

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee & Selectboard Joint Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

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; Lisa Wong, Town Administrator; Jeff Cyr, Selectboard Chair; Andrea Miles, Selectboard Vice Chair; Nicole Casolari, Selectboard Member; Renee Sweeney, Selectboard Member; & Carol Constant, Selectboard Member.

I. **Call to Order:**

Noticing a quorum, Chairperson, Allison Schlachter entertained a motion to call the School Committee to order at 6:01 p.m. this Thursday, March 16, 2023, remote joint meeting of the South Hadley School Committee and the Selectboard. 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 Order.

E. Friesner so moved.

L. Pickbourn seconded.

Roll call Vote: E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke – Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter – Aye.

Noticing a quorum, Chairperson, Jeff Cyr entertained a motion to enter said meeting.

Andrea Miles so moved.

Carol Constant seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Casolari – Aye; Miles – Aye; Constant – Aye; Sweeney – Aye; & Cyr – Aye.

- #### II. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** Town Administrator, Lisa Wong thanked Mark McLaughlin and Jenn Voyik for all their hard work and great conversation. The three have been discussing not only what is immediately on their plate, but also some of the long-term goals that are in the best interest of the students and the community. L. Wong described it as being a great process, hopes that these robust conversations will continue. A memo was provided to both boards specifying the American Rescue Plan Act and what it allows under final rule.
- M. McLaughlin expressed gratitude for the collaboration between the School Department and the Town. He went on to present a four-year funding transition plan for the needs of the District identified by the Administrative Team. M. McLaughlin read the Joint Administration Statement, "Quality schools are a major reason why people choose to live in a community. We believe that the education and well-being of our youth should be supported at every level of government, especially by but not just by the school department. We strive to think creatively, proactively, and boldly about the changes we need, the investments we choose and the partnerships we develop to support our youth. This is a long-term process, and there is no better time to start than now." Goals, budget factors, investments and financial plans were presented. Discussion amongst the board and committee members took place.

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee & Selectboard Joint Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

(Selectboard VOTE) Carol Constant made a motion to fund \$605,000 in ARPA funding FY25 and earmark \$293,000 in Arpa funding for FY26.

Andrea Miles seconded the motion.

Andrea Miles - Aye; Nicole Casolari – Abstained; Carol Constant – Aye; Renee Sweeney – Aye; & Jeff Cyr – Aye.

This motion passed, four in favor and one abstention.

- III. Memorandum of Agreement for Facilities Department:** Lisa Wong stated that this MOA essentially says that this is a new facilities department that will be jointly overseen by both the School Department, School Committee and the Selectboard via the Superintendent and the Town Administrator.

(Selectboard VOTE) Carol Constant moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the South Hadley School Committee and the South Hadley Selectboard to create a shared Facilities Department as presented and authorize the Town Administrator to execute the Memorandum of Agreement.

Andrea Miles seconded the motion.

Some discussion regarding hiring and budget plan.

No further discussion

Nicole Casolari – Abstained; Renee Sweeney – Aye; Carol Constant – Aye; Andrea Miles – Aye; & Jeff Cyr – Aye.

This motion passed, four in favor and one abstention.

(School Committee VOTE) Allison Schlachter entertained a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the South Hadley School Committee and the South Hadley Selectboard to create a shared Facilities Department as presented and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the Memorandum of Agreement.

Kyle Belanger so moved.

Eric Friesner seconded.

No further discussion.

Eric Friesner – Aye; Danielle Cooke – Aye; Lynda Pickbourn – Aye; Kyle Belanger – Aye; & Allison Schlachter – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously.

- IV. Adjourn**

(Selectboard VOTE) 7:31 Jeff Cyr entertained a motion to adjourn from Selectboard members.

Renee Sweeney so moved.

Nicole Casolari seconded.

Renee Sweeney – Aye; Andrea Miles - Aye; Nicole Casolari – Aye; Carol Constant – Aye; & Jeff Cyr – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously.

South Hadley Public Schools
School Committee & Selectboard Joint Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

(School Committee VOTE) Allison Schlachter entertained a motion to adjourn the joint meeting and enter into the School Committee meeting.

Danielle Cooke so moved.

Eric Friesner seconded.

Eric Friesner – Aye; Danielle Cooke – Aye; Lynda Pickbourn – Aye; Kyle Belanger – Aye; & Allison Schlachter – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously.

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

Date: 3/27/23