

# South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

- I. **Call to Order:** Noticing a quorum, Chair, Eric Friesner called to order the remote South Hadley School Committee meeting, a Zoom Meeting accessible via SHCTV15 and SHCTV.com

**In Attendance:** Eric Friesner, Vice Chairperson; Danielle Cooke, Member; Lynda Pickbourn-Smith, Member (in at 6:04); Lawrence Dixon, Member; Daniel Vieu, Member (in at 7:04); Mark McLaughlin, Interim Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools; and Jennifer Voyik, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Operations for South Hadley Public Schools.

- II. **Public Comment: None.**

- III. **SHEA Report: None.**

- IV. **Routine Items**

**A. Approval of Warrants (VOTE)**

Date	Number	Amount
April 18, 2023	Warrant #2023-253	\$217,540.98
April 25, 2023	Warrant #2023-259	\$141,291.65

**(VOTE)** Danielle Cooke made a motion to approve the following two warrants, the first is warrant dated April 18, 2023, it is warrant #2023-253 in the amount of \$217,540.98 and the second is warrant dated April 25, 2023, it is warrant #2023-259 in the amount of \$141,291.65. Larry Dixon seconded the motion.

Some discussion regarding officials and athletic events.

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

This motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

**B. Approval of Minutes 4/27/2023 (VOTE)**

**(VOTE)** Vice Chair Cooke made a motion to approve the minutes from April 27, 2023.

Larry Dixon seconded.

Cooke – Aye; Dixon – Aye; & Friesner - Aye

This motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

- V. **Reports of Standing Committees**

**A. School Committee Liaison Reports:**

- 1. Racial Justice Task Force:** Danielle Cooke presented: May 17<sup>th</sup> is their final meeting of the 2022-2023 school year. They will reconvene in September. The month of May signals the end of some term limits. They will be seeking a Plains School representative, as a replacement for a member who is retiring. The Task Force is hoping to have more active student enrollment so they will be posting for any students in grades 7-12 who may be interested. They will also be seeking more community engagement. The Task

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Force is still working through the SHPS Policy Manual, continuing the good work the District has been doing, reviewing current policies and any suggestions they have will be presented to the School Committee.

- B. Advisory Committees: None**
  - C. Site-based Committees: None**
  - D. Report of Interim Superintendent:** Dr. McLaughlin reminded the Committee and the community about the dedication of the musical garden in honor of Hank Skala at Plains Elementary School at 2pm. He thanked Principal Lussier and the Plains PTO for their hard work to honor Hank.
  - E. Report of the School Committee:** Chair Friesner shared that the Tri-board met May 3<sup>rd</sup> and stated they typically meet the first Wednesday of the month and that it is a group comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Selectboard, Appropriations, the School Committee, the Town Administrator, Town Accountant, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent which provides the opportunity for these town groups to work together. Vice Chair Cooke shared the Appropriations Committee Report is now available on the Town website, if anyone is interested in seeing it ahead of the 5/10/23 Town Meeting. It is a great resource containing fiscal information about the town. Chair Friesner also reminded the public that the School Committee Public Budget Hearing is available on SHCTV15.com and shared that the School Department will be represented at the Town Meeting if there are any follow-up questions.
  - F. Appreciations:** Jenn Voyik – Nicholina Sodano, Mike Gauthier, Peter B-G Weller, and Tara Cole for the pleasure of classroom visits; School Cafeteria Staff for School Lunch Hero Day 5/5/23. Chair Friesner thanked Danielle Cooke.
- VI. SHHS Music Department Donation: (VOTE)** Jenn Voyik read a letter submission regarding this donation (filed with original minutes).  
**(VOTE)** Danielle Cooke made a motion to accept the donation to the music department on behalf of Lisa Beauchemin and her family.  
Larry Dixon seconded the motion.  
No further discussion.  
Cooke – Aye; Pickbourn – Aye; Dixon – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.  
This motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- VII. Discussion concerning Form/Forum for Future School Committee Meetings:** Discussion regarding in-person, hybrid and remote options, the Governor’s provision, and some pros and cons for each. Tabled discussion for later date.
- VIII. Summer Schedule of School Committee Meetings:** No meeting May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
Next meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Summer schedule TBD.

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**IX. Appointment of School Committee Representatives to Town Committees**

**A. Humans Rights Commission – 2 members (VOTE)** Chair Friesner provided an overview of the purpose of this commission. There is a one-year appointment and a three-year appointment. The appointees do not have to be School Committee members. Vice Chair Cooke is interested in the one-year appointment. Assistant Superintendent Voyik suggested possible correspondence to go out to families about the vacant seat to promote interest. Chair Friesner mentioned Lisa Wong may have a flyer available to spread the word, too. **(VOTE)** Chair Friesner entertained a motion to accept the nomination of Danielle Cooke to the Human Rights Commission for a one-year term.

L. Pickbourn so moved.

L. Dixon seconded.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**B. Town Meeting Review Committee – 1 member (VOTE):** Chair Friesner shared some specifics regarding this one-year term appointment.

**(VOTE)** Chair Friesner entertained a motion to accept Larry Dixon as our appointment to the Town Meeting Review Committee.

Vice Chair Cooke so moved.

L. Pickbourn seconded.

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

This motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

**X. 2023-2024 School Choice Application Update:** M. McLaughlin stated the deadline was April 28, 2023. J. Voyik reviewed the School Committee approved openings and the applications received per grade to date. M. McLaughlin reviewed possible outcomes like received applications meeting, surpassing, or not filling approved openings. There was discussion regarding approval of openings, acceptance and the factors pertaining to the District budget and staffing. According to the guidelines the District and School Committee do have some flexibility for accepting applications for remaining opening.

**XI. Information Only:** Teacher Appreciation Week is next week.

**XII. Unfinished Business:** None

**XIII. New Business:** None

At 7:18pm Chair Friesner entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair Cooke so moved.

L. Dixon seconded.

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

This motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

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