

School Committee Minutes for April 20, 2020
Video Conference Meeting
Accessible via SCTV15
(Made possible by Gov. Baker's March 12 COVID-19 related Emergency Order)

<p>Dr. Bonneville called the Regular Meeting of the South Hadley School Committee to order at 6:00p.m.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>Present: Kyle Belanger, Chairperson; Allison Schlachter, Vice Chairperson; Charles Miles; Christine Phillips; Allyson Garcia; Maddy Foley, Student Representative</p> <p>Also present: Dr. Diana Bonneville Ph.D. Interim Superintendent</p>	<p>Attendance</p>
<p>This is the reorganization meeting of the School Committee</p>	
<p>Dr. Bonneville calls for nominations for Chairman of the School Committee Allison Schlachter nominated Kyle Belanger for a second term as Chairman, seconded by Allyson Garcia. Charles Miles nominates Allison Schlachter for Chairperson with a second from Kyle Belanger. Allison Schlachter has nominated Kyle Belanger for Chairperson because: "Kyle has done an outstanding job, he is patient and dedicated and steady as we go through these unprecedented times. "Mrs.Schlachter thinks continuity in leadership is important at this time". Charles Miles has nominated Allison Schlachter for Chairperson because: "the school department needs even vision in these times". Charles thinks we will be in emergency times for a long time and need to spread our expertise around. "Charles believe's that Allison asks very good questions and has shown great capabilities with the Superintendent Search Committee". Allison Schlachter appreciates the nomination, but nominates Kyle and stands behind her nomination. Kyle Belanger feels being the Chairperson has been one of the great honors and challenges with leading this committee and working collaboratively with everyone..</p>	<p>School Committee Reorganization</p>
<p>Dr. Bonneville holds a vote to support Kyle Belanger- 3 votes for Kyle and he will remain the Chair for a second term. Dr. Bonneville calls for nominations for Vice Chair. Charles Miles nominates Christine Phillips seconded by Allison Schlachter. Charles nominated Christine for Vice Chair because of her financial background and she asks very detailed questions. Christine feels she has to ask those questions to make the best decisions for the greater good. Christine feels that Allison Schlachter and herself have a beneficial relationship and learn from each other.</p>	
<p>Allyson Garcia nominated Allison Schlachter for Vice Chair, and agrees with what Charles' comments pertaining to Christine. She likes what Allison brings to the table with social emotional and having a school district position. Allison Schlachter feels the same way about Christine, recognizes that Allyson Garcia has been closely following the School Committee for the last couple of years. Allison made a comment that we have come together as a collaborative committee, and we should be proud and believe in what we are doing and I enjoy working with Kyle. Dr. Bonneville calls for a vote for Allison Schlachter as Vice Chair. 3 votes for Allison Schlachter, so she will stay as Vice Chair.</p>	

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Sub Committees will be tabled until the May 4th meeting and the Superintendent Search Committee will remain intact.

Warrants: Motion to approve warrants so moved by Christine Phillips. April 14, 2020 for \$217,446.19. Seconded by Allison Schlachter, motion passes unanimously.

Christine Phillips and Allison Schlachter have been looking through surveys so far of 600+. Broken 15 person groups in 2 and put things into categories, from this information, focus groups will be created. The Principals will send out the remainder of the surveys one more time. Tentative dates for the first interviews will be in the fall. Student leadership will remind students to reply to the survey, Allyson Garcia asked about the focus groups and what the subjects will be. We are dividing up survey answers and hot topics: extracurricular, SPED, Regular Ed etc... 3 teachers groups- leader, notetaker and support person.

No comments

Scott Beaulieu said "we are working hard with students and fine tuning this learning plan" Admin and SHEA are working together on the MOA and working plan for staff and teachers. The first week rolled out well, #11 texting about adults and students will now only be calls- no texting to protect everyone. We have learned alot from other districts, if we close for a while in the fall we will have to figure out assessments. Concerns were raised about how to distance 25 students in a class? We will want to hear from the Governor & the Commissioner for guidance. Lots of things to think about including social emotional and other situations that will arise. #21 says we will have to have a new MOA. Google is our platform and taping has privacy issues as far as videotaping and archiving. Allison Schlachter thinks videotaping and archiving is for protection not for prosecuting. Motion to approve of MOA with the School Committee and SHEA in the SC Agenda on March 16, 2020. Charles Miles moved and Allison Schlachter seconded, passed unanimously.

Feedback is good for the Learning Portal. Mosier School is doing a book donation and dispersal at the during lunch pick up on the SHHS lawn. MIT put out a list of schools with strong Learning Programs and Massachusetts tied in 2nd place. A small handful of families have not logged on and we are reaching out to see if we can help in some way, especially ESL students. The Student Assistance Team is reaching out across the district making sure social emotions needs are being met. The IT department is working on getting DocuSign which is \$2400 per year, looking to see if it is less expensive if we calculate by amount signed. Contract amendment of 50% with Five Star and 75% with VanPool, and DESE has said we need to pay them to make sure they can stay in business. Jen Voyik asked the School Committee to give Dr. Bonneville their permission to negotiate with Five Star.

**Superintendent
Search Committee**

Public Forum

SHEA Update

**Superintendent's
Report**

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<p>Chairman Belanger loved the senior signs all over town this weekend. Kudos to the IT department for the Portal for Learning. It looks fantastic.</p>	<p>Report of the Chair</p>
<p>Allyson Garcia asked since it is registration time for Kindergarten coming up soon, is there a way to email or call the registration in. Mr. Skala said they have it set up to download the registration packet and send it in by mail, but they could email it to hskala@shschools.com. Families should know if they email their registration packet in, there will be certain documents that will be needed to complete the registration. We had planned a great orientation, along with bus orientation and screenings. Mrs. Cooke has been collaborating with other Director's in the area, which are planning to push the start of Kindergarten back so they can complete screenings before they open,</p>	
<p>Virtual "Spirit Week" went very well and lots of students participated. The Learning Portal is easy to navigate and teachers are easy to get in touch with. Distance Learning is easier to get through than many students thought it would be.</p>	<p>Student Representative</p>
<p>SPED Jen Voyik emailed the School Committee this afternoon with updates after speaking with Mrs. Cooke.</p>	<p>Budget</p>
<p>10. SPED decreased \$50,000 from \$301,520.21 to \$251,952.71 Removed para from there and a couple of lines calculated in, and another person was not accounted for. Based on current IEP's.</p>	
<p>Mosier- moved para from Reg. para to SPED para.</p>	
<p>Plains- we added (2) para's there. Tate Behavioral was used last year to keep students in the district. We would be better served, benefitting 9 students in the Preschool if we could get an ABA and a para's to provide services inhouse instead of using Tate Behavioral. (.5 ABA and 2 SPED paraprofessionals) and have it all set up for the fall. We have built in consultation from Tate 1 hour per week. Mrs. Schlachter & Mr. Miles thinks this is a great call, and it could be sustained with peers paying tuition. Mr. Skala believes the parents would love to send their students, and we have spoken to the YMCA to possibly provide PreK childcare right in the building. Chairman Belanger loves this forward thinking.</p>	
<p>SPED Sub Para's \$16,250 decreased \$2,000 OOD Therapeutic services \$65,000 increased to \$75,000 change in IEP included more Tate Behavioral for extended year and extra hours of support. Plains Therapeutic services \$110,805.37 decreased \$37,000 System Instructional Software \$6,700 increased to \$8,500 SPED Public school tuition \$25,000 decreased to \$20,000 Out of State tuition \$355,329.90 (4 students) SC asks if we can pick schools with lower costs that include all the services the students need? Mrs. Cooke responded by explaining the process, we pick 3 schools that fit the child's needs, the family can visit them and then the schools decide if they can meet the child's needs and the family can</p>	

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pick after the school accepts their child. SC feels we should be looking at every IEP to determine if there is any way to keep these students inhouse.OSD rates for these schools is determined every year and there is no negotiating.Dr. Bonneville thinks we can look at an Autism program at Plains and a Life skills program at the High School Jen Voyik went on to say that we are saving because we are Distance Learning. She would like permission to move some salaries to the local budget, and pay the deficit at the bottom of the total budget? Charles Miles would like to go over this at the next meeting, so we can see what needs to be moved to other lines and save for next year. Chairman Belanger would entertain a motion to transfer these salaries to the local budget. The amounts would be for lunch labor \$130,425.47 and \$93,689.12. Charles Miles makes a motion for Jen Voyik to move those amounts to the local budget, seconded by Allison Schlachter. Vote passes unanimously.

Central support staff- Mr. Miles asks why it is not in the budget to combine School department HR with Town HR. Dr. Bonneville responded that Mike Sullivan at the late date is only willing to discuss things for FY22. Mr. Miles asks that we put this on the docket for FY22 and include this in the District Improvement Plan for next year. The School Committee asks why the PreK Coordinator should be a SPED educator. Mrs. Cooke responded by saying that this position would include: report writing, assessments and doing observations, so this should be a SPED teacher. This position would also include Evaluations and planning of programming.

School Choice openings (46) grade 4 and up, but no openings in grades 6, 8 and 12. The High School is pretty maxed out for School Choice because of AP and Honors classes. Middle School would like to keep their numbers low because of the teacher cuts that are pending. Any School Choice money would be earmarked for FY22. We are losing 2 teachers from retirement, 4 from cuts and a .5 spanish teacher moving on. SC is struggling with class sizes. School choice money comes in July in quarters, but is based on this year's numbers.

K-3 no slots

4-8 slots

5-3 slots

6- 0 slots

7-8 slots

8-0 slots

9-10 slots

10-10 slots

11- 12 slots

12-0 slots

51 slots

Hopefully we will see more Chapter 70 monies. Charles Miles makes a motion to offer 51 School Choice slots for next year. Kyle Belanger moved and Allison Schlachter seconded. Vote passes unanimously.

**School Choice
Slots for FY 21**

