

# South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

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January 6, 2022

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

Dr. Jahmal Mosley, Superintendent of the South Hadley Public Schools

Jennifer Matos, Assistant Chairperson

Danielle Cooke, Member

Eric Friesner, Member

Kaily Godek, Student Representative

Jennifer Voyik, Business Manager, South Hadley Public Schools

Guests: Amy Foley, SHEA Representative

Principal Elizabeth Wood (SHHS)

Eric Castonguay, Athletic Director

## II. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Schlachter asks for the approval of minutes from October 7, 2021 and December 16, 2021. Danielle Cooke stated that it was a perfect format. Very informative, but not too long. Chairperson Schlachter agreed that they were very detailed, great content and just the right amount. Chairperson Schlachter accepted a motion moved by Danielle Cooke and second by Jen Matos. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously: 4/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner and Schlachter)

## III. Approval of Warrants

Chairperson Schlachter gave the floor to Danielle Cooke as one of our warrant signers.

Danielle Cooke stated that in her current position, she received a promotion. She is supervisor of her entire Behavioral Health Team. When she ran for School Committee she acknowledged that she would not personally work in the district to avoid a conflict of interest. However, now that she supervises people from her company that do work in the district, she can have an indirect conflict with that relationship. She is receiving some guidance from the State Ethics Department on what she can and can't do. But because she is a warrant signing member and some of our warrants pay the company she works for currently, she is going to recuse herself from any

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warrants that do her pay her company; and she will no longer be a warrant signing member of the School Committee anymore. We will have to reassign that just to make sure all the "I's" are dotted and "T's" are crossed. Chairperson Schlachter comments on her gratitude to Danielle Cooke on diligently taking the time to talk to Council, look at the laws and speak with the Attorney General's Office. She asked Eric Friesner if he would step in as the second signer for all of the warrants. She explained to process to him that he will be signing along with Jen Matos. Chairperson Schlachter turns it to Jen Matos for the reading of warrants. Chairperson Schlachter asked for a second. Danielle Cooke interjected that she can vote on the Bi-Weekly Payroll and the December 14<sup>th</sup> Warrant. She wanted to know if we should read those separately and have her vote on that and recuse herself from the others. Or is it clear enough that she is discussing it now.

Motion to approve Warrant for December 14, 2021, #2022-145 and Bi-Weekly Payroll dated December 23, 2021 moved by Jen Matos and seconded by Danielle Cooke. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously 4/0: (Matos, Cooke, Friesner and Schlachter

Chairperson Schlachter requests a motion for the warrants read by Jen Matos # 2022-152 dated December 21, 2021; and 2022-156 dated December 28, 2021. Motion moved by Jen Matos motion to approve and second by Eric Friesner. Motion passed 3/1 (Matos, Friesner and Schlachter / Cooke - abstained)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
December 14, 2021	#2022-145	\$400,968.02
December 21, 2021	#2022-152	\$366,275.02
December 23, 2021	Bi-Weekly	\$757,384.13
December 28, 2021	#2022-156	\$123,223.07

Chairperson Schlachter stated that will go smoothly next time. She will look into the most efficient way going forward. Danielle Cooke stated she will review and discuss with Chairperson Schlachter prior to the meetings when they receive the packets. Chairperson Schlachter suggested that Danielle Cooke should let Jen Matos as she is the reader of the warrants.

#### IV. Reports of Standing Committees

##### Racial Justice Task Force

Jen Matos announced they will have their first meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. They will be meeting the last Wednesday of the month with adjustments when there are any school breaks to give our teachers and administrators on the RJTF a break.

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Principal Wood forward a plan from the Collaborative Education Services on some Social Justice and Diversity trainings, as well as Listening Sessions for the School Committee for administrators and parents. We will be hearing more about that as it's being evolved.

## **Anti-Bullying Coalition**

Danielle Cooke discussed the survey that will be distributed to the participants that have reached out so far. They will set up regularly scheduled meetings.

## **Collective Bargaining**

Eric Friesner stated that the Collective Bargaining for Units A, C, D & E will begin next week.

## **V. Public Comment**

None.

## **VI. Discussion and Action Items**

### **a. SHEA Updates**

Amy Foley provided an update on behalf of Scott Beaulieu, The SHEA President. She thanked Dr. Mosley for stopping by SHHS for a meet and greet with staff. She received some great feedback from the teachers. They appreciate having an open conversation on mold and COVID with the Superintendent. The make-up days discussions have been really collaborative. She believes that many of the teachers picked up the tests on Sunday or they were made available on Monday. They are looking forward to getting the Joint Labor Management Committee up and running again soon. Also, negotiations will start in the next few weeks and working with the district to create an agreement that works for everyone. Chairperson Schlachter thanks the teachers for their hard work.

### **b. Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Jahmal Mosley discussed the "S" word (Snow Days). He typically allows ample times to call the days if he has pertinent and valuable information unless it's too close, he will wait until the morning. He has been tracking the weather and the upcoming snow storm will come down really heavy snow in the morning and have an impact on travel. He has had consultation with other superintendent's all week; and they all try to do the best they can. He has received some emails if they could have snow days as remote days? Not at this time, DESE has not

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approved of it. There has been some discussion around it, which would also need to be discussed with the Union representatives.

He also discussed COVID and how it's affecting us. We are seeing an uptick between staff and students following the holidays and that was to be expected to some degree. He complimented Mary Walsh, our nurses, our teachers and our CNAs for their hard work. He asked that parents register their child for Test & Stay if they have not done so. Another part is that some essential staff have tested positive for COVID, which unfortunately, has made us short staff, including our state assistants and SHPS staff. Please be patient while we work through it. We did offer testing to staff prior to returning to school to make sure that people are safe. He thanked the School Committee, Town Administrator (Lisa Wong) and Selectboard for coming together to assist the community to keep them safe and our students in school. They approved \$35,000 for a Contact Tracer at the last Selectboard meeting. They also advocated for additional testing for the community, which includes are schools as well. Chairperson Schlachter asked for clarification on the Contact Tracer position. Is it a medical or administrative position? Dr. Mosley stated that it's an administrative position to trace individuals that may be in contact with someone who is COVID positive. However, they will need to assist with medical tasks, when necessary. Mark McLaughlin outlined the position further about how many individuals need to be contacted; and how time-consuming / challenging this task can be to contact these individuals, who have first contact. Dr. Mosley states that if it's not done timely, it could impact several people.

The Town is in the process to secure tests for our community to be distributed to our community to test and track for COVID. We also ran another Vaccine Clinic, which we would like to provide once a month if possible, to increase participation. Now ages 12-15 are eligible for vaccination.

In terms of general numbers, we have approximately 100 students and 20 staff members that have been identified with COVID. His hope is that number does not go up any further.

We have had some healthy conversations with Union around COVID. We are planning to implement some steps with students and staff to ensure their safety.

We are going to be starting negotiations. This is very important to us and the district because we want to retain the staff we have and let them know that they have value. We take this serious and we are doing what we can. At times we may experience some staffing shortages, i.e. bus drivers, and we will make the community aware of these challenges. We will make adjustments where necessary. We ask that the community be patient.

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Chairperson Schlachter stated how she feels for everyone who are working overtime during the holidays to keep us safe and making sure that this was distributed by Sunday. She also thanked Lisa Wong and the Selectboard for providing assistance with providing funds for the Contact Tracer position.

## c. South Hadley Schools Personnel Actions

Dr. Mosley requests an approval of the Personnel Actions for the positions outlined by Jennifer Voyik:

- Colleen Chalmers, Special Education Teacher, Mosier
- Loran Carpenter, Reading Intervention Teacher, Plains
- Katie Denison, Paraprofessional, Mosier
- Danielle Viens, Paraprofessional, Mosier
- Upcoming Retirement of Mary Chaffee on April 30, 2022

Danielle Cooke asked about Mary Walsh position change to Director of Health Services. Dr. Mosley explained that Mary Walsh to a non-union position that allows her flexibility outside of her work. She has been functioning like a Director and has kept us up-to-date on the circumstances with COVID at all hours. Of course, now that leaves an opening for our Nurse Leader position.

Chairperson Schlachter will clarify if we need to vote on future School Personnel Actions. She will entertain a motion to accept the Personnel Actions presented; motion moved by Danielle Cooke and second by Eric Friesner. Motion passed unanimously. 4/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner and Schlachter).

## d. Report of the Chair and School Committee

Chairperson Schlachter discussed the Capital Planning Subcommittee. Lisa Wong, Town Administrator, along with Dr. Mosley are initiating a Capital Planning Meeting with School Committee, Capital Planning, Selectboard, possibly Appropriations, etc. which we recently presented Eric Friesner. Chairperson Schlachter was informed that the School Committee members of the Capital Planning committee stay on a full-term of the committee. It doesn't make any sense to her, but that means that Charles Miles and Christine Phillips will stay on as members of the Capital Planning Subcommittee until 2023, even though they are no longer members of the School Committee. Chairperson Schlachter and Dr. Mosley are very confused

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about that... Lisa Wong asked them if they would be interested in resigning from the Capital Planning Committee and each of them were interested in continuing as members. Therefore, Charles Miles and Christine Phillips will be participants until 2023 and School Committee will have to figure out communications. Chairperson Schlachter states that they are wonderful and were great members of the School Committee. However, they need to discuss how they can communicate the needs of the School Committee to these parties.

Chairperson Schlachter stated that today was the last day that someone could submit applications to replace Allyson Garcia on the School Committee. This position will not be completing Allyson Garcia's term (1 year term). Eric Friesner and the new person would be posted on the ballots as incumbent for the School Committee. These applications to run will be available soon.

Chairperson Schlachter had Danielle Cooke to discuss that all of the School Committee Members as Special Municipal Employees. In accordance with Mass. General Laws, to review conflict of interest clause since she works with a company that she may have an indirect conflict of interest when she became a supervisor to employees that work in our district. The State Ethics Commission explained to her that if the School Committee are Special Municipal Employees, they would be unpaid for less than 800 working hours a year. By having that designation, it makes the conflict of interest law less restrictive. The Selectboard did vote to name the School Committee members, Special Municipal Employees, which allows her to do her job and disclose that she could have this indirect benefit. She is still finding more of what that looks like for her. If it is later found that it's a conflict of interest, she would have to unfortunately resign. Chairperson Schlachter appreciates that she has done all of this research to go above and beyond, as well as protect our committee. She is waiting for a final written notification from the State Ethics Commission.

Eric Friesner reminds us that on January 15, 2022, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the community has the Bag the Community Food Drive starting at the high school.

## **e. Report of Student Representative**

Kaily Godek provided information regarding events at each school:

- **Plains**
  - Mr. Skala would like to give a shout out to the following:
    - Joanne Frank and all of the cafeteria staff
    - The bus drivers at Plains
    - And the school secretaries, Deb O'Neil and Susan Callahan

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- **Mosier**
  - Ms. Flynn would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!
- **MESMS**
  - Nothing to report
- **SHHS**
  - ***Athletics***
    - On December 17th, Jonas Clarke, an indoor and outdoor track senior signed his commitment letter to Harvard University for the next 4 years. Congratulations Jonas!
  - **Class of 2022**
    - The Class of 2022 has extra lawn signs and magnets for sale. There are a limited number of signs and magnets up for grabs and it will be first come first serve. Magnets are \$5 and lawn signs are \$15. Please reach out to Kaily Godek at [khgodek2022@student.shschools.com](mailto:khgodek2022@student.shschools.com) or to our class's Instagram page at @shhs\_2022 to get your sign(s) or magnet(s) today.
  - **Class of 2023**
    - The Class of 2023 is currently selling raffle calendars for the month of February. Calendars are \$5 each and checks can be made out to SHHS. If you are interested in purchasing a calendar please reach out to a junior or me and I can get you in contact with a junior class officer.
  - **Music Department**
    - The spring musical, *Into the Woods*, has been casted.
      - Rehearsals for the musical start next week for the show in early May.
  - **StuCo**
    - Bag the Community
      - Joining with community groups across the nation in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's Day of Service, SHHS's Student Council, in conjunction with Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry, is hosting the annual 'Bag the Community' event on Saturday, January 15 from 11:30-3 p.m. at the high school. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be held on Monday, January 17, during the same hours.
      - At the high school, 4 stations will be set up, each representing one of our schools (Plains, Mosier, MESMS, SHHS). You may pick the school through which your donation will be made. The school with the most donations wins!
      - This is a drive-through 'cans and coins' event! We ask that you participate by donating canned goods or cash - whichever suits you best.
      - Please watch for a flier in your water bill for specific details about the food items most needed! If you are donating cash,

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you will note on the flier the tremendous power of giving even \$1. Please mark your calendar and join the fun on January 15 at SHHS! Your neighbors in need greatly appreciate your generosity.

- Professional Development and Training Committee
  - The Professional Development and Training Committee will be working on the Sandy Hook Promise Initiative with Dr. McLaughlin.
- Virtual School Store
  - StuCo is starting to work on creating a district-wide virtual school store with more information coming soon.

## **f. Donations for Best Buddies and SHPS**

Jennifer Voyik provided the donations for consideration by the School Committee.

- A \$500 check to Student Services to be used for Best Buddies program. It is in honor of Evie Holden and all that she does for the program.
- Syntellis Performance Solutions to Michael E. Smith Middle School
  - 2 Gray Laminate Bookcases
  - 2 Wooden Bookcases

Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to accept the donation of \$500 for Evie Holden of Best Buddies; and 4 bookcases from Syntellis Performance Solutions for Michael E. Smith Middle School. Motion moved by Jen Matos and seconded by Eric Friesner. No further discussion. Passed unanimously: 4/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner and Schlachter).

Chairperson Schlachter thanks

## **g. Update policy for disciplinary actions and restorative justice protocols at the elementary school level**

Chairperson Schlachter confirmed that Dr. Mosley will cover all of the school levels. Dr. Mosley discussed the disciplinary actions and restorative justice protocols that are available as policies and procedures in the student handbooks. When we talk about discipline and restorative justice is different according to the grade level. In general, they are organic and updated in conjunction with state laws. We are responsible for bringing them to School Committee for discussion and often times approval.

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Typically, what happens if there's a discipline action at the elementary school, some of the incidences are handled inside of the classroom. For the Mosier School, you will find a lot of them in the student handbook on Page 25 and below. (handbooks attached) It talks about matters that typically the teachers handle and what the actions may be, which range from a discussion to detention and sometimes more intervention from the principal. At Michael E. Smith Middle School, depending on the infraction, the principal will usually handle that (the teacher will handle it too), and you will find that practice going through high school level. What type of discipline requires restorative justice? What types of procedures and policies do we typically practice?

This will range on the situation and who and number of students that was involved:

### **Mosier Elementary School**

- Parent contacted
- Discussion about what happened
- Remedies to prevent it from happening again
- More than one person involved, there is a restorative justice or conversation facilitated with either teacher, principal and/or counselor
- We did hire an additional counselor to help with mental health and to resolve issues

### **Michael E. Smith Middle School**

- Parent contacted
- Discussion about what happened
- Who was involved in the incident
- Remedies to prevent it from happening again
- Does it warrant discipline or restorative justice

### **South Hadley High School School**

- Parent contacted
- Discussion about what happened
- Who was involved in the incident
- Remedies to prevent it from happening again
- Does it warrant discipline or restorative justice

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Not every single incident if there are two people involved will result in a restorative justice. Sometimes the other party is not ready to do it. In restorative justice, there's a mutual understanding on how this will play out and how it can be resolved. We also want to make sure that parents are involved in the situation. When we talk about discipline, it's based on the developmental level, based on the infraction and the best way to keep everyone safe and informed. Every situation has a very different feel to it.

They want to make sure that the parents are involved in it. Discipline is based on the developmental level, student's readiness, the infraction and the best way to keep everyone safe and informed. Every single piece has a very different feel to it. When we have serious matters that our kids know about, our parents know about, it becomes more complicated. We try to make the parents informed of what has taken place. We try to inform them in a way that students are safe; we're taking the necessary steps. If their child was directly or indirectly involved, the safety procedures that we take seriously to avoid the incident from taking place.

### Administration Tasks when Notified of an Incident

1. Find out who is involved;
2. Document it;
3. Contact the parents;
4. Communicate consequences to person and/or parents;
5. Talk to victim(s) involved;
6. Put safety plans in place to make sure it doesn't happen again;
7. Give enough information to the parents to make sure they know that we have followed through
8. Communication on how that victim is feeling and they're safe

It does get complicated when student's have special services or medical challenges, it is factored into discipline or restorative justice practices. Some of the students don't understand the procedures and the outcome of restorative justice and we make sure that our counselors or an ally of those students can come in to help them understand the situation.

At the high school level, it's much more structured. Some high school students are not ready or willing to do restorative justice that's available to them as well. We follow the procedures and come to a resolution. When you talk about contact, bullying, etc., it's very complicated. Some of these issues are increased due to social media influences. Sometimes it can take quite a while to resolve matters. This has been something that has affected our schools locally and throughout the community.

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We realize that these matters are stressful for our kids and faculty. We would like to look at incidents and how we can prevent from it happening again? What are the triggers and environmental pieces that cause a lot of these challenges for our kids?

Jen Matos asked when it comes time to decide what type of discipline, is that up to an individual or is it up to a team? What training and education have they received in place of bias to make sure that they're checking in to make sure they are making the right calls when making that decision? Dr. Mosley responded that the Assistant Principal and the Principal are the primary persons responsible to delve out the consequences. What they should be doing is listening and being advised by case and management workers who understand and know the kids (i.e., 504 plan or special education plan), so when a consequence is rolled out that it's not in violation of anything that is documented. Sometimes the administrators don't always get it right. The parent's do have the right to appeal the suspension or the consequence, which will be brought to the Superintendent, and he can look at it for the right decision that's in question.

Jen Matos continued how is bias training being implemented so that they are placed in check? Dr. Mosley states that they all need additional training in this area including himself. It's hard for people to admit that they have bias and the practice of our professional development to make sure as teachers and educators that we all check bias. He believes that it should be an annual training and he thinks that we can get better at it.

Mark McLaughlin appreciates the honest discussions of these matters. He is not criticizing anything in the past but, there has been no history of training of restorative justice in this district. This means that we are starting something that this community has not seen before in not just the administrators, but also the community. He has had several conversations about restorative consequences. There is work to do at the administrative and community level of what that means and the value of these trainings. They were on the phone with The Collaborative regarding professional development. We need to involve the community.

Chairperson Schlachter stated that restorative justice has been a conversation for the last couple years at the high school. She believes that Liz Wood and Patrick Lemieux are Restorative Justice Trainers. She could be wrong... but they planned to work with the middle school administrators. She confirmed that it has not gone down to the middle and elementary schools yet. Plains has a very complete social and emotional (P.A.W.S.) program. She believes that the Mosier and MESMS that we have talked in past meetings that we need to have some type of framework around. Danielle Cooke recognizes that we have had this repetitive conversation in this area for Mosier and MESMS. She would like our handbooks more accessible on our website; and team supports for students who don't have special services support in place. There seems a drop-off after Plains. Her main question is can we make the student handbooks accessible to the community?

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Dr. Mosley stated that even if they had that training, it's important to have a refresher in these conversations.

Danielle Cooke appreciates the discussion. She is impressed with the teachers and staff at Mosier and MESMS, but he wanted to make sure that they systems should be in place even if the administrators change. Chairperson Schlachter appreciates this discussion and hopes that this will start to inform the actions in the buildings.

### **h. COVID Updates and Staffing**

Dr. Mosley covered this in the Superintendent discussion. Chairperson Schlachter asked about protocol on distancing children. The close contact numbers are high everywhere. What are the expectations moving forward in schools? Dr. Mosley discussed when there was a hybrid version offered it was easier to implement those safety protocols. He will reach out to the administrators to make sure that some of the initial protocols are reinstated in the future. Masking is helpful, but the virus is spreading throughout the school system. It's not mandated, but we are doing the best that we can to our ability.

Chairperson Schlachter follow-up question was do we have enough KN95 masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning solutions, etc. She just wants to make sure that supplies are easily accessible. Dr. Mosley confirms that we don't have enough tests, but we do have KN95 masks and hand sanitizers. Jennifer Voyik confirms that there are plenty of cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers. The nurses keep her updated when they need masks or other supplies. As a staff we have been keeping on top of supplies and making sure that we have alternatives, if necessary.

Danielle Cooke asked if it's too late for Pool Testing other than Test & Stay? Will there be access to other types of masks, i.e., KN95? Dr. Mosley is looking into all types of testing available from the State. Pool Testing was discussed in conjunction with other area schools (Granby, Northampton, etc.). We don't have a mandate for types of masks. We have several boxes. Jennifer Voyik confirms that we are providing KN95 masks to each of the teachers so they can have a pack each week in their mailboxes. Dr. Mosley states that we are reaching out to the Town to assist the community and the schools. Mark McLaughlin stated that if the School Committee would like us to pursue Pool Testing, it would probably be best to get Mary Walsh to be part of this conversation. He states that Pool Testing has some significant limitations, and we end up doing the amount of testing that we need to do in Test & Stay. If the School Committee wants us to do that we will research it. However, Test & Stay seems to be the best direction to keep students in school. Also, the availability of tests and the availability to find people to help us test has substantially reduced in the past few days. Chairperson Schlachter asked if any districts are doing Test & Stay and Pool Testing? Mark McLaughlin states that he doesn't believe so at this

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time. He also provides detailed information on the difference between Test & Stay vs. Pool Testing. He believes that the Nurse Leader, Mary Walsh was not supportive of Pool Testing, but he will discuss it with her and ask that she present her position on it because something may have changed. Also, that's her previous position and if the School Committee disagrees, they will look into options. Eric Friesner and Chairperson Schlachter agree that they would defer to her judgment as long as we are doing everything that we can do.

Kaily Godek asked how many staff members have been absent. Dr. Mosley confirmed that he can't provide the number of staff members that are out of the office, but he can confirm that twenty (20) are absent due to COVID-19.

Also, Dr. Mosley wants to reiterate that we are not looking to get rid of the Test & Stay program. The State has provided us with employees to provide the Test & Stay process and he does not want to jeopardize them in any way. If Pool Testing is an addition, that's okay, but he strongly recommends that we don't get rid of Test & Stay. It is still working. Chairperson Schlachter confirmed that they all agree that Test & Stay program should stay and we should look into Pool Testing as an additional option.

### **i. Athletic Teams – COVID Competition Updates**

Dr. Mosley referred to Principal Liz Wood and the Athletic Director, Eric Castonguay, to discuss the updates on the athletic teams. Some of our teams have been put on paused due to players testing positive. Some of our practices and games have been postponed until we can get the numbers down. Our hockey team is co-op. We share the hockey team with Granby and some of their players. It's not only a South Hadley matter, but it can sometimes cross into different communities.

Principal Liz Wood stated that it's important to know that athletes that are participating in Test & Stay are continuing to test, even on the weekends. That's an extra layer of safety that they put in place. Some teams had been put on pause falling the winter break for the safety of our students to prevent close contact or for those who have tested positive. "A pause" is just as Dr. Mosley said, it's not a cancellation of games or tournaments. What it is an extension of... What we're looking to do is reschedule the games that we had to miss because we have been unable to field the whole team; or we have not been able to appropriately contact trace before an event happens. We are working collaboratively to make sure that our students health and safety remain in place, as well as providing the extra-curricular activities that they need to continue socialization. Some of our local games are impacted by what other local towns are doing. If another town decides to pause their sports, we obviously don't have those teams to compete against. If a pause happens, the players are notified by their coach. If a longer pause happens, Principal Wood sends

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an email out to the families and athletes acknowledging the pause and return to play dates to make sure that students are properly quarantining. Chairperson Schlachter asked if Eric Castonguay, Athletic Director, would be joining us. Principal Wood stated that he is online, but he is monitoring a basketball game and helping with the Vaccine Clinic so he may not receive a signal or able to hear in the gym. Principal Wood wanted to thank Sarah Smith and Mary Walsh for their work. They are working collaboratively to make sure of our students' safety; and she can't stress that enough.

Kaily Godek asked if team captains are being notified if they are in close contact after a game has happened? Principal Wood confirmed that contact tracing is a difficult thing. They are working closely with coaches with attendance and close contact. They have been working with coaches and any student that is deemed closed contact in our school as well as extra-curricular activities are being notified.

Dr. Mosley asked that Principal Wood elaborate on some of the preparations that we are doing for extra-curricular activities. She continued that they have been monitoring extra-curricular activity, not particular to athletics. At the high school, when we contact trace a student, we are actually seeing them for the seven (7) period classes they attend, an advisory period, a lunch period and any extra directed study or extra-curricular activity they participate in. Sometimes they have to rely on the student to self-report proximity at an extra-curricular activity but attendance is being kept and monitored so that people are being notified. They maintain HIPAA confidentiality when providing close-contact information. Student safety is important, so we are monitoring all extra-curricular activities.

Danielle Cooke thanks Principal Wood for all that they are doing so our kids have extra-curricular activities. Principal Wood stated that this is interesting because we didn't have a winter sports last year. Being indoors certainly places another layer of concern on everything. We continue to work with the PVIC and MIAA for guidelines change; student athletes returning to play; and those governing bodies on spectators. Those could be progressing as the seasons move on for all of our activities.

### **VII. Information Only**

None.

### **VIII. Unfinished Business**

None.

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**IX. New Business**

None.

Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion by Jen Matos and second by Eric Friesner to adjourn. Kaily reiterated Bag the Community donations. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner and Schlachter) With no further business to discuss, the School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Stevenson  
Executive Assistant, South Hadley Public Schools.

Reviewed and Approved by,  
Allison Schlachter  
Chair, South Hadley School Committee  
Date: February 3, 2022