

# South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

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March 31, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

## I. Call to Order

Noticing a quorum, Vice Chairperson, Jennifer Matos 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: Jennifer Matos, Vice Chairperson

Danielle Cooke, Member

Eric Friesner, Member

Lynda Pickbourn, Member

Kaily Godek, Student Representative

Mark McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent of the South Hadley Public Schools

Jennifer Voyik, Business Manager, South Hadley Public Schools

Guests: Robert Stackow, SHEA Representative

Absent: Allison Schlachter, Chairperson

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

Amy Foley, SHEA President

Jennifer Matos, Vice Chairperson, explained the absence of Chairperson Schlachter who was attending and managing the concessions for the Lion King, Jr. performance of the Michael E. Smith Middle School, that her child is participating this weekend. Vice Chair Matos also has a child in the cast and will be attending these performances. She gave information about performance dates and times at South Hadley High School.

## II. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairperson Jen Matos confirmed the review of the minutes for March 3, 2022, and March 17, 2022. She entertained a motion from Danielle Cooke to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Lynda Pickbourn. No further discussion. Motion passed: 4/0 (Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

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### III. Approval of Warrants

Danielle Cooke read for approval the following Warrants and Bi-Weekly Payroll. Danielle Cooke made a motion for eligible school committee members to approve Warrant #2022-219 dated March 15, 2022, which was second by Eric Friesner. No further discussion. 3/1 (Cooke (Abstain), Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

Danielle Cooke made a motion for approval of Bi-Weekly Payroll dated March 17, 2022, and Warrant #2022-223 dated March 22, 2022, which was second by Eric Friesner.

Danielle Cooke asked if the Atlas Technical for the high school company. She didn't notice it before. Jennifer Voyik confirmed that was for the testing of the mold remediation for all of the schools. There will be one more Atlas that will be coming out in a much smaller amount for the final testing of the weight room.

No further discussion. Motion passed: 4/0 (Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
March 15, 2022	Warrant #2022-219	\$170,947.22
March 17, 2022	Bi-Weekly Payroll	\$760,561.99
March 22, 2022	Warrant #2022-223	\$102,586.64

### IV. Reports of Standing Committees

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

#### Racial Justice Task Force

Vice Chairperson Matos states that the Racial Justice Task Force yesterday after a hiatus due to scheduling. They're next step will be scheduling an in-person meeting to discuss how they want to move forward, and their initiatives will be for the upcoming school year.

She also mentioned that this Saturday begins Ramadan and today is the Transgender Day of Visibility. She mentioned to all the families and the students that we see you and we love you very much.

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## Anti-Bullying Coalition

Danielle Cooke states that they have not had the first meeting of the Anti-Bullying Coalition. They are still looking for staff interest in elementary and middle schools. They have a growing number of parents that are waiting to get started, but they need to round it out with the rest.

## **V. Public Comment**

Vice Chairperson Matos reviewed the Public Comment policy and opened the floor to the following:

### Thomas Klasek

Thomas Klasek greeted the committee and thanked them for their hard work in representing the town and school's interest in keeping our schools running and functioning properly. He states that it's no small task and recognizes their efforts. He came before them as a teacher of the Michael E. Smith Middle School to share with them that currently the morale from the staff is very low. They have lost six (6) full-time teaching positions over the past two (2) years. They do not currently have enough substitute teachers. Their paraprofessionals are rarely in their assigned positions as they keep getting pulled to act as substitute teachers. Over the past two (2) years they have put in countless additional hours into our student needs with the pandemic and remote learning. They had to completely relearn to do their jobs online. They have received a lot of thanks from the School Committee, from the Town and from the parents. They are very much appreciative, but he's there to tell them that they cannot eat thanks. Inflation has been very high this year and the average person's standard of living has changed. He's here to tell you that just saying thanks after what they have been through is no longer feeling sufficient.

Anyone who has children or works in education knows that students can't learn and be their best selves when they are worried about meeting their basic needs, like food and shelter. He wants to inform them that the teachers are no different. His ability to attend to his students' needs depends on whether or not he can take care of himself and his family. So he asks the School Committee to support our students, to support the South Hadley Schools by providing the funds to maintain an appropriate level of staff to keep the schools functioning appropriately; to pay teachers what they are worth; or if nothing else, to not let inflation outpace the adjustments to our salaries so they don't have to sacrifice any more than they already have to for the past two (2) years.

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### Larry Sullivan

Larry Sullivan is one of the Special Education Paraprofessionals at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. He has worked for the school system for the past eighteen (18) years. In those years, he has only one time seen for himself or heard of a School Committee member coming into their schools during the day and spending the day with us, so they can see for themselves, what actually goes on in the school on a daily basis. He doesn't understand how a committee who's members sole responsibility is the welfare of our school can possibly make decisions when you in fact have very little idea of what goes on in our school on a daily basis. He would like to encourage this committee to take the time to come into their school; spend the day with us (not just an hour); and see for yourselves the atmosphere of the schools and what's going on. If you really want to know what's going on with our schools, you should sit down with the paraprofessionals. They are the one staff members, other than the administration, who on a daily basis work with every teacher at every grade level, many of us work with multiple grade levels all in the same day. They work with every arts block teacher, every counselor, every specialist, the nursing staff, the custodial staff, front office staff – they do lunch duty and recess duty. They help our kids on and off the buses. They are like the downtown staff of Downton Abbey that know all the secrets. Unfortunately, get paid about as much as a maid in 1915. He thinks that this is a problem that they are going to run into because there are a number of veteran paraprofessionals that are pretty much done with this gig and find that there's very little incentive to keep going. When those paraprofessionals leave, when that experience from 10, 15, 20 and 30 years walks out the door. That is irreplaceable.

Vice Chairperson Matos addressed Dr. McLaughlin that she has received an invitation to sit in a classroom for part of the day, but she wanted to know the process to accept invitations from schools. Dr. McLaughlin stated that the most important thing to do after an invitation is received is to communicate with the principal of the school just to confirm that the day that you agreed to attend would be a good day. There are some things that an educator, para-educator or classroom teacher would not know, for instance if a fire drill is planned. You might make a plan and you may be interrupted by something that nobody would know, but the principal. For that it would be helpful to pass it along so they could approve, but in most cases, they would be delighted to have you. Other than that, he is sure that all is welcome. In general, unannounced visits may seem really great and it usually is, but it can be unsuspectedly off-putting as well. However, he believes that people are more than willing to accommodate.

Vice Chairperson Matos stated that if Mr. Sullivan wants to send an invitation to the School Committee, she believes that one-on-one helps to individualize that experience at the schools. She requests that an invitation be sent to their emails and based on their schedules they will make it happen.

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Danielle Cooke said when they were running their campaign, they wanted to have access to the schools, but they had to see what that looked like policy wise so they could get in the door. Inviting Town Member is different than inviting School Committee member. They want to be in there as much as possible. Please send invitations.

Lynda Pickbourn wanted to clarify whether they need to wait for an invitation or could they reach out to a principal to have a visit of the schools. Dr. McLaughlin confirmed that was an option and the principal would be an appropriate point of contact.

Kaily Godek stated that they should feel free to come visit her in some of her classes.

### VI. Discussion and Action Items

#### a. SHEA Updates

Amy Foley, SHEA President, was unable to attend this meeting as she is also a proud Lion King, Jr. parent. Robert Stackow represented SHEA on Ms. Foley's behalf. He thanked all of them for their hard work. He realizes that it's an incredibly challenging time to work in any aspect in public education. He gave a quick update on SHEA matters. He thinks the biggest issue is their ongoing contract negotiations. The good news is that they're making progress. They have a lot of items that they already agree on and a lot of tentative agreements. Our bargaining units are feeling really good. We're really enjoying the back and forth with Ms. Voyik and Eric Friesner and everyone else. They feel like they're working as partners to work out something. They all have the same goal in mind, to provide the best education for the students of South Hadley, Massachusetts. They know that working together is something that is incredibly important.

He also gave some content for the new committee members that have not been around very long. He had something that he planned to say but after hearing Mr. Klansek, he doesn't think he could upstage that... He thinks that Mr. Klansek gave a pretty good synopsis of where people are at, and he thinks that's important for people to know. Their members think that it's important to know where they are coming from as we move forward in these negotiations. One thing that he would mention that Mr. Klansek didn't is that our district hasn't had a meaningful increase in over ten (10) years. We're talking about increases of one (1%) percent. Their members are really looking for a good faith effort. They're really willing to put forth a good faith effort in this as well. They want to be partners in this, and they want to make sure that's the sentiment going forward. They don't view this as an adversarial endeavor. They want to work together to make something happen. Teachers work environments are students learning environments. When they start talking about wages, they know that's a hard thing and they're really not trying to make up for ten (10)

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years of stagnant wages all at once. They're looking to make some incremental changes in the right direction and make the educators in South Hadley feel they're valued. We know that you value them.

Vice Chairperson Matos thanked him for being at the meeting. She appreciated the continuous use of the word's "partner". We all want the same thing. The bottom line is for teachers to feel appreciated and for students and staff to get what they need.

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

Dr. Mark McLaughlin stated that our COVID cases have up ticked slightly in the last week or so. It's just a reminder that as much as we would like this terrible thing to be behind us completely, it's not. The changes in weather and mask mandates could believe us all that it is behind us, but it isn't. If we don't mention it, we would be doing a disservice to the community. It might suggest that silence means there's nothing to be paying attention to and there still is... We have two obligations: (1) To educate our students; and (2) To keep our students safe. It's not just our students, it's our staff as well. Recently, there are occasions when symptomatic students are coming to school. We welcome all students but we're not in a place now that if a symptomatic student is in school that they are not potentially exposing their peers or their teachers to this illness. That's a community responsibility.

Our Professional Development has been working with The Collaborative for Educational Services this year and the focus has been on social / emotional health and well-being; issues around equity and racial justice. That has been important as we have come back this year from a year and a half like no other, it's very important to be mindful of the social /emotional needs of our students and staff. These sessions have been to have conversations around these needs, as well as practical strategies and tools that can be used. We are forming a Professional Development Committee with members from the administration team, teacher, and paraprofessional representatives. They will be looking to map out a plan for professional development for next year that includes social /emotional needs as well as hard curriculum needs.

Dr. McLaughlin briefly discussed the unveiling of the mural by Bren Bataclan at Plains Elementary School. He suggests that the community check it out. At Mosier Elementary School, there was an Informational Publishing Presentation of students' written work. The good work of teachers to help students see themselves as writers. This was a wonderful

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event to celebrate them. Sometimes we don't talk about all the good things that happen on a daily basis, but that doesn't mean that good things are not happening on a daily basis.

Vice Chairperson Matos stated she loves a good publishing party. We are so lucky to have the teachers that we have who are creating these lifelong openings with students. There may be the next great writer because that's how it happens when a teacher inspires you and you take off running.

### c. Report of the Vice Chairperson and School Committee

Vice Chairperson Matos received some notes from Chairperson Schlachter. One of the things that they talked about was returning to in-person meetings. Chairperson Schlachter contacted Dan Pease at SHCTV15 to respond to the following with regards to returning to in-person meetings.

- What is the location of the in-person meetings? *Dan Pease recommends the Multipurpose Room in the Senior Center to start getting use to that and getting comfortable with that space and starting small with a hybrid option.*
- Was there a hybrid option? *There is not yet a permanent hybrid installation, but he thinks there's a plan for an installation at the Senior Center Multipurpose Room and the Public Library. If we're looking to do hybrid meetings before that he recommends setting up a large table at the Senior Center sitting in a circle. He can setup an "owl camera". An owl camera would be set in the middle, you plug it to a laptop; and it gives a 360-degree view to the ZOOM attendees and would also use AI to take pictures of the person talking. He would limit the attendees to just the committee members in that scenario. There's only space for 10-15 people to be comfortable. Any other public or other participants would have to join virtual.*

Dr. McLaughlin stated that the owl camera was a great tool that become popular during the pandemic. Vice Chairperson Matos stated that it may be interesting to try one of these options just to see how it would work.

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### d. Report of Student Representative

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

- **Plains**
  - Plains had an amazing artist in residence last week, Bren Bataclan who created a beautiful mural incorporating the students' artwork. He incorporated the PBIS PAWS expectations (Pause and Think, Act with Kindness, and Work Together). The mural was made possible with a grant from the Michael E. Smith Endowment.
- **Mosier**
  - Mosier students were excited to have students come over from MESMS to share a song and story about bringing the Lion King Jr. to life on stage. The students really enjoyed hearing about how the costumes were made and the sing-along was really fun!
  - Mosier was also excited to welcome Berkshire Hills Academy to Mosier for a beautiful performance. The entire school had a wonderful time.
- **MESMS**
  - The production of *The Lion King Jr.*, the first performance is tonight, March 31st, and runs through 4/3.
- **SHHS**
  - **Arts**
    - Plans are underway for the Arts Night along with a Spring Concert.
  - **Athletics**
    - Spring Sports
      - Spring Sports started on Monday 3/21. Games, matches, and meets starting for the teams soon.
  - **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) to get your sign(s) or magnet(s) today.
  - **Clothing Drive**
    - SHHS sophomore, Jenna Bobrowski will be running a clothing drive from March 21st to March 31st with a drop-off box located in the entryway of the high school. All donations will support the Cradles to Crayons organization.

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- ***Congratulations***
  - Congratulations to senior Baeden Blackburn for winning first place in the Will McDonough Writing Contest! The contest is named in honor of the legendary sportswriter and is judged by the Boston Globe Sports Editors. Over 1,000 students across New England participated in this year's contest. Congrats Baeden!
- ***Good Luck***
  - Good luck to Marissa Schenker, a junior at the high school, whose wheelchair basketball team made it to nationals in Kansas. Good luck to Marissa and the rest of her team!
- ***Music Department***
  - The cast and crew of the high school's spring musical, *Into the Woods*, have been working hard on preparing for the performances coming in May.
- ***Prom***
  - The Junior/Senior Prom will be held on Saturday 5/7 from 6-10 pm at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Vice Chairperson Matos congratulated all of the amazing students in South Hadley. She asked if Kaily Godek thought to sell the signs and magnets at the Lion King, Jr. She admits that she doesn't have the time, but she needs to figure out what to do with the extra signs.

Dr. McLaughlin also stated that Baeden Blackburn's teacher, Peter Billman-Glen, is also able to participate in some of the honors that Baeden Blackburn will receive due to this honor.

## **e. April School Committee Meeting Schedule Change**

Vice Chairperson Matos discussed that the April meetings will be off slightly due to the additional meetings and school vacation week. They will be meeting the second and fourth Thursdays in April 2022. Danielle Cooke confirmed the dates are April 14 and April 28, 2022.

Vice Chairperson Matos stated that there is a conflict with SHCTV15 Live Broadcast on Thursday, April 28, 2022 due to other committees, but they can join via ZOOM link.

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**f. Tentative Last Day of School (June 2022)**

Mark McLaughlin confirmed that the last day of school for **students K-8 will be June 17, 2022**, which is a half day due to the two (2) snow days this year barring any mother nature surprise. However, **South Hadley High School will have a last day of June 22, 2022**. The reasoning is there are two (2) snow days for the whole district. In addition, during one of the Saturday makeup days was cancelled due to snow. There is also still one (1) remaining mold remediation make up day in June, as well as the holiday on June 19, 2022 (Juneteenth), therefore the last day is Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

**g. 22-23 School Calendar (Vote)**

Mark McLaughlin stated that they met with the Leadership Team to review the proposed the 22-23 School Calendar. They also met with SHEA representatives, who had a chance to review and share it with their membership. What they bring before you have been vetted. He pointed out that the calendar reflects no early release days for next year. Instead, it shows Convocation with two (2) days of Professional Development back-to-back. The remaining Professional Development days will be utilized on election days in order to propose no early releases in the new calendar.

They also proposed the Monday after New Year's Day as an observed holiday. Therefore, classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2022.

Also, the School Committee has noted in the past that Good Friday was a day that has traditionally been on the calendar, but rightly pointed out that other observances are not. The challenge that presents is if we were to keep Good Friday and understandably want to introduce other days to honor other observances that would make it quite difficult to get to the required 180 days. They are proposing on this calendar to remove Good Friday as a day off next year. It will remain this year.

Dr. McLaughlin notes a visual change to the calendar, which took responsibility for the reduction of colors on the calendar to make it visually easier to process. Steve Ziobrowski, IT Director and Christina Stevenson, Executive Assistant, assisted in providing a new format for this issue.

Danielle Cooke states that she loves the new format. It's more visually appealing. Strange since she grew up with the other one since kindergarten. She really appreciates it and the removal of the early dismissal. It was confusing for caregivers. She did not see the benefit for educators. She's glad they will have full-day professional development. She asked for clarification of the half days. Dr. McLaughlin states that it's in the contract that MESMS has two (2) days in the fall. He does not have that history and we would not be able to change it

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right now. Danielle Cooke appreciates the research, and she has done her calendar math that we get to 180 days.

Vice Chairperson Matos noticed that the previous format mentioned School Committee meeting dates. She wants to know do we need to put them in the new calendar. Does it make it less esthetically pleasing? Dr. McLaughlin states that Executive Assistant, Christina Stevenson, recognized that and created a separate page that includes the School Committee Dates, Holidays and School Hours. When it's published on the website and various locations, both pages will be available, but they wanted to keep the vote to the proposed calendar.

Vice Chairperson Matos further stated that we will be observing Ramadan this weekend, as well as her concerns about Good Friday being on the calendar. She realizes that there are many different faiths and observances and she wanted to make sure that everyone gets to practice as they please. She knows that Mt. Holyoke has a Religious Accommodation form, which states that I'm not going to be in on this date, I will be observing this date and not able to come into school. Where the teacher can work with the student ahead of the course, so it wouldn't be counted against them. Is there a process like that which exists? Dr. McLaughlin states that he does not know if there's a particular form that families would complete, but unofficially, if anyone would say that my child will be home to participate in any number of observances, they would never be penalized for that. It would be up to the School Committee to decide if they would like it formalized with a form. He doesn't believe that we need a form, but they could develop one if that's what the School Committee thinks that's a better approach. Vice Chairperson Matos clarified that in alliance with our DEI Statement and mission that of course we would want everyone felt their right to exercise their faith. Dr. McLaughlin agrees that the removal of Good Friday was to provide the message that anyone who would like to observe Good Friday, or any other observance would be able to practice their personal observance. Jennifer Voyik added that there is a policy (JH), which is about student absences and their excuses. There's a procedure in our policies as to what parents would do in order to notify the schools as far as observing a religious holiday. It is there and we do have something established.

Vice Chairperson Matos entertained a motion to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar. The motion was moved by Lynda Pickbourn and second by Danielle Cooke. Danielle Cooke mentioned to the community that we will be returning to School on September 1, 2022.

No further discussion. Lost connection with Danielle Cooke. Motion passed: 3/0 (Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

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### **h. School Choice Slots (Vote)**

Mark McLaughlin discussed the issues with School Choice is that we want School Choice students, however the introduction of additional students can contribute to a population increase, which is challenging given reduced staff. It can be very significant. They have had many conversations of the reliance of grants and School Choice for revenue to pay for teachers, which we need to revisit that whole formula.

Jennifer Voyik confirmed that we are looking to offer five (5) slots for first grade; ten (10) slots for second grade; eleven (11) slots for ninth grade; and three (3) slots for eleventh grade. In the first grade with these five (5) additional students, we would be looking at an average of twenty (20) students per classroom. That will put it just below our target rate. We have a small first grade moving up to second grade. They felt the second-grade class could offer ten (10) slots and be able to keep that between a desirable and target rate. At the high school, Principal Wood said that 135-140 would be a good target for a class size in high school. They believe it's currently around 120-124 in the class moving up from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Principal Wood thought that eleven (11) spots would be open for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and three (3) spots for 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

As some of the teachers mentioned before, with the reduction of the teachers at the Michael E. Smith Middle School, there really weren't any spots available that they could open up for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She continued that this year we are moving up nineteen (19) School Choice slots. In the last couple of years, we have not maintained our numbers for School Choice slots. They need to at least cover those slots that are graduating off in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Dr. McLaughlin states that it would be a reasonable as we move into subsequent budget cycles that they should continue to think about over time.

Eric Friesner questioned the ten (10) students for second grade if they have the space for them. Dr. McLaughlin stated that whenever we are speaking about these numbers, this is a team decision. The reference to openings is a collective decision that they made balancing our need for the financial resources that it provides up against some of the other challenges that were mentioned, as well as the physical challenge that Eric Friesner mentioned. Dr. McLaughlin continued that Mosier could absorb that number including the physical plant. He states that ten (10) is the maximum students and we are planning as if we have ten (10) students and that the physical plant can meet those expectations.

Kaily Godek stated that there are no slots at the middle school. Is that because we don't have enough teachers to cover the students and keep them at a reasonable pace? Or why are there no slots? Dr. McLaughlin responded that is a question that would need more time and include guests like Melissa Lake and Principal Gallagher. It's not as simple as take the

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number of students and split it into the number of class sizes. It doesn't work in upper grades. For example, mandatory maximum for some classes that are accelerated and must be slotted at a certain time. We don't have the proper number of teachers and only so many places for students to go. There is a unique nature with regards to the MESMS course schedules. It becomes much more complicated between grades 6 – 12 for classrooms.

Lynda Pickbourn asked what would be the ideal number of teachers for the middle school? How many do we have? What's the gap? Dr. McLaughlin states that we have enough teachers for the school to function, but he would need to get specifics from Jenn Voyik. He would also like to continue this conversation with Principal Gallagher and Melissa Lake because they live this every day. In the most recent cuts, there was a substantial loss at the middle school, which has significantly strained the middle school to be flexible. Unfortunately, you can not give the number that she asked for at this time. Jennifer Voyik responded that six (6) positions that were cut from the MESMS approximately three (3) years, so they are no longer in teams as they were in the past. In order to get back to teams, they would have to bring back at least those six (6) positions.

Eric Friesner asked what's the financial impact of these positions? Do we have a dollar amount? Jennifer Voyik clarified if he was asking a dollar amount that each student brings into the district, and he confirmed. The district gets reimbursed Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars for each student that is brought in through School Choice. Any special education cases, there's an adjustment on top of that that would be reimbursed as well.

Lynda Pickbourn confirmed that for the nineteen (19) students that are graduating or moving on, the district is losing approximately One Hundred Thousand and 00/100 (\$100,000.00) Dollars. Jenn Voyik confirmed and stated that our projected income for next year is already lower because we're a year behind. Recovering that \$100,000 and adding back a little bit would be important so we can maintain these salaries that are paid through School Choice. Dr. McLaughlin continued that the reliance of School Choice is unstable territory. The ideal usage of these funds would be for resources or additional programming, but not as an income source to support teachers' salaries.

Dr. McLaughlin stated that if this is approved by the School Committee this would be posted as early as tomorrow to stay within the rules and the timelines, as well as the closing time of this posting. We will post it tomorrow on our website. Our Executive Assistant, Christina, has researched additional ways to publish the ad in the surrounding communities. He also discussed the lottery process and notification of students. Jennifer Voyik responded to Danielle Cooke's question about siblings from the last meeting. There would be preference to those applicants.

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Kaily Godek asked if this was a final vote or would there be another one if there is changes. Dr. McLaughlin states that the numbers that we're projecting would not change and therefore would not necessitate a second vote. Jennifer Voyik confirmed that it should not be necessary.

Lynda Pickbourn asked about the ad and asked if the distributions of the openings would be signaled on the ad? She also questioned if we should elaborate the description of the foreign language courses available on the advertisement? Jenn Voyik stated that it would be good what languages would be available at the high school with the bullet point on the ad. Dr. McLaughlin agreed with Jenn Voyik. There was a discussion with regards to the posting of the grades. However, it was notated that the School Choice available grades were notated on the advertisement created by Ms. Stevenson.

Vice Chairperson Matos entertained a motion to approve five (5) 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, ten (10) 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, eleven (11) 9<sup>th</sup> grade and three (3) 11<sup>th</sup> grade School Choice slots. The motion was moved by Danielle Cooke and second by Lynda Pickbourn. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously: 4/0 (Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

## i. Capital Planning/ Capital Requests

Dr. McLaughlin stated that they continued to meet as a team to negotiate the details of the budget that the Board gave to them at the last meeting. Budgeting is not a one and done thing. He reiterates that everyone is very carefully reviewing everything with the Leadership team.

Jennifer Voyik stated that there were tough questions, as well as great conversations. The Capital Planning Committee asked thoughtful questions to learn more about the situation and what they could potentially do to help. They had some great ideas about people that the District could contact. They spoke about the following:

- 10 Passenger Van
  - Co-Curricular
  - Smaller Athletic Teams
  - Vocational Programs
  - Offsite Jobs
- Moisture at SHHS
  - Moisture Team Presentation/Question Responses

# South Hadley Public Schools

## School Committee Meeting Minutes

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March 31, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

Dr. McLaughlin said that Capital Planning was very open to listening and hearing. The big takeaway is that we cannot have another year at the high school that we had last year. It would be the worse thing for our students, staff and the community. The good news is that we have a sense what to do to avoid that due to the brilliant minds of Dorie Brooks and her team of engineers. The engineers have a solid basis to give them confidence that they can avoid this in the future.

Capital Planning provided some resources that may take some of the burden off of the town, so the district reached out to Senator Comerford and Representative Carey, which responded quickly to schedule a meeting with the Town Administrator, School Committee and Selectboard to discuss how they can be of service. They are very grateful for that partnership.

Jennifer Voyik was grateful to Dorie Brooks and her team for putting together their presentation in such a short time and initial results of what will be needed for the high school.

Assistant Chairperson Matos is grateful for this partnership to make sure that these issues don't happen again; and our student learning in excellence continues. She is grateful for all of that work.

Lynda Pickbourn asked if there was any discussion about Mosier and the condition of the portables at all? Dr. McLaughlin responded that they did ask for a tour of both South Hadley High School and Mosier Elementary School specifically for the Planning Committee. They thought the questions of the Planning Committee would be specific enough they would warrant their own time. The tour will be provided on April 5, 2022. Jennifer Voyik added the goal is so they can place a Statement of Interest for Mosier. The Town is putting away money away each year from the budget as part of Mosier Stabilization Fund. She believes they are adding another \$200,000.00 this year. In order to move forward, there needs to be enough funds available to show the MSBA that we can fund a feasibility study and move forward with the project should it be approved within the process. The conversation has been ongoing, as well as the Town placing monies in the Stabilization Fund is a step in the right direction.

Assistant Chairperson Matos thanked them for making this information so clear so that everyone gets a sense of what's going on with [Capital Planning].

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## **j. Budget Updates**

Jennifer Voyik states that they met as an Administrative Team and discussed for three (3) hours to look at the budget at every angle with the goal for not relying on School Choice and grants. They are not trying to change the bottom-line number that the Appropriation Committee, Town Administrator and Selectboard have generously worked with them to provide that increase this year. They are looking at ways to be more sufficient to not rely on School Choice and grants in the upcoming years. It will take a process and it will take a number of years to slowly move some of those salaries off, but their goal was to really look at the district to see what they can do to start making those changes now, so they are not looking at a deficit in the future.

Dr. McLaughlin adds that they are taking this very seriously. Looking at the budget holistically was very helpful. Everyone has their take on the budget, but systems take means that everyone has to listen to everyone else and has to understand things that they may not normally understand because their daily job does not require them to understand another school's budget. There were a lot of revelations when they were in one room, which will yield some thoughtful ideas.

Jennifer Voyik also stated that it would be helpful if the Budget Subcommittee would be available for the second meeting of April to get their take on the administrative teams potential suggestions. Eric Friesner and Lynda Pickbourn agreed that they will schedule a meeting within the district's timeline.

## **VII. Information Only**

None.

## **VIII. Unfinished Business**

None.

## **IX. New Business**

None.

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Assistant Chairperson Matos entertained a motion to end their Open Meeting and to go into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Sections 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for all bargaining units A, C, D and E. Once they move into executive session they will not be returning to open session. Motion moved by Eric Friesner and second by Danielle Matos. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously: 4/0 (Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos) With no further business to discuss, the School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

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

Reviewed and Approved by,  
Allison Schlachter  
Chairperson, South Hadley School Committee  
Date: April 28, 2022