

# South Hadley Public Schools

## School Committee Meeting Minutes

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April 27, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

- I. **Call to Order:** At 8:15 pm Interim Superintendent McLaughlin welcomed all to the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, meeting of the South Hadley School Committee, which is the Annual Reorganization Meeting. He called the meeting to order, requesting each member to indicate by saying aye; Friesner – Aye; Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; & Vieu – Aye. Meeting in session at 8:16 pm.

**In Attendance:** Eric Friesner, Vice Chairperson; Danielle Cooke, Member; Lynda Pickbourn-Smith, Member; Lawrence Dixon, Member; Daniel Vieu, 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.

**Guests:** Amy Foley, SHEA President.

- II. **Reorganization of School Committee:** Interim Superintendent McLaughlin officially welcomed the two newest School Committee Members, Daniel Vieu (Elected 3-year Term), Lawrence Dixon (Elected 1-year Term) and congratulating Lynda Pickbourn for her re-election (Elected 3-year Term). Dr. McLaughlin changed the order of the agenda putting the reorganization first with the remaining agenda items to follow and the reorganization also being revisited. He called for nominations for the School Committee Chair.

**(NOMINATION & VOTE)** Danielle Cooke nominated the current Vice Chair, Eric Friesner, to serve as the new Chair of the South Hadley School Committee.

Lynda Pickbourn seconded the motion.

No other nominations were provided.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; Vieu – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Eric Friesner is now the Chair of the South Hadley School Committee.

Interim Superintendent McLaughlin turned the meeting over to Chair Friesner.

Chair Friesner opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

**(NOMINATION & VOTE)** Lynda Pickbourn nominated Danielle Cooke for Vice Chair.

Daniel Vieu seconded the motion.

No other nominations were provided.

Vieu – Aye; Dixon – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Cooke – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Danielle Cooke is now the Vice Chair of the South Hadley School Committee.

- III. **Public Comment: NONE**

- IV. **SHEA Report: Presented by Amy Foley:** “Hi, Good evening. Thank you again for this opportunity. The first thing I’d like to do is congratulate Lynda Pickbourn for being elected to the School Committee again, and to welcome Dan Vieu and Larry Dixon on to the School Committee. It's

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quite the endeavor to take on the commitment of being a School Committee member, and I'd like to thank you all for all that you do on the School Committee. I'd also like to congratulate Eric as the Chair and Danielle as the Vice Chair. I've always appreciated your style, communication, and I look forward to working with you guys. In light of the new School Committee members, I'd like to explain what I see my role as when it comes to delivering the Shea update. I come here representing the voice of our 250 plus members. Our SHEA membership includes teachers, service providers, nurses, counselors, administrators, administrative assistants, and education support staff, which include paraprofessionals and ETAs. SHEA is led by not only me, but the following officers: Neil Bergstrom, our Vice President, Stefani Holmes, our Treasurer, the Secretary Brooke Beaulieu, and Stephanie Viens, our Grievance Chair and 4 to 5 building reps at each of our 4 buildings. During the SHEA update, I try my best to represent, not necessarily my personal opinions, but the collective voice of all of our members. My goal is to share the successes, challenges, and concerns of not only our educators but our students. I also see the SHEA update as an opportunity to have a conversation with you. If you have any questions, concerns, or general feedback on the topics I address, please let me know. I always welcome productive and professional discourse. For the actual update this evening, I only have a few items. I'd first like to provide an update on how the impact bargaining in regards to the Michael E. Smith Middle School daily schedule's going. We have had healthy and productive conversations with Dr. McLaughlin, Jenn Voyik and Principal Fontaine in our meetings. We feel as though we're close to finalizing a daily schedule that will not only meet the working conditions of our educators, but most importantly, we'll meet the needs of our students. I really enjoyed the collaboration, problem solving and collegiality that's taking place with all parties involved in the impact bargaining. With the momentum we're gaining with the experience from the impact bargaining SHEA is looking forward to the JLMC to begin meeting once the School Committee has reorganized this evening. We look forward to starting our work on collaborating to create the special education team leader positions. We are excited to have these positions added to the district. We feel as though that during negotiations the district really listened to our concerns in regards to the workload of our special educators and feel as though this will have such a positive impact on our students receiving the services they need. I'd also like to give a SHEA shout out this evening to the high school's arts, music and vocational teachers which include Maureen McNally, Melody Figge, Beth Ayn Curtis, Phil Gallo, Jacob Humiston, Steve Kantrowitz, Adam Pop, and Stephanie Viens. Last night they held the arts and vocational night where students work was displayed. I'm always amazed by the amazing talent of our students. I do have to say last night I was a little impartial to the culinary program's chocolate chip cookies. Next, SHEA would like to encourage the School Committee to consider the hybrid meeting model for your future meetings. I know it's not included on this evening's agenda, but I'd like you to consider adding it for discussion in a future meeting. Having taught remotely for almost a year, our educators know how ineffective being solely remote can be. Our members believe that the hybrid model is the most inclusive model and having attended some of the hybrid select

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board meetings, I tend to agree. Allowing for audience members to be in person allows for the most effective communication to take place when body language can be incorporated into an individual's message and the interpretation of an individual's message. Most importantly, though for me it allows the development of relationships that meeting remotely really limits. Finally, I want to thank you all for your dedication and service to our schools, educators, and our students. I know your job on the School Committee can be very difficult at times but what I do know and firmly believe is that it, when it comes to the education of our children, the rewards more than outweigh the difficulties. Thank you.”

## V. Routine Items

### A. Approval of Warrants (2 VOTES)

Date	Number	Amount
April 4, 2023	Warrant #2023-241	\$328,713.80
April 11, 2023	Warrant #2023-248	\$193,878.75
April 13, 2023	Biweekly Payroll	\$778,800.00
April 27, 2023	Biweekly Payroll	\$765,116.16

**(VOTE)** Danielle Cooke made a motion for all those eligible to vote and approve the following two warrants. The first is dated April 4, 2023, it is warrant #2023-241 in the amount of \$328,713.80 and the second is warrant dated April 11, 2023, it is warrant #2023-248 in the amount of \$193,878.75.

Lynda Pickbourn seconded.

Some discussion regarding the process and responsibility of the School Committee Members pertaining to the approval of warrants and a line item on one of the warrants for the purchase of student chromebooks.

No further discussion.

Cooke – abstained; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; View – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed 4 in favor and one abstention.

**(VOTE)** Danielle Cooke made a motion to approve the following two warrants. The first is warrant dated April 13, 2023, it is a biweekly payroll in the amount of \$778,800.00 and the second is dated April 27, 2023, it is also a biweekly payroll in the amount of \$765,116.16.

Dan View seconded the motion.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; View – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

### B. Approval of Minutes 3/28/2023 & 4/6/2023 (VOTE)

**(VOTE)** Chair Friesner asked if there was a motion to accept these minutes.

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Danielle Cooke so moved.

Lynda Pickbourn seconded.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Abstained; Vieu – Abstained; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed with 3 in favor and 2 abstentions.

## VI. Reports of Standing Committees

**A. School Committee Liaison Reports: None**

**B. Advisory Committees: None**

**C. Site-based Committees: None**

**D. Report of Interim Superintendent:** Mark McLaughlin shared that he and a few others started their day in Worcester for a Grant Convening Meeting for the STEM Grant that the Middle School recently was approved for where they explored the possibilities of the grant. The Chair of Plains PTO will be presenting musical flowers in honor of Hank Skala on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

**E. Report of the School Committee:** Chair Friesner shared the recent experience of attending the Grinspoon Teaching in Excellence Award Ceremony honoring Ashley Macey & Dianne Young. The newest members of the Committee were welcomed and offered a moment to share. Some specifics of School Committee training were discussed.

**F. Appreciations:** Jenn Voyik – Grinspoon Foundation and Event and SHHS Arts and Vocational Night, Beth Ayn Curtis and SHHS teachers and students. Danielle Cooke – Administrative Assistants. Mark McLaughlin – Ashley Macey, Dianne Young, Administrative Assistants, and the collaboration with Town Officials and The SHPS Admin team.

## VII. School Committee Reorganization: At this point Chair Friesner reviewed all subcommittees and responsibilities.

### Subcommittees:

**Biweekly Payroll & Warrants:** Lynda Pickbourn & Dan Vieu

**Racial Justice Task Force:** Danielle Cooke and tabled for a second member.

**Budget:** Dan Vieu & Lynda Pickbourn

**Policies:** Committee decided not to keep this subcommittee.

**Superintendent Evaluation:** Tabled.

**Joint Labor Management Committee:** Dan Vieu & Lynda Pickbourn

**Ant-Bullying:** Committee decided not keeping at this time.

**Communications:** Danielle Cooke

**Mosier Facilities:** Tabled.

**Bargaining:** Eric Friesner and tabled for a second member.

**Collaborative for Educational Services:** Danielle Cooke

**Capital Planning:** Tabled.

**Human Rights Commission:** Tabled.

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**Town Meeting Review:** Tabled.

**Reading of Warrants:** Danielle Cooke will continue to do this.

**VIII. Information Only:** The next School Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2023, at 6:00pm. J. Voyik shared that SHHS held their annual Carts & Goggles events on the field of the high school. This is an event in which our local Police Department, State Troopers, some District Officials and Teachers collaborate with golf carts and goggles that mimic how it is to drive under the influence. SHHS Seniors had the opportunity to drive a golf cart wearing these goggles through a course that replicated some intersections here in town to bring light to the dangers of drinking and driving prior to prom.

**IX. Unfinished Business: None**

**X. New Business: None**

At 9:55 pm Chair Friesner entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair Cooke so moved.

Larry Dixon seconded.

Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; View – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm.

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