

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 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

Lynda Pickbourn, Member

Kaily Godek, Student Representative

Jennifer Voyik, Business Manager, South Hadley Public Schools

Absent: Amy Foley, President of SHEA

II. Appointing Warrant Signature Alternate

Chairperson Schlachter discussion the appointment of the warrants to replace their alternate signer. Currently, Jennifer Matos and Eric Friesner are the signers of warrants. Chairperson Schlachter asked Lynda Pickbourn to be alternate warrant signature. She agreed and will be trained by Jennifer Voyik.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Schlachter discussed the January 6, 2022 and January 20, 2022 minutes that were provided to the School Committee for review. Lynda Pickbourn just came online with her email so she had a correction to the first page. There was an error that she has one child, not two. Minutes were corrected by Christina Stevenson, Executive Assistant to Superintendent immediately. Chairperson Schlachter requested a motion to approve the minutes, it was moved by Lynda Pickbourn and seconded by Eric Friesner. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter).

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

IV. Approval of Warrants

Jennifer Matos read the approval of warrants. Chairperson Schlachter stated that Danielle Cooke would not be able to vote on one of the warrants. Jen Matos confirmed that Danielle Cooke would not be able to vote on the January 25, 2022 warrant. Jen Matos made a motion for warrant on January 18, 2022 and Bi-Weekly Payroll on January 20, 2022. It was moved by Jen Matos and second by Danielle Cooke. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter).

Jen Matos made a motion for warrant on January 25, 2022. It was moved by Jen Matos and second by Lynda Pickbourn. No further discussion. Motion passed: 4/1 (Matos, Cooke-Abstain, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter).

Date	Number	Amount
January 18, 2022	Warrant #2022-172	\$116,654.54
January 20, 2022	Bi-Weekly Payroll	\$760,158.92
January 25, 2022	Warrant #2022-180	\$354,031.30

V. Reports of Standing Committees

Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Eric Friesner stated that negotiations are in process and he has nothing to report at this point. He's not sure if he needs to bring it up at every meeting. Chairperson Schlachter believes that if there's anything the public needs to know in this forum, he can report it. Eric Friesner states they are just getting started and nothing to report yet.

Budget

The Budget subcommittee will be meeting soon. Currently they have Danielle Cooke and Eric Friesner on the committee. Chairperson Schlachter provided the chance for anyone to change committees and/or withdraw from a subcommittee. Danielle Cooke asked to step down. Chairperson Schlachter asked if Lynda Pickbourn would be willing to take her place due to her background in economics on this committee. Ms. Pickbourn agreed to join the Budget subcommittee and will reach out to Dr. Mosley and Jennifer Voyik to schedule a meeting. Dr. Mosley appreciates all the help and expertise to get the budget started for the Town; and he plans to discuss it more later in the meeting.

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

Anti-Bullying Coalition

Chairperson Schlachter says they had a lot of outreaches for the Anti-Bullying Coalition and they are very grateful for the connections. However, something they were not expecting was that people have been reaching out with some personal story. The Coalition is not built to intervene with personal stories. Any issues involving a child in bullying is a building-based priority so our school administrators along with our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent take the lead on those things.

Chairperson Schlachter will review with Danielle Cooke on where they should go from here with regards to the Coalition that is effective but stays in their lane as the School Committee. Although it's wonderful to be in a group that can share experiences, but we need to be careful about privacy. They are going to look at the plan and look at the best course of action. They will email the individuals that asked to participate in the Coalition. Danielle Cooke says that they want it to be a safe place, but also successful.

Superintendent Goals

Chairperson Schlachter stated that they will place this item on hold until Dr. Mosley, Jen Matos and the Chairperson can meet one more time prior to the next School Committee Meeting.

Racial Justice Task Force

Danielle Cooke was able to attend her first meeting of the RJTF and it was a very welcoming group. They talked about spring goals and upcoming trainings.

SIDE NOTE: Danielle Cooke confirms that she has been approved by the Selectboard to stay on the School Committee.

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Discussion and Action Items

a. SHEA Updates

None.

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

b. Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Mosley provided his report on the following:

- **Ice Day on Friday, February 4, 2022:** He confirmed with the DPW that the temperatures are decreasing in order to keep students safe and to allow parents to obtain childcare and provisions.
- **Black History Month:** Celebration and acknowledgement of African-American contributions.
- **Professional Development Day:** Dr. Mark McLaughlin and our staff provided social and emotional growth during the January 27, 2022 event. It's an ongoing conversation how we can better understand our kids social, emotional needs and growth, particularly coming back from COVID. This program was facilitated by The Collaborative and other resources to help teachers better understand our kids and their needs.
- **Sandy Hook** will be discussed by Kailey Godek, Student Representative
- **Distribution of Free COVID-19 Tests:** Dr. McLaughlin, Jennifer Voyik, Principal Elizabeth Wood, Patrick Lemieux and Mary Walsh, Nurse Leader assisted in passing out the free COVID Test kits to parents who completed the consent forms (see attached flyer). This has been a prestigious undertaking but since we have so many dedicated people that really want to make this work... Last Wednesday, we did a Public Forum for the community of South Hadley explaining our updates to protocols and procedures regarding the tests. We are only following what DESE gives us. The good news is that they gave us tests for our staff and students. The challenging part is staying on top of all of this as fast as we can. All the communications of Superintendent Mosley, the presentation provided at the forum, as well as other information is located on the SHPS website under the "COVID tab". Dr. Mosley states that you do not have to provide any negative test results. You will need to follow protocols if you have a positive test result.
- **Budget Process:** This will be discussed more later in the meeting. However, Internal Budget discussions around priorities according to buildings, our needs, our students and according to contracts. Those conversations have already started and continue to take place. There will be a preliminary overview with more to come and get some feedback. They are looking forward that everyone gets the financial support that they deserve.
- **Tri-Board Meeting:** He finds it to be very helpful and he is very pleased with Chapter 70 Budget. What he took away from the meeting is that South Hadley is all in this together. There were some conversations about Capital

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

Improvement – Facilities; Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities; as well as some opportunities to cross pollenate some activities with other departments. (i.e. DEI). Anytime we can share responsibilities with proper support. He believes it's a great opportunity. He thanked Lisa Wong for her leadership, her feedback and perspective. He is optimistic and hopeful that we will be able to do some exciting things.

- **Visit from State Representative Carey:** He came to our schools just before the Christmas break and spent two (2) hours in our buildings touring and asking questions. Representative Carey asked “How can I be helpful?” and “What do you need?” He was willing to advocate at the state level the needs for South Hadley Public Schools.

c. South Hadley Schools Personnel Actions

Chairperson Schlachter states that she was able to confirm from Liz LaFond that we only need to vote on Personnel Actions when we are hiring someone whose job is considered more under their responsibility. It's at the School Committee discretion. The list as follows:

- Special Education Director
- Nursing Staff
- School Physician
- Business Manager
- Assistant Superintendent

Jennifer Voyik provided the certified staff appointment of floating nurse staff, Brittany O'Neill and Kelley Blaser. She also mentioned the appointment of Kindergarten Teacher, Catriona Buckley, as well as the retirement of Joseph Dragon, Jr., SHHS English Teacher and Elizabeth Bach, MESMS Science Teacher.

Chairperson Schlachter requested a motion to approve that was moved by Danielle Cooke and seconded by Jen Matos. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter).

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

d. Report of the Chair and School Committee

Chairperson Schlachter thanked Dr. Mosley for his report and agreed with the information with regards to the Tri-Board Meeting. She outlined the members of the Tri-Board as follows: Jahmal Mosley (Leader of the Schools); Allison Schlachter and Jennifer Matos (Chair and Vice Chair of School Committee); Town Administrator Lisa Wong and Selectboard Chair and Vice Chair; and the Town Accountant with Appropriations Chair and Vice Chair. They are coming together to look at this Town as a whole. They will be doing it monthly.

She discussed the Test Distribution briefly and able to see members of the District in person. Danielle Cooke provides her appreciation to the District Leaders. Lynda Pickbourn asked if there are plans to decentralize the process in the future. Dr. Mosley responded that it was easier to do this first round at the high school because it was centrally located and where the tests were delivered, however, they will be looking into other options for future distributions. Dr. Mark McLaughlin stated that an unexpected benefit was that Mary Walsh was there to answer parent's questions, which would make it difficult if we decentralized. Many factors are still being considered. Chairperson Schlachter thanked the nursing team for all they do for taking care of their kids. She knows it has been extra hard and it's appreciated.

e. Report of Student Representative

Kaily Godek provided the following information with regards to the South Hadley Public Schools:

- **Plains**
 - Classes at Plains are excited to be celebrating the 100th day of school. This is a beloved practice that teachers at Plains do annually to add some excitement and fun to learning times to the weekly routine.
- **Mosier**
 - Ms. Flynn would like to congratulate Ms. Bishop and all of the students who did a wonderful job singing the national anthem last Friday night.
- **MESMS**
 - Nothing to Report
- **SHHS**
 - Athletics
 - Senior Nights for the winter sports season are coming up:
 - Swimming had their senior today 2/3/22 at 4:30 this afternoon vs. Renaissance at HHS

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

- Wednesday 2/16, Girls Basketball vs. Agawam JV 5:30 and Varsity 7 at SHHS
 - Wednesday, 2/16 Hockey vs. Agawam Varsity 8 at Fitzpatrick Arena in Holyoke
 - Thursday 2/17, Boys Basketball vs. Granby JV 5:30 and Varsity 7 at SHHS
- **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 or to our class's Instagram page at @shhs_2022 to get your sign(s) or magnet(s) today.
 - **Congratulations**
 - Congratulations to high school senior, Khadeejah Abbasi for winning the 2022 Poetry Out Loud Contest!
 - Congratulations to high school senior, Brennan McGrevy for winning the 2022 Lions Youth Speech!
 - **CTEC Student of the Month**
 - Congratulations to CTEC Student of the Month in Early Education Aliviah Houle.
 - **NHS**
 - NHS started a pizza and cookie dough fundraiser through Hillside Pizza now through 2/28.
 - **Positivity Committee**
 - The Positivity Committee is back up and running, and has brought back the take one leave one sticky note project on a bulletin board in the high school.
 - **Sandy Hook Promise Initiative**
 - On Tuesday 2/1, students at SHHS participated in the first part of two trainings in the Sandy Hook Promise Initiative called *Start with Hello*. In the training students learned about how to recognize loneliness and social isolation, and how to help others who feel lonely and socially isolated.
 - **Student Council**
 - Bag the Community
 - Due to a significant increase of COVID infections in our community, the annual 'Bag the Community' event scheduled for January 15th was postponed. The Student Council of SHHS will be hosting a replacement community activity when the current health risks are eliminated. Unfortunately, the needs of

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

our neighbors cannot be postponed. Please consider a donation to Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. For more information about the pantry, visit: <http://www.nhnfoodpantry.org/> Thank you for your patience and your generosity during these challenging times.

- **Virtual District Wide School Store**
 - Student Council is starting to work on creating a district-wide virtual school store with more information coming soon.
- Shout out to Kyle Zych, a graduate of SHHS who will be competing in the 2022 Winter paralympic games.

f. South Hadley Public School Budget

Dr. Mosley and Jennifer Voyik provided a presentation on the provisional FY23 Budget Overview. The following questions and comments were discussed following the presentation:

Questions/Comments

- Mark McLaughlin expanded on Esser Funds. When applying for Esser 3 Funds, you need to demonstrate that ten (10%) percent of the money allocated to learning loss, particularly that some students suffered more because they were disenfranchised students. The listing of that would be student of color, student of lower economic background, LGBTQ. It would not be possible to ignore that and put that money towards another thing. We are required to do that so you will see a Learning Loss Specialist or Diversity Coordinator. They are wonderful ideas and the result of the superintendent's vision for the district, as well as a requirement for the grant. So to clarify, some of these moneys could not be diverted for another use because of that requirement.
- Eric Friesner asked if there is any talk of a fourth round of Esser Funds? We are relying heavily on Esser Funds. Has this been a discussion that is happening.
 - Jennifer Voyik confirmed that there are not talks of additional funds at this time.
- Lynda Pickbourn requested clarification if some of the full-time positions that the district is requesting part of the twelve that they mentioned or is that completely separate?
 - Dr. Mosley confirmed that it's completely separate. We still have two years on that, but two years from now we will have to take a look at it.

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

- Chairperson Schlachter stated that it sounds like we need to have two different budgets like if we received the funds or if we didn't receive the funds.
 - Dr. Mosley believes this is a discussion for the Budget Subcommittee meeting and review all of the scenarios and what is the reality of the budget.
 - Jennifer Voyik confirmed that she has multiple budgets with different levels of funding. It's important to understand if we only get X amount of dollars how does that effect the district. It's important that you as the school committee know that and also the community knows that because when we are not able to provide certain services and we have to cut certain positions, it's all a domino effect. If we create multiple budgets, we need to know what happens with each one.
 - Dr. Mosley confirmed that this is a five-year budget. Each year something is going to happen. We are already behind in the race and just trying to catch up. We have to think about how we have to get where we want to be as a district.
- Chairperson Schlachter thinks that we should bring this to Town Meeting Members.
- Kaily Godek asked if the pool at the Middle School has been a topic at the Tri-Board meetings?
 - Chairperson Schlachter confirmed that it has been a topic and stated that there are some capital improvement items that are first in line before the pool.

g. Superintendent Goal Presentation

As previously mentioned by Chairperson Schlachter this will be postponed until the next meeting.

h. School Calendar 2022-2023

Chairperson Schlachter has no discussion at this time. Dr. Mosley will try to provide a draft in the next few weeks. Danielle Cooke is appreciative of early discussion so that parents can plan for Professional Development early release days. She would like to have them more predictable. There was discussion about holidays (i.e. Christmas holiday) to extend them to longer periods due to COVID. Jen Matos discussed other religious holidays that are observed during that timeframe. Dr. Mosley states that we do allow observance of other religious holidays and be mindful of others in line with our DEI Statement.

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

VIII. Information Only

None.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

Chairperson Schlachter entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion moved by Jen Matos and second by Lynda Pickbourn. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter)

With no further business to discuss, the School Committee Meeting adjourned at 8:06 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 17, 2022