

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 5, 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, Acting Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools; and Jennifer Voyik, Acting Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations for South Hadley Public Schools.

Guests: Amy Foley, SHEA President.

Absent: Junoon Giridhar, Student Representative

II. Public Comment: NONE

III. **SHEA Report:** SHEA President, Amy Foley stated she is looking forward to meeting with the district in person Friday, January 6th, 2023. Success was recognized in sitting down at the table together. The tone and conversations that have been exercised have provided clarification and been valuable. Hope for a resolution was expressed.

IV. Routine Items:

A. Approval of Warrants (VOTE)

Date	Number	Amount
December 13, 2022	Warrant #2023-137	\$172,169.99
December 20, 2022	Warrant #2023-146	\$614,568.01
December 22, 2022	Biweekly Payroll	\$752,200.85
January 5, 2023	Biweekly Payroll	\$744,560.93

D. Cooke made a motion to approve warrant #2023-137 dated 12/13/22 in the amount of \$172,169.99, warrant #2023-146 dated 12/20/22 in the amount of \$614,568.01, biweekly payroll dated 12/22/22 in the amount of \$752,200.85 and biweekly payroll dated 1/5/23 in the amount of \$744,560.93.

K. Belanger seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes (VOTE) for 6/30/22, 8/18/22, 9/1/22 & 12/15/22:

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Chairperson Schlachter stated, if everyone has had a chance to look over the minutes and feels comfortable voting on all of them tonight a vote as a group can happen, even if there were meetings where you weren't here. No further discussion.

(VOTE) Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to approve the minutes from 6/30/22, 8/18/22, 9/1/22 and 12/15/22.

Danielle Cooke so moved.

E. Friesner seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

- C. Approval of Budget Transfers (VOTE)** – J. Voyik explained that according to policy it is at the Superintendent's discretion, and they have chosen to bring any budget transfers over \$1,000.00 before the School Committee. She then went on to review two budget transfers for the Committee's approval.

(VOTE) Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to approve the two budget transfers as presented by Jenn Voyik.

K. Belanger so moved.

E. Friesner seconded.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

a. School Committee Liaison Reports

- 1. Negotiations Update** - E. Friesner reiterated what A. Foley shared, meeting of 1/6/23 & 1/11/23.
- 2. Racial Justice Task Force** – D. Cooke plugged the next meeting, 1/18/23 and hoping to review student applications and asked if administration were listening to send out an email blast as a reminder. Any students interested can email a brief statement of interest and a teacher endorsement.

b. Advisory Committees

c. Site-Based Committees

d. Report Of Student Representative: NONE

- e. **Report of the Acting Superintendent:** M. McLaughlin elaborated on a message sent out to families today regarding school lockdown drills and expressed appreciation for the relationship the school district has with the town police department.

- f. **Report of Chair and School Committee:** An overview of the recent Tri Board meeting was given by E. Friesner with a reminder that the Town is busy with budget season.

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- g. **Appreciations:** K. Belanger showed appreciation for Chis Fontaine and the SHPS Principals.
- VI. **Second Reading of Employee Use of Technology Policy:** M. McLaughlin highlighted the addition that was discussed at the first reading addressing this policy in relation to the civility and mutual respect policies.
- VII. **Resignation of Superintendent:** A resignation letter from Jahmal Mosley was received and effective as of 12/31/22 leaving a vacancy to be filled.
- VIII. **Discussion regarding the Superintendent Vacancy and Possible Vote on Interim Superintendent:** Chairperson Schlachter elaborated on the difference between Acting Superintendent and Interim Superintendent. An acting superintendent is appointed due to an extended period of absence. An Interim Superintendent is hired to cover a period while a position is to be filled permanently. Appreciation was extended to Mark McLaughlin for stepping up with remarkable leadership and dedication. Chairperson Schlachter had a chance to discuss M. McLaughlin staying on for the remainder of the school year and he is willing to do so. **(VOTE)** K. Belanger made a motion to extend an offer to Dr. McLaughlin, the office of Interim Superintendent for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year and pending satisfactory negotiation to authorize Allison Schlachter to sign the contract on behalf of the district. E. Friesner seconded.
No further discussion.
Roll call vote: E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke – Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter – Aye.
This motion passed unanimously.
- IX. **Discussion regarding Assistant Superintendent and Possible Vote:** Chairperson explained what the Committee can do about the Assistant Superintendent position. Much discussion regarding procedure, history, and specific positions. **(VOTE)** K. Belanger made a motion to extend an offer to Jenneifer Voyik, the office of Assistant Superintendent and pending satisfactory negotiation to authorize Allison Schlachter to sign the contract on behalf of the district. E. Friesner seconded.
No further discussion.
Roll call vote: E. Friesner – Aye; D. Cooke – Aye; L. Pickbourn – Aye; K. Belanger – Aye & A. Schlachter – Aye.
This motion passed unanimously.
- X. **Information Only:** Monday 1/9/23, papers are available in the Town Clerk’s Office for all elected seats in town.
- XI. **Unfinished Business: NONE**

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XII. New Business: NONE

XIII. Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21, section 2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to adjourn public session at 7:14pm and enter executive session under M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21, section 2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

K. Belanger so moved.

D. Cooke seconded.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

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

Date: 1/25/2023