

# South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

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July 15, 2021

*Video Conference Meeting accessible via SCTV15*

## I. Call to Order

Noting a quorum, Chairperson A. Schlachter called the virtual School Committee Meeting to order at 6:00 pm. New Superintendent of South Hadley Public Schools, Dr. Jahmal Mosley and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, Melissa Rainville, was warmly introduced and welcomed to the committee and South Hadley community.

**In Attendance:** Allison Schlachter, Chairperson,  
Dr. Jahmal Mosley, Superintendent of South Hadley Public Schools  
Jen Matos  
Danielle Cooke  
Kaily Godek, Student Representative  
Jennifer Voyik, Business Manager, South Hadley Public Schools

**Absent:** Charles Miles  
Allyson Garcia

## II. Approval of Minutes

None.

## III. Approval of Warrants

Motion to approve warrants as read by J. Matos, seconded by Danielle Cook. Motion passed unanimously: 3/0.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
June 22, 2021	#2021-292	\$37,490.90
June 24, 2021	Bi-Weekly	\$1,165,355.71
June 29, 2021	#2021-298A	\$3,262.00
June 29, 2021	#2021-298	\$486,805.92
July 6, 2021	#2022-6	\$8,742.04
July 8, 2021	Bi-Weekly	\$662,359.19

## IV. Reports of Standing Committees

- a. *School Committee Liaison Reports*
- b. *Advisory Committees*
- c. *Site-Based Committees*

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The Racial Justice Task force is currently on Sumer hiatus and will meet at the end of August to plan for the Fall. The Anti-bullying task force will meet this Summer.

### V. Public Comment

A. Schlachter opened the floor for public comment, asking virtual attendees to raise their hand via the Zoom hand icon with any comments, questions, or concerns. No public comments received.

### VI. SHEA Updates

None.

### VII. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. J. Mosley thanked the school committee for their support and help during his transition to South Hadley. Prior to his first day of July 1, 2021, he was in communication with members via phone and e-mail. He thanks Central Office for showing both him and his new assistant, Melissa, the ropes, especially Jenn Voyik who has been gracious to answer many questions. Dr. Mosley stated he is pleased, elated, and excited to be here in South Hadley and looks forward to the first day of school. He has been in the position now for two weeks and during this time he has met with the police chief, town officials, and has been working on the school calendar and grants. Dr. Mosley will be sharing additional updates speaking to the operation and vision of schools as we approach the start of the school year.

### VIII. Report of the Chair and School Committee

J. Matos and D. Cooke welcomed Dr. J. Mosley to the committee and expressed excitement in the skills and diversity he brings to the position.

J. Matos is updating her syllabi and looking at diversity, social justice and inclusion and would like to invite teachers to participate in a brainstorm session for curriculum for student-teachers. To avoid a potential conflict of interest, A. Schlachter will speak to Liz Lafond; school committee rep, and Glen Kloucher to ascertain best practice in J. Matos's capacity as a Professor of Mt. Holyoke College versus a member of the School Board Committee. Dr. J. Mosley recommended that a flyer be constructed outlining what the session will consist of, to include talking points, desired audience, time commitment and if it is volunteer or paid.

**Action:** A. Schlachter will connect with MASC to review best practice for J. Matos to facilitate and avoid conflict of interest. J. Matos will develop a draft flyer and will meet with Dr. J. Mosley individually to discuss the brainstorming session, as it is not a sanctioned school committee matter.

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A. Schlachter reported that The Board of Health wants to help the district with re-opening. She will be working closely with Dr. J. Mosley, the committee, DESE, town and Johanna Ravenhurst; the new Board of Health Chair, and updates will be placed on future agendas.

**IX. Report of Student Representative**

K. Godek welcomed Dr. J. Mosley and Melissa to the district. In late August, date to be announced; a bus orientation will be held for kindergarten and new students at Plains School to allow students and parents to do a mock safety ride. Kindergarten registration is robust for FY 22 with 18 students per class currently. Lawn signs and magnets continue to be offered for sale on a first come basis at \$5.00 per tiger paw magnet and \$15.00 per lawn sign. Please contact Kaily Godek to purchase at [khgodek2022@student.shschools.com](mailto:khgodek2022@student.shschools.com) or via the class Instagram page at shhs\_2022.

**X. 2021-2022 School Calendar Edit Approvals**

Dr. J. Mosley thanked Melissa, Jenn, and Jo in Central Office for working hard to align and consolidate versions of the 2021-2022 School Calendar found in circulation into one final version. Dr. Mosley reviewed the proposed edits as outlined and requested school committee approval.

3/30/21 Calendar	6/1/21 Calendar	July Calendar Revision
9/8/21 First Day of Kindergarten	9/6/21 First Day of Kindergarten (Same day as Labor Day Holiday)	Date confirmed with school. 9/8/21 is the first day of Kindergarten.
Early Release Days Not Listed	Early Release Days Included	Early Release Days added
11/2/21 Schools Closed for Teacher In-Service (Election Day)	11/8/21 Schools Closed for Teacher In-Service (Election Day)	11/2/21 date confirmed to be Election Day/Teacher In-Service.
2/9/22 Schools Closed (Teacher In-Service)	Date not listed	Confirmed with Jenn Voyik that Schools are open on 2/9/22
Last Day of School Listed on 6/16/22	Last Day of School Listed on 6/16/22	Last Day of School counted and should be 6/15/22 without snow days.
June 19, 2022 Juneteenth	June 19, 2022 Juneteenth	June 20, 2022 added as Schools closed in Observance of Juneteenth.
School Day total count for month of February is 14	School Day total count for month of February is 14	School Day total count for month of February recounted and changed to 15

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Motion to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar edits by A. Schlachter, moved by D. Cooke and seconded by J. Matos. Motion passed unanimously: 3/0.

### **XI. Maintenance and Grounds at Plains School**

Landscaping services for the schools have historically been provided by DPW and the Parks Department. In late April of this year, J. Voyik received a communication from the Parks and DPW notifying the schools that landscaping and maintenance services performed will be modified. The modification provides mowing and maintenance solely to the playing field on the Rt. 202 side of the Plains school property, leaving the remainder of the property; to include the playground, unattended. The school department was not consulted or brought into the conversation to discuss DPW's modified maintenance plan.

With the budget already approved and past the deadline to request additional funds, the schools are now in a "tough spot" for the cost of landscaping services. In addition to Plains School, the change in service no longer covers the playgrounds at Mosier and Smith, and certain areas at South Hadley High School.

To provide immediate aid, custodians were brought in for overtime to do basic maintenance in the courtyards and J. Voyik was able to secure a contract with an outside landscaping vendor to work on Plains School. The vendor is currently working on the playground/back area first and then will continue with the front parking lot. This is an unanticipated \$18,100 cost for the year (April to October) and will be between \$60,00 and \$100,000 for basic maintenance services for all the schools. As a result of these unexpected costs, the FY 2022 Budget might be short at the end of the fiscal year unless additional funds are secured. This is the result of the DPW's decision to reduce services.

A. Schlachter spoke to Jeff Cyr, Chairman of the Select Board, and learned that there was past discussion that the landscaping services would end, but a date or timeframe was not established.

The school committee agreed that a meeting with the Town needs to occur toward the goal of finding a long-term solution. In addition to community concerns regarding the neglect and appearance, it is a safety matter that needs to be addressed.

In the interim, A. Schlachter inquired if there was potential for a business, group, or family to adopt an area, i.e., courtyard or garden, to take care of the maintenance. Given that the areas are large and a consistent maintenance schedule with heavier equipment is required, a contract should be in place.

**Action:** Dr. J. Mosley, A. Schlachter, and a member of the school committee will request a meeting with new Town Manager, Lisa Wong, and will report back to committee.

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**XII. South Hadley Police Department Memorandum of Understanding**

The South Hadley Police Department is going through an accreditation and an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being put in place between the South Hadley Public Schools and the South Hadley Police Department for the School Resource Officer (SRO). Legal reviewed the MOU and approved the superintendent's signature.

J. Matos raised concerns regarding the language surrounding cultural competency in religious practices, clothing preferences, identity, and other areas listed on page 10 and would like clarification what "clothing preferences" mean in all aspects of identity and how does one train for that in professional development? Additionally, A. Schlachter reviewed the trainings and asked J. Matos from a racial justice task force perspective, are the trainings listed enough? Dr. J. Mosley will inquire what training or professional development does the SRO receive in areas such as cyberbullying, IEPs, social justice, diversity, and inclusion.

**Action:** Dr. J. Mosley will address questions and suggest language modifications to the Police Chief and will report back to Committee. A final vote will be conducted then.

**XIII. Unfinished Business**

In light of the maintenance and grounds budget deficient, A. Schlachter proposed waiting until the next fiscal year to order iPads for the members of the school committee. J. Voyik advised that they were already purchased in last year's budget.

**XIV. Information Only**

J. Voyik sent a school messenger communication to South Hadley families reminding them to complete the bus transportation form if transportation for grades K to 8<sup>th</sup> is required for the 2021-2022 school year. The *2021-2022 Bus Registration Form* was sent via mail and is also available on the South Hadley Public Schools' website. The deadline to submit the form is July 30, 2021. For high schoolers, the process remains that same in that you will register for busing at the High School and pay the fee there.

**Action:** J. Matos will add this reminder to the public Facebook page.

With no further matters to discuss, the School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

The next School Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 2021. It is unknown at this time whether the session will be remote or in-person. A decision will be made when all school committee members are available to discuss.

Respectfully submitted,

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Melissa Rainville  
Executive Assistant, South Hadley Public Schools.

Reviewed and Approved by,  
Jahmal Mosley, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, South Hadley Public Schools.  
Date: 7/20/21