

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

April 28, 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

Jackson Matos, Assistant 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: Amy Foley, President of SHEA

II. Reorganization of School Committee / Election of Officers

Chairperson Schlachter officially welcomed Eric Friesner (Elected 3-year term) and Lynda Pickbourn (Elected 1-year term). She discussed the annual reorganization of Chair, Vice Chair and solidify subcommittee assignments.

Chairperson Schlachter reflected over the year:

- She is proud of the sub-committee work and thanked the work for the district
- Passed Disability Policy
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion Statement
- Navigated through many difficult decisions around COVID and the re-opening of schools
 - Met the challenges of school testing
 - Test distribution
 - Vaccination clinics
 - Masking and unmasking recommendations
- Welcomed amazing new staff to the district
- Handled a mold crisis
- Appointed two new members subsequent to the two mid-year resignation of members

She has endless respect and admiration for all of them. She appreciates the way they have gotten through challenges and united as a group.

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Over the last year they have re-established Tri-Board meetings and believes they are in a place of strength. She then announced that she will be stepping down as Chairperson of the School Committee and nominated Dr. Matos. She states that Dr. Matos who has served besides her over the last served beside her over the last several months, and provided support, knowledge and communication; and all the way that they have been there every time she has needed any assistance, along with all of the school committee members. She believes that Dr. Matos will be amazing at it. Her leadership with the Racial Justice Task Force and other discussions has been important.

Chairperson Schlachter moved to nominate Dr. Matos as Chairperson of the South Hadley School Committee, which was second by Danielle Cooke.

Chairperson Schlachter asked if there were any other nomination. She also explained that they will vote for a new chair and at that point the chair will take over the meeting.

Dr. Matos thanked Chairperson Schlachter and Danielle Cooke for their nomination. They realize that being on the school committee is a volunteer position, but they do not take this position lightly. It was not until they were on the School Committee that they were able to appreciate the work that went into it. It's not just these bi-weekly meetings that are involved, it's lots and lots of meetings and lots of sleepless nights. Dr. Matos realizes that everyone on the School Committee takes it seriously. They take their voting seriously and they take their voting and decisions seriously; and how they impact everyone. They appreciate everything that Allison Schlachter has said and that she's a tremendous chair. A consummate leader that really listens when new ideas come up. They are mighty shoes to fill for anyone. Anyone on this screen could be ready for this leadership role and thanks them for considering her.

Before they vote, they believe that in a democracy that everyone should be fully informed before casting a vote. They have shared that there has been changes with their name and identity before you vote. They are coming forward as a member of the transgender community. They have a new legal first name, which is "Jackson" and they are using they/them/he/his pronouns. Whether or not they are chosen as chair that's still happening and there will be hiccups. They feel they have fallen short in the area of social justice, where they have seen young people at Mt. Holyoke and South Hadley School community, who have come out and named themselves and faced hardships with that, as well as parents and community members. To them he apologizes profusely for not showing up for them.

They wanted their colleagues to know before they voted that this is his truth, and the public deserves the truth. If you're going to select a chair, that is something that should be done truthfully and should be modeled to the community.

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Chairperson Schlachter thanked Dr. Jackson Matos for their courage to share this on television with their colleagues and the community. She states that Jackson has her full support and has nothing to apologize for... their courage and commitment that they have given to this community is unbelievable and they're doing it again right now.

Danielle Cooke agrees that Dr. Matos has been a wonderful role model and she was glad to be on the campaign trail next to them and she's glad to be doing this work together. She agrees that Allison Schlachter did a great job leading us and is glad that Dr. Matos will be there to continue leading them.

Chairperson Schlachter did a roll call vote for Dr. Jackson as the Chair of the South Hadley School Committee. Motion passed 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter).

Congratulations to Dr. Jackson Matos! Dr. Matos immediately took over the meeting.

Chairperson Matos is so glad that Allison Schlachter opened the meeting with what they have accomplished this year. He thinks that it's hard to forget when you're in the work. It's always useful to sit back and take a moment to reflect and state that these are all the things that we have accomplished and how we've grown. How we have been challenged and how we have overcome these challenges and where we are headed. We are definitely headed in the right direction.

Chairperson Schlachter entertains a motion to nominate a Vice Chair to South Hadley School Committee.

Danielle Cooke asked if Allison Schlachter would have interest as the Vice Chair. She has appreciated your leadership. She thinks that Allison Schlachter and Dr. Jackson Matos have worked as a wonderful team together. Is she's interested in Vice Chair, Danielle Cooke would like to nominate Allison Schlachter.

Allison Schlachter confirmed that she would be interested in becoming Vice Chair. It was a difficult decision to make to step down as Chairperson because there was a lot of things that she absolutely loved about the position. It would assist in the natural transition of Dr. Jackson Matos into this role.

Dr. Matos entertained a motion to nominate Allison Schlachter as the Vice Chair of the South Hadley School Committee, which was moved by Danielle Cooke and seconded by Lynda Pickbourn.

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Allison Schlachter stated that she was honored, and she loves this work. She will be glad to continue in this work as Vice Chair and to be as supportive to Dr. Matos as they have been to her.

Chairperson Matos asked if there is any further discussion. Danielle Cooke asked for procedural line up. Chairperson Matos stated that the new line up would be (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourne and Matos). No further discussion. Motion passed: 5/0 ((Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourne and Matos)

Chairperson Matos reviewed the current sub-committees and discussed who would like to change or be added to a sub-committee. As Chairperson, Dr. Matos will no longer be able to read payroll or warrants, therefore, Danielle Cooke volunteered to read warrants and bi-weekly payroll.

Chairperson of the School Committee: Dr. Jackson Matos

Vice Chairperson of the School Committee: Allison Schlachter

SUB-COMMITTEES

Anti-Bullying Coalition

- Plans to rename the subcommittee so they can look at policy, practice and professional development. They want to fully capture the Civility Policy and Practice.
- **Members:** Allison Schlachter and Danielle Cooke

Communications

- **Members:** Jackson Matos and Allison Schlachter

Capital Planning

- Former School Committee Members Charles Miles and Kristine Phillips are members of this sub-committee. We can revisit next year as the next budget cycle comes up.
- **Monitoring Member:** Eric Friesner

Mosier Facilities

- **Members:** Allison Schlachter and Lynda Pickbourn

Collective Bargaining

- **Member(s):** Eric Friesner (SHEA / Units A,C, D and E)
- **Member(s):** Jackson Matos (AFSCME / Custodians and Cafeteria Workers Unit)

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Bi-Weekly Payroll and Warrants

- **Members:** Eric Friesner and Lynda Pickbourn
- **Alternate:** Allison Schlachter

Racial Justice Task Force

- **Members:** Jackson Matos and Danielle Cooke

Transportation

- **Members:** Eric Friesner and Danielle Cooke

Budget

- **Members:** Eric Friesner and Lynda Pickbourn

Policies

- **Members:** Jackson Matos and Allison Schlachter

Superintendent

- **Members:** Jackson Matos and Allison Schlachter

Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC)

- **Members:** Eric Friesner and Lynda Pickbourn (pending)
- Dr. Matos will check with counsel if there's a conflict with MTA membership for Lynda Pickbourn prior to placement.

Collaborative Educational Services

- **Members:** Allison Schlachter

Kaily Godek stated that her replacement should be available by May 19, 2022.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

Chairperson Jackson Matos confirmed the review of the minutes for March 31, 2022. He entertained a motion from Allison Schlachter to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Lynda Pickbourn. No further discussion. Motion passed: 5/0 (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

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IV. Approval of Warrants

Chairperson Jackson Matos requested volunteers to be the new reader of the Warrants and Bi-Weekly Payroll since they are no longer able to perform that duty. After some discussion, Danielle Cooke volunteered to be the reader of the warrants and bi-weekly payroll for this and future meetings.

Danielle Cooke read for approval the following Warrants and Bi-Weekly Payroll. Chairperson Jackson Matos made a motion for approval of said warrants. It was moved by Danielle Cooke and second by Eric Friesner. No further discussion. Motion passed: 5/0 (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
March 29, 2022	Warrant #2022-231	\$177,237.98
March 31, 2022	Bi-Weekly Payroll	\$781,942.14
April 5, 2022	Warrant #2022-235	\$179,309.26
April 12, 2022	Warrant #2022-241	\$ 90,146.52
April 14, 2022	Bi-Weekly Payroll	\$761,606.31
April 19, 2022	Warrant 2022-246	\$227,994.92

Chairperson Matos commented that it was read well, and thanked Danielle Cooke for taking on that task.

V. Reports of Standing Committees

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

Racial Justice Task Force

Chairperson Jackson Matos stated that they met for the first time in person in the South Hadley Public Library. It was great to be out in the community. They were able to discuss what the structure of that task force will look like and their goals for the new year.

Chairperson Matos wanted to thank Dr. McLaughlin, Jenn Voyik, Kaily Godek and the School Committee for their availability for the Social Justice Listening Session, which is sponsored by The Collaborative for Educational Services. They will provide the training and two (2) listening sessions. They wanted to provide June 8th. Kaily stated that will be after she will not be able to attend, but she will check with the new Student Representative.

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Danielle Cooke asked if this is replacing the May 18th training and Chairperson Matos stated that that the June 8th date will be in addition to the May 18th training, which will be in person. Kaily Godek stated that neither the Student Representatives will be available on May 18th.

VI. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

VII. Discussion and Action Items

a. SHEA Updates

Amy Foley, SHEA President, welcomed Eric Friesner and Lynda Pickbourn officially to their official terms on the School Committee. She stated to Dr. Jackson Matos, that she supports, admires and appreciates him and his identities. She looks forward to working with him in his new role as the Chair of the School Committee. Dr. Matos thanked Amy Foley.

SHEA appreciates Dr. McLaughlin's communication style and level of professionalism. They truly appreciate effective communication and professionalism at all levels within the district. Ms. Foley states that negotiations have continued. She states that we have excellent educators in South Hadley Public Schools. Our district has had some educators for over thirty (30) years. We have had a lot of turnover in the district. It's really important that we make a commitment to the teachers and settle a contract this year. As of right now, the teachers are working on an expired contract. It's important that we settle the contract this year so the teachers can get their retro pay and their raises; and be reinvigorated to come back next fall. We know that we are in a difficult time. She appreciates the time and commitment that the School Committee makes that they choose as their public service. She thinks that it's important that our teachers feel valued and that's best for the district moving forward.

Chairperson Matos thanked Amy Foley for everything that she brings to the dialogue on behalf of the teacher. We appreciate all that they bring to the district.

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b. Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Dr. McLaughlin discussed our colleague Principal Hank Skala. He stated that more than anything Hank would like us to move on. He would like Plains to be strong. Sometimes we struggle with what it means to move on. Hank Skala was a huge person in South Hadley. He was huge influence for the district and certainly for Plains. As much as we are moving on, it's not the same as forgetting. As moving on, it's building on his legacy. He just wanted to mention it and honor our good friend, Hank. We're going to finish strong for him this year.

Dr. McLaughlin announced that U.S. News Ranked South Hadley High School in the Top 100 in Massachusetts for the first time ever. They were also ranked #4 in the Springfield Metro area. That's a big thing. In the midst of all the challenges, great things are happening. Although this is the high school, we are aware that excellence does not just begin at the high school. It takes a community of good teachers from kindergarten right on through to get the high school that recognition. We see that is only the beginning of what South Hadley High School and South Hadley School District can look forward to – Dr. McLaughlin offers our congratulations to South Hadley High School.

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned the partnership with the South Hadley Police Department and Fire Departments 1 and 2 to prepare our students to be safe during the upcoming prom season. The important part of that is not being impaired while driving. There was a fatal vision goggle activity to provide students experience on how it feels to be impaired while driving. It's just a great example of the partnership that exists between the fire, schools and police departments. Jennifer Voyik also mentioned some other groups that assisted in this collaboration with the first responders, which included, but not limited to: Orchards Golf Course, South Hadley Parks Department, MA DOT and South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Coalition. It was an important lesson for our students to see (or not see) what it would be like attempt to drive a vehicle when you're impaired. She's looking forward to it being back in the future. Dr. McLaughlin continues that the care and keeping of our students is a community effort and it's nice to see that the school is not alone in this effort. We like to thank parents and the community in their assistance.

Dr. McLaughlin stated that we have not heard from the state with regards to our waivers for SHHS make-up day and Plains School, who took a day following the passing of Hank Skala. Dr. McLaughlin will keep up posted on that situation.

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Dr. McLaughlin wanted to take a moment to thank our teachers in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week. It has not been easy to be a public-school teacher, but we are genuinely grateful for the work of our teachers. In addition, we were able to celebrate our paraprofessionals also. We are grateful for those groups.

Chairperson Matos thanked Dr. McLaughlin for his mention of Hank Skala and the impact that he had on our community. He met him once and it was enough of an impression to last. He thanked Dr. McLaughlin for his statement about Principal Skala, our teachers and out students. We are headed in a really healthy direction.

c. South Hadley Public School Personnel Actions

Dr. McLaughlin stated that there was nothing that would be required a vote at this time. We will provide opportunities to recognize retirees at a later date. He provided an overview of the number of positions and coaches that were added to SHPS.

d. Report of the Chair and School Committee

Chairperson Matos does not have a Report of the Chair, but referred to Allison Schlachter.

Allison Schlachter acknowledged someone who is close to her heart, without taking away from any of the retirees in South Hadley. However, she would like to acknowledge Patricia Murowsky, the music teacher at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. She wants to thank her for her beautiful and inspiring work in the arts with our students. What a difference that she has made with her beautiful voice and talent. She wants to acknowledge the community of students who came together for the Lion King, Jr. production and all of the teachers.

She stated that Friday night when we lost Hank Skala, she knows that there were people on the phone thinking about how to address the children at Plains, the families, the teachers district-wide. She watched Dr. McLaughlin, Jennifer Voyik and Liz Wood spring into action, late at night and it carried through the entire following week. While the community was grieving, some of the people that was closest to Principal Skala were the ones responding to the crisis, planning for the crisis, and just digging in to do the very hard work to assist a community, all while grieving the loss of their extremely close colleague and mentor. She read the names of the people on the crisis team that assisted the community: Liz Wood, Pat Lemieux, Karen Esempio, Alex Mazzulli, Ann Scully, Andy Meeker, Jess Austin, Jessie Pion, Courtney Mackey, Jenn Voyik, Mark McLaughlin, Mary Walsh, Betsy McNamara, Erin

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Johnson, Cindy Flynn, Wendy Cummings, David Gallagher, Sarah Gardner, Julia Low-Chappell and Melissa Lake. She just wanted to thank you and acknowledge the work that you did for our community. Even though this district has been faced with a lot of challenges, it's always met with the beauty of human nature. Even in the dark, we always have those bright lights. The people that we are surrounded by, we will continue to support each other and get through anything that comes through our way. She wanted to thank everyone for being a part of that...

Chairperson Matos echoed Allison Schlachter's statement. He further stated that it's not easy to lose anyone, but it's not easy to lose such a pillar in our community. He thanks Dr. McLaughlin for the tone he set for our community; and how he continues to honor his legacy. Chairperson Matos is always proud of how South Hadley community shows up for each other.

e. Report of Student Representative

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

- Welcome, Eric and Lynda back to the School Committee for their official terms!
- **Teacher Appreciation Week**
 - Next week 5/2 to 5/6 marks Teacher Appreciation Week!
- **Plains**
 - Nothing to Report
- **Mosier**
 - Nothing to Report
- **MESMS**
 - Nothing to Report
- **SHHS**
 - Arts
 - On Thursday, 5/19 there will be a spring concert and arts night from 6-8 pm at SHHS.
 - Athletics
 - *Spring Sports Senior Nights*
 - The Boy's and Girl's Outdoor Track teams had their senior night on April 13th against Easthampton at Holyoke High School. The Girl's team won and an unfortunate loss for the Boy's team. Congratulations to all of the seniors on the teams!

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- *Commitments*
 - Football seniors, Jack Haber and Evan Piquette have both committed to playing football for the next 4 years at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Congrats Jack and Evan!
 - Field Hockey and Girl's Basketball senior, Ari LaBarre has committed to playing both field hockey and basketball for the 4 years at American International College. Congrats Ari!
 - Field Hockey seniors, Kaitlyn Lynes and Abbie Sierzego have both committed to playing field hockey for the next 4 years at Elms College. Congrats Kaitlyn and Abbie!
- National Decision Day
 - National Decision Day is on Sunday, May 1st. SHHS seniors will be celebrating it on Friday, April 29th. Seniors are encouraged to wear a shirt or whatever gear they have related to their future plans on Friday. Faculty are encouraged to wear apparel from their alma mater or favorite school/career, etc.
 - Class of 2022, vice president, Jonas Clarke, has been working hard on creating a social media page for all of the decisions made by the class. If you would like to look at the page to see where the seniors are going please visit the Instagram page at @shhs.decisions.
- 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 to get your sign(s) or magnet(s) today.
- Environmental Club
 - In honor of Earth Day, the Environmental Club has been hosting an environmental spirit week this week. Students have been participating to show their love and commitment to the environment.
- Leo Club
 - Leo Club is running a fundraiser that will be benefiting The Starkey Hearing Foundation. The foundation's goal is to provide hearing aids to those in need. For more information please reach out to the Leo Club at the high school.
- NHS
 - National Honors Society students are currently running a children's book drive until Friday, 4/29. All gently used or new children's books can be dropped off in the bins located in the entryway of the high school.
- Music Department
 - The cast and crew of our spring musical, *Into the Woods*, are looking forward to putting on performances Friday 5/13 through 5/15 in the SHHS auditorium.

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- On Thursday 5/19, there will be a Spring Concert at SHHS from 6-8 pm.
- Prom
 - The Junior/Senior Prom will be held on Saturday 5/7 from 6-10 pm at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.
- StuCo
 - *Community Garden Field Trip*
 - Tomorrow, 4/29 the student council will be taking a field trip to the Community Garden to help clean up, paint, and plant the garden.
 - *Spring Spirit Week/Pep Rally*
 - On Monday 4/11 to Friday 4/15 the student council hosted spring spirit week. Besides having the spirit week, we had our first pep rally on Thursday 4/14 since November of 2019! Congratulations to the seniors for winning spirit week and the pep rally with the juniors in a very close second!
- SHImprov
 - SHHS's improv troupe, SHImprov, will be hosting the Improv Olympics on Friday, 4/29 at 6 pm in the SHHS auditorium. This is their biggest show all year! Admission is any size donation, and all proceeds go to The Trevor Project, which is a crisis intervention and suicide prevention hotline for LGBTQ youth.

Chairperson Matos stated that Kaily shared some impressive news about her experience with the track team and asked her to share it with the community. Kaily Godek placed in the Top three for Shotput and Javelin Throwing. She is so happy and can't wait to see what she will do in the upcoming weeks. Dr. Matos wanted to celebrate Kaily because she knows she is a humble person and they wanted to acknowledge her accomplishments.

f. School Climate Survey Summary of Results (Administrative Team)

Assistant Chairperson Schlachter stated that she asked for it to be on the agenda a while ago, which is extremely important information. She referred to Dr. McLaughlin to discuss further.

Dr. McLaughlin lead a presentation with the Administrator Leadership Team (Jennifer Voyik, Carla Lussier, Cindy Flynn, David Gallagher, Liz Wood, Beth Cooke and Amy Langdon). He introduced Amy Langdon, Assistant Director of Student Services, who has demonstrated value an individual can bring to a position. The services of Special Education are measurably enhanced by Amy joining our team. In addition, he introduced Carla Lussier, who is the

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Interim Principal at Plains Elementary School. She has jumped into a challenging situation with both feet and a lot of heart, and we are grateful for Carla as well.

Dr. McLaughlin and the Leadership Team discussed this survey in this kind of place. The one thing we know about surveys is that they have to be reliable tool that is tested and vetted. They have to hopefully be presented in a context where there has been time for evaluation and reflection about what the survey is asking. We are in the midst of a nationally recognized, mental health crisis within our students, which is largely produced from the COVID crisis. We live in unstable times and students are not separate from that. We are asking students to reflect on relationship to school and learning in a time where we already know that it's challenging. The Leadership Team presented the findings of the District Student Climate Survey.

- Representing the responsibility of the collective district
- A similar Climate Survey Tool was used at each level to gather data regarding the community of South Hadley Public Schools
 - "Similar" refers to the adaptation needed to reflect developmentally appropriate questions and a way to respond to those questions.
- Validity of the Survey – Having used other surveys in the past they do not have sufficient data to

Chairperson Matos stated that the next two items are almost twinned and asked for clarification. Dr. McLaughlin explained that they are very close, but different. "Before you judge, get curious instead." There is a similarity, but they are two different roles. He allowed Amy Foley and Paula Lonergan to explain the details of each Travel Club. She believes that this connects to the district's goal of diversity, equity and inclusion. The main focus of this is for them to choose a couple of options they're interested in to travel around the world. She will also throw an option in there and they will choose from those options. She has had diverse experiences traveling with students. Every single opportunity that she has had to travel with students has taught her something new.

g. Re-Establishment of Travel Club at SHHS (vote)

Amy Foley describes the Global Citizen Club. The main goal is teach students how to become a global citizen. She has traveled over the last ten (10) years as a leader, chaperone and working with a traveling company. Every opportunity that she has had to travel with students has taught her something new.

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She would like to use the Global Citizen Program, which is a national delegation that will provide them the opportunity to travel with students all over the country. The students not only learned about the countries that they went to but they learned about the students in the United States as well. She wants the students to participate in a service project and/or fundraising, which brings the community together. They would travel in the summer and would not miss any school time. They would tour countries to learn about the history. There's also a cultural emergence opportunity and service aspect of the trip. It really connects to the district's goal for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Chairperson Matos asked is there a presentation summary or some other way to learn how was the experience. Amy Foley says that there is nothing in place, but, it was something that they will have to create prior to the event. She wants students to get out of their comfort zone, build confidence and independence.

The organization chooses chaperones from around the country. She has met teachers from other states. It's great for them not to only get to meet peers, but to meet teachers as well.

Allison Schlachter asked what is the background check for the chaperones? Amy Foley stated that it's an extensive background check. All teachers have to be licensed in the United States, they do an extensive CORI and background checks.

Lynda Pickbourn stated that she is in full support of anything that encourages global travel. The question that she has is that travel programs can be quite expensive. When thinking about diversity, equity, and inclusion – what do you have in mind to making this inclusive given the cost involved? Amy Foley says that's a great question and it's really a challenge because these trips are not cheap. For student travel, when you pay for these trips, you pay for everything (three meals a day, room /board, transportation, etc.) The challenge for making it affordable for everyone is there. The Global Citizen Program has several fundraising ideas. There are group and individual fundraising ideas that students can take the initiative to use. She may also look into grants, if possible, to make that happen for students.

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned that issue is something that they have discussed along with Paula. He wants to reassure everyone that both of them are very aware of thinking of ways to make sure that students have access if they are eligible to participate in this program. It's definitely forefront in the front of their minds.

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h. Re-Establishment of Service Travel Club at SHHS

Paula Lonergan shared her presentation for the Spanish Service Immersion Trip, which she has done for upper level Spanish students, which is a service trip. She would like to provide it in Summer of 2023:

- 12-20 Upper-Level Spanish Students
- Two Teacher Chaperones
- Central / South America
 - Squads Abroad (Panama)
 - Explorica (Costa Rica)
 - Rustic Pathways (CR)
 - Maximo Nivel (Peru)
 - Common Ground (Ecuador)
- April Break and possible two (2) days
- Cost approximately \$3,000 per student
- Fundraising / Scholarship Availability
- Service
 - Teaching
 - Repair/Construction
 - Farming / Reforestation
 - Nature /Wildlife Protection and Care
 - Community Health and Wellness
- Cultural Activities
 - History, Cooking, Dance, Traditions and Practices in Indigenous Peoples
 - Fun Excursions
 - Markets, Ruins, Outdoor Adventures, Beaches
- Spanish Classes
 - Professional, Local Teachers
 - Conversation Practice
 - Small Group Lessons
 - Prefer Programs Which Include Classes
 - Possible Small Additional Cost
- Not a Vacation / Sightseeing Trip
- Modest Accommodations (lodge / homestay)
- Family-Style, Home-Cooked Meals
 - Food Allergies/Restrictions, Vegetarian
 - No Individual Requests
 - Filtered Water

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- All the Services Provide:
 - Airport Pickup
 - Drivers and Guides
 - 24-Hour Emergency Assistance
 - Wi-Fi
 - Safe Lodging
 - Planned Outings

- Fundraising
 - Group Decides on Projects
 - Car Washes
 - Chocolate Sales
 - Bake Sales
 - Tiger's Den
 - Collab with Other Groups
 - Individual Fundraising Account

Allison Schlachter fully supports these trips and it's very exciting to see these coming back. Chairperson Matos stated that she was fooled by the agenda, but they are very different trips. He's glad they are the same trip. No further questions.

Chairperson Jackson Matos entertained a motion to re-establish the Travel Club at South Hadley High School. The motion was moved by Allison Schlachter and second by Eric Friesner. No further discussion. Motion passed: 5/0 (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

Chairperson Jackson Matos entertained a motion to re-establish the Service Travel Club at South Hadley High School. The motion was moved by Allison Schlachter and second by Eric Friesner. No further discussion. Motion passed: 5/0 (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

i. Reaffirm Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials Policy (KEC) (vote)

Dr. McLaughlin discussed the policy which is dated 2014. They are not asking for a change in the policy, but periodically, it's important to bring some policies brought forward to the School Committee so it reads as current. We don't anticipate difficult around these issues,

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because our teachers use their curriculum and resources that go with their curriculum very thoughtfully, guided by frameworks and standards. However, in the event, because there have been discussions in other districts where there have been times that curriculum resources or materials or curriculums themselves have been challenged, we want to make sure that our district has a process. He's not asking for any change. He would like the School Committee to reaffirm their support for this and there would be a new date. It would provide administration an opportunity to use this process as a tool to address and complaints that may come up.

Chairperson Matos would like to change some of the language to be more contemporary, the binary language like his/her/their or he/she/they. Dr. McLaughlin states that we will make those changes. He asks if the School Committee needs to see it prior to taking a vote.

Vice Chair Schlachter stated that since we are not redoing the policy and just updating the pronoun language. She trusts that Dr. McLaughlin, Jennifer Voyik and Christina Stevenson will do it and the meeting minutes will note that it was with those edits. No additional questions.

Chairperson Matos entertained a motion to update the Public Complaints About Curriculum or Instructional Materials policy, which was moved by Allison Schlachter and seconded by Eric Friesner. No further discussion. Motion passed: 5/0 (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

j. Budget Updates

Jennifer Voyik stated that they have spoken a lot about the budget, but she gave an overview of the budget so they can show ways where the district can streamline costs. They have had the presentation before the Appropriations Committee. She thought it went well and they had great questions. They had some comments about projecting into what the district will need moving forward financially. During the Appropriations Budget Hearing, which was led by Town Administrator, Lisa Wong, there was great questions from the community for the school and other departments. They are continuing to work with the budget with the subcommittee. They would like to have a thoughtful meeting with the subcommittee to discuss updates to the budget in the near future.

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Dr. McLaughlin added that they want to thank Lisa Wong, Town Administrator, and the various committees that they have had an opportunity to work with recently. It's been really encouraging, and they have been so supportive of the school district and the way we have been thoughtful in presenting our needs.

Chairperson Matos can not thank Dr. McLaughlin and Jennifer Voyik enough for all of the hard work that they do.

VIII. Information Only

None.

IX. Unfinished Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

Chairperson Matos informed the public that they are going into Executive Session. He entertained a motion to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for all bargaining units A, C, D and E, motion was moved by Lynda Pickbourn and seconded by Allison Schlachter.

Kaily Godek asked if they will be virtual or in-person for the next meeting. Chairperson Matos stated they have not had that discussion yet. It's to be determined. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Schlachter, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos) With no further business to discuss, the School Committee Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

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

Reviewed and Approved by,
Jackson Matos
Chairperson, South Hadley School Committee
Date: June 2, 2022