the Admin team will put together something to discuss why codes get called and what each means, with the hopes of a general correspondence be written to share the specifics with the community and post something on the SHPS website.
- G. Appreciations:** D. Cooke – SRO Helems, SHPD & SHFD. A. Schlachter – School Counselors, Jenn Voyik & Liz Wood. E. Friesner – Mosier PTO.
- VI. Possibilities for Enhanced Programming at Michael E. Smith Middle School & Beyond:** C. Fontaine presented to the committee. He reviewed current data for the middle school, providing 2022 MCAS data, diagnostic assessments from iReady. The current schedule and the associated problems with the current schedule were relayed. Principal Cindy Flynn depicted Multi-Tier Supports, reading and math interventions, ELL Support and Professional Learning Communities and how they are and are not working withing the current schedule. The mission of MESMS was outlined and how SHPS compares to some surrounding districts in terms of foreign language, STEM, advisory, band/chorus and home economic programming. A proposal was introduced that includes personnel and schedule changes. The benefits from these adjustments were conveyed. Discussion was plentiful involving sharing presentations like this with State Reps and Senators, funding, teachers prep time, effects on budgets for coming years, increased regulations, pending results from the targeted review and lots of compliments to the Administration Team, the plan they've developed and the practicality that it comes with.
- VII. 2023-2024 Budget Update:** J. Voyik voiced the budget remains in the same place as last school committee meeting and expressed hopes that the governor's budget will be available for the 3/2/23 meeting. A meeting with the Town Administrator is scheduled for that week. Many talks taking place regarding grants and positions that the district wants for next year and the coming years to accommodate programming and to meet additional needs coming out of the pandemic, newly revised MIAA regulations, social-emotional learning, mental health needs and special education. Praise given to the Department heads within the town and the collaboration and conversations that are happening with Administration. K. Belanger pointed out that from experience variables of the budget cycle are being shared in a detailed and transparent way which is helpful to the School Committee and community.
- VIII. Estimated Signage Costs Associated with Plains Renaming Initiative:** J. Voyik described how the signage was installed when the building was built and the expense of replacing the building

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signage. It was agreed that Admin will inform the Town that if Plains signage needs to be updated anywhere in the town they may move forward as is.

- IX. Update to Field Trips and Excursions - Form A (VOTE):** Revisited at 8:38 Mary Walsh, Director of Health Services shared with the Committee that there have been discussions about ensuring that field trips are equitable and accessible to all students. This revised form requires approval four weeks prior to the field trip, a copy of the class rosters and signed and approved by the school nurse, principal, and superintendent.
(VOTE) Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to approve the updated field trip and excursions form A.
E. Friesner so moved.
D. Cooke seconded.
No further discussion.
E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke -Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter -Aye.
This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
- X. Interim Superintendent Contract:** Chair Schlachter announced that during contract discussions, M. McLaughlin has agreed to stay on longer than the end of this school year. Terms to June 2024 have been agreed upon.
- XI. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Business Operations Contract:** It was announced in a previous meeting that Jennifer Voyik has been appointed Assistant Superintendent and a contract has been drawn with terms until June 2026.
- XII. Information Only: NONE**
- XIII. Unfinished Business: NONE**
- XIV. New Business: NONE**
(VOTE) Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to adjourn.
L. Pickbourn so moved.
D. Cooke seconded.
No further discussion.
E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke -Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter -Aye.

Respectfully submitted, Kiesha Keitt, Executive Assistant, South Hadley Public Schools.

Date: 3/2/2023