

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Public Budget Hearing

March 28, 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; Mark McLaughlin, Interim Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools; and Jennifer Voyik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations for South Hadley Public Schools.

Absent: Kyle Belanger, Member.

II. Budget Hearing

A. Budget Presentation (filed with original minutes) Mark McLaughlin & Jenn Voyik presented a slideshow. Goals, drivers, decision points and supplements were explained. Student enrollment from 2018 to this current school year was discussed. Special Education Tuition History was reviewed along with negotiated contracts. M. McLaughlin relayed some decision points such as timeliness, hierarchy of needs and economics of scale. J. Voyik showed the District State Funding over the past nine years. The Town and School District collaboration addressed extraordinary needs and produced a creative use of grant funds to supplement the local budget. An explanation of leveraging ESSER and ARPA funds to support FY24 budget priorities. Questions were asked by School Committee Members and Mark and Jenn provided answers.

B. Budget Public Comment: None

C. Discussion & Vote: No further discussion.

(VOTE) Chair Schlachter entertained a motion to accept the FY24 School Department's Budget request of \$24,526,460.00 as presented tonight.

Danielle Cooke so moved.

Eric Friesner seconded.

Friesner – Aye; Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; & Schlachter – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

III. Information Only: Danielle Cooke shared the transgender day of visibility is Friday, March 24, 2023.

IV. Unfinished Business: None

V. New Business: None

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Chair Schlachter entertained a motion to adjourn.

Lynda Pickbourn so moved.

Danielle Cooke seconded.

Friesner – Aye; Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; & Schlachter – Aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

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