

South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2022

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

I. Call to Order

Noticing a quorum, Chairperson, Jackson 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: Jackson Matos, Chairperson
Allison Schlachter, 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: Judith Gooch

Absent: Amy Foley, President of SHEA

II. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Jackson Matos stated that the reading of the minutes from April 28, 2022, will be held until next session on May 19, 2022.

III. Approval of Warrants

Chairperson Jackson Matos asked a committee member to read the warrants because Danielle Cooke was running late. Lynda Pickbourn volunteered.

Lynda Pickbourn read for approval the following Warrants and Bi-Weekly Payroll. Lynda Pickbourn made a motion for approval of said warrants, which was second by Allison Schlachter. No further discussion. Motion passed: 4/0 (Schlachter, Friesner, Pickbourn and Matos).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
April 26, 2022	Warrant #2022-252	\$171,032.41
April 28, 2022	Bi-Weekly Payroll	\$737,992.88

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IV. Reports of Standing Committees

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

No reports of Standing Committees.

Chairperson Jackson Matos thanked Lynda Pickbourn for her suggestion of the “Appreciations” section which will now be added to the School Committee agenda.

Appreciation

- Lynda Pickbourn appreciates Jennifer Voyik for getting the floors at Mosier Elementary repaired over the April Vacation break.
- Jennifer Voyik paid it forward to the amazing custodial staff at Mosier School for taking extra days within their April Break week to address the floors.
- Allison Schlachter wanted to thank the teachers and hard-working staff. She acknowledged that it’s Teacher Appreciation Week. She also wanted to thank all of those who support the teachers: paraprofessionals, school adjustment counselors, guidance counselors, front desk, secretaries, administration, etc. Everyone who makes all of our schools run every day; and keeping our students safe and learning.
- Chairperson Matos wanted to thank Kaily Godek has been an amazing student representative for the committee. She sets a good representative of the types of students that we have in South Hadley. She’s always enthusiastic, ready and prepared for the meetings. She’s a true representative of what our students can do here.
 - Kaily thanked Dr. Matos and stated that this is not the end. More to come in her update.
- Eric Friesner piggy-backed on Dr. Matos comments about Kaily. He really appreciates not only how involved she is, but how committed she is to everything. She is not only an example for students but also for adult volunteers in South Hadley. He’s not 100% sure that he would be serving on the School Committee, if he didn’t serve with Kaily on the Search Committee with her. If Kaily can do all of this stuff, I should also be able to step up my game and volunteer more.
 - Kaily thanked Eric for his kind words and wished they had the opportunity to work together longer also.
- Danielle Cooke was thankful for this new “Appreciation” platform. It’s a great way to start the meeting. She also wanted to thank Dr. McLaughlin for his work and his communications are seen and appreciated by her and many people in the community.

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V. Public Comment

No Public Comments.

VI. Discussion and Action Items

a. SHEA Updates

Chairperson Jackson Matos stated that Amy Foley, SHEA President, would not be present at the meeting to provide the SHEA Updates report.

b. Report of the Assistant Superintendent

Dr. McLaughlin loved the appreciation moment because there are a lot of good things that are happening in the district. To acknowledge these things that happen to be true is very nice. Especially relative to the teachers, those appreciations are well deserved. He briefly discussed Teacher Appreciation Week and his gratitude for the South Hadley Public School teachers.

Dr. McLaughlin and Dr. Matos were able to attend the Grinspoon Foundation – Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award Banquet at the Log Cabin to acknowledge two (2) recipients of this award from South Hadley Schools, Brook Holmes and Jennifer Weeks. For every teacher that gets acknowledgment, there are other teachers as well that do great work every day.

Dr. McLaughlin discussed the Sandy Hook Promise Affiliation, which assists in creating a culture of inclusivity, kindness and respect. There are so many ways that can be achieved (policies, practice or training and awareness). Our affiliation is one of the avenues in which we are trying in South Hadley to help to demonstrate how we can contribute to a better culture. We have had trainings in “Start with Hello” to reach out to others. Also, training in “Signs of Suicide” to make sure our students are healthy and well. The final training is “Say Something” when you see behavior that’s not kind. Mary Kay Wishneski is the Northeast liaison for that group. He thinks that this will continue after this grant ends. We are putting infrastructure in place to continue the work with Sandy Hook Promise.

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The At-Home COVID Antigen testing will go from weekly testing to monthly for May and June. The distribution will change to Thursday, May 12, 2022, starting at 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at South Hadley High School; and on Thursday, June 9, 2022, starting at 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the South Hadley High School. Participants will get double the amount.

Allison Schlachter confirmed the number of kits at pick-up. Dr. McLaughlin stated that you will receive four (4) test kits each month during the distribution. Ms. Schlachter confirmed that if you miss a pickup do you, can you double-up on your next pick up or do you just miss that pick up. Dr. McLaughlin states that they are very flexible and if they have any concerns, they can reach out to Mary Walsh, Director of Nursing.

c. Report of the Chair and School Committee

Chairperson Jackson Matos discussed briefly about the Tri-Board Meeting with Town Administrator, Lisa Wong and how they are making everything collaborative.

d. Report of Student Representative

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

- **Teacher Appreciation Week**
 - Monday marked the start of teacher appreciation week. Thank you to all of the awesome teachers we have here in the district!
- **Plains**
 - Plains will be having field day on 6/2 with a rain date on 6/3.
- **Mosier**
 - Ms. Flynn would like to let everyone know the following dates:
 - 5/25: 4th Grade jump rope competition
 - 5/27: 3rd Grade jump rope competition
 - 5/27: School-wide Hawaiian Spirit Day
 - 6/6: Children's Librarian is going to Mosier to talk about summer programming
 - 6/7: 2nd Grade games day
 - 6/8: 1st Grade step up day – visiting in the morning
 - 6/9: 3rd Grade games day
 - 6/10: 4th Grade games day
 - 6/17: Last day of school
- **MESMS**
 - Nothing to Report

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- **SHHS**
 - **Arts**
 - On Thursday, 5/19 there will be a spring concert and arts night from 6-8 pm at SHHS.
 - ***Be the Change Project***
 - SHHS is collecting cat and dog food (both wet and dry), treats, toys, and blankets. All donations are going towards local animal shelters. We are really excited to be able to help and give back to the community and hope that you can help us out!
 - **Athletics**
 - Car Wash
 - The Boy's and Girl's track teams will be holding a car wash on Saturday 5/7 from 9 am to 12 pm at South Hadley Fire District 2 by donation. All proceeds go towards sending athletes to invitational meets during the season.
 - Gazette Player of the Year
 - Boys track athlete, Jonas Clarke, was named Gazette's player of the year for boy's indoor track. A highlight of his indoor track season earning the state record in the 55-meter dash of 6.24, along with competing at the New Balance Nationals! Congrats Jonas!
 - Additionally, boys track seniors, Tyler Evans and Liam Sibley-Welch were named to the first team by the Gazette. Congrats Liam and Tyler!
 - Girls track athlete, Emma Sanford, was named Gazette's player of the year for girl's indoor track. A highlight of her indoor track season was being able to compete in the New Balance and Nike Nationals this past winter. Congrats Emma!
 - Additionally, girls track athletes, Lauren Marjanski and Abby Gelinas were named to the first team by the Gazette. Bella Alcaraz was named to the second team for the Gazette as well. Congrats Abby, Bella, and Lauren!
 - Spring Senior Nights
 - Friday 5/13, Baseball vs. Monson at 4 pm at SHHS
 - Friday 5/13, Softball vs. Palmer at 6:30 pm at SHHS
 - Monday 5/23 Boy's Lacrosse vs. Belchertown at 6 pm at the SHHS turf
 - Tuesday 5/24, Girl's Lacrosse vs. Hampshire Regional at 4 pm at SHHS turf
 - Girl's Tennis TBD
 - Sport Commitments
 - Girls Basketball senior, Talia Uribe has committed to playing basketball for the next 4 years at Elms College. Congrats Talia!

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- Field Hockey senior, Gabi Moroney has committed to playing field hockey for the next 4 years at Stevens Institute of Technology. Congrats Gabi!
- Football senior, Tyler Mayer, has committed to playing football for the next 4 years at Anna Maria College. Congrats Tyler!
- **National Decision Day**
 - On Friday 4/29 students wore apparel relating to their future plans. Teachers also wore apparel from their alma mater or their favorite school/career.
 - 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.
- **Police K9 Demonstration**
 - On Tuesday 5/3, officers from surrounding cities came and did a demonstration with the criminal justice students during the last block of the day.
- **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.
- **SHImprov**
 - Last Friday's SHImprov show was a hit. Thank you to everyone who went to the show. They were able to raise \$1000 for the Trevor Project.
- **StuCo**
 - Community Garden Field Trip
 - Student Council members took a trip to help at the community garden last Friday, 4/29.
 - Lip Sync Battle
 - Student Council is currently working hard on planning a Lip Sync Battle for Friday, 5/20. Students from the high school will be performing for the community to come and watch.
 - WMASC Spring Conference
 - Representatives from our council will be attending the Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (WMASC) Spring Conference on Monday, 5/16. They will have an opportunity to

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meet students from other schools at this conference along with voting for the executive board for next year.

- **Final Farewells**

- *Tonight marks the end of my time on the school committee. I am grateful for the past year I spent on the committee.*
- *I will be attending Western New England for the next 4 years majoring in Sports Management.*

Chairperson Jackson Matos congratulated Kaily and mentioned that Kaily will inform us who will be the next student representative soon.

FAREWELLS

- **Dr. McLaughlin** stated that Kaily has been so gracious and that the several times that he has seen her at the high school, Kaily has acknowledged him from across the parking lot. It can be difficult to be the 'new kid' no matter who you are and she has been kind and gracious. She is exactly why they do this. He wishes her nothing but the stars.
 - Kaily thanked him and said that what he has done this year has been amazing.
- **Allison Schlachter** states that they have worked together for two (2) years and she echoes what everyone has said... Kaily is a treasure and an amazing role model for our students in South Hadley. She's a breathe of fresh air and makes her smile every time she sees her. She has always gone above and beyond.
- **Lynda Pickbourn** has only worked with her a couple of months but in that time she has been really impressed by Kaily. She's always prepared and does a good job about keeping them all informed about what's going on in the schools. Her presence will be missed and she wants to wish her all the best in the next phase of her life.
- **Jennifer Voyik** has seen her at sporting events and volunteering her time. She has watched her doing her homework during half-time or timeouts. She admires her work ethic and volunteer. She's sure she will see her before she graduates, but she's really proud of her.
- **Danielle Cooke** states that she knows where those Godek's are and like every other Godek, her volunteer is huge. It's not goodbye, but she's very happy for her future and thanks for being with us so far.
- **Chairperson Matos** stated that her time will come to be voted for School Committee member. Just putting it out there.... Kaily stated that Christina Stevenson emailed a message to Kaily stating "Kaily Godek for School Committee Chair 2030". Chairperson Matos stated that now she has her plans and she can use those lawn signs if she ever needs to change them into campaign signs. This is not goodbye, but they wanted her to know how much she means to them.

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e. Master Plan

Chairperson Jackson Matos introduced Judith Gooch who discussed the Master Plan for the Town of South Hadley. Judith Gooch stated that she loved the appreciation section and how the School Committee members appreciated Kaily – That's great.

Ms. Gooch reviewed the new Master Plan Update, which was adopted on March 28, 2022 by the Planning Board, which is enforced. This update they are standardizing procedures so that everyone will have a chance to weigh in appropriately. The Master Plan Update has four (4) goals:

- South Hadley is a community where everybody can thrive
- We are a community that preserves its natural, cultural and historical resources
- We act sustainably and promote resilience
- We enhance communications in all directions

One of the things about this plan is that so many issues require participants from multiple groups / entities. This update is trying to be explicit about which entities ought to be participating; and they have designated in most cases a lead entity.

Ms. Gooch discussed the changes in recording structure to the Town Administrator and the Selectboard and reviewed the Action Items with the School Committee. They're requesting feedback on what's working and not working.

Judith Gooch would like to meet with Dr. McLaughlin to discuss the potential data that he may have and responded to School Committee questions about communication to the community. Danielle Cooke wanted to know what type of platform that should be provided to the community and Ms. Gooch said that it was up to the School Committee.

Chairperson Matos stated that the information provided was very clear and helpful.

Allison Schlachter asked how do you see other committees are staying on top of the plan. Ms. Gooch believes there will be any number of different models on how this will be processed from different entities. Danielle Cooke thinks that some of the goals line up with some of the District's goals. It will hold them more accountable to measuring that progress more frequently. Ms. Gooch confirmed that [you] will be asked to updated the spreadsheet three (3) times a year and she will be checking in with them twice a year.

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f. Transportation Policy

Jennifer Voyik stated that it's coming up on the time when they need to start to do registration forms. She thinks it's important to know who will be riding the buses for safety reasons for each school as well as creating more efficient routes and other reasons.

She addressed the transportation policy with regards to the buses that transport to Mosier Elementary and Michael E. Smith Middle School. If a student can take the bus to Mosier because it's within the minimum required distance, but if they go to the middle school it's not available even though the schools are right across the street from each other. She proposes to change that policy, so they have some consistency. Many other districts are 1.5 miles or more, but our schools it's less: Plains (.5 mile); Mosier (1 mile); MESMS (1.5 miles). She wanted to bring it up for discussion before the transportation committee.

Danielle Cooke would look closer at routes and start times as well as saving costs.

Jennifer Voyik will schedule a meeting with the Transportation Sub-Committee to discuss this further and would like to have a vote on the May 19th meeting. If it's approved, they can send out Registration forms by the last week of May.

g. Summer Meal Planning

Jennifer Voyik discussed that we have provided summer meals for the South Hadley community for the last couple of years. We have been able to do that because it was universally free meals for everyone and that has now ended. She is proposing that we do not provide summer meals this year for the following reasons:

- Universal Free is ending. Therefore, anyone who would want a free lunch would have to pay unless they are part of a free or reduced lunch program.
- They did a survey last summer to see how many families were interested and they were under the number they wanted in order to cover the salaries of our staff to be in; and those numbers dropped throughout the summer. We started at 300 people that were signed up. We had approximately 120 that would show up by end of the summer.

It's more of a hassle than the benefit that a few members would get out of this program. Now that we're at an endemic, it makes more sense to discontinue.

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Danielle Cooke knows that the meal initiatives was through Project Bread. You could go to any community that was participating. If Holyoke was distributing one day and Granby another day, you could go there, etc. She asked if we knows whether if there are any larger hubs that are still distributing meals so we can refer them to those resources for free and reduced meals. Jennifer Voyik will have Matt Hoagland reach out to other districts to see who may be participating in this summer program.

VII. Information Only

None.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None.

IX. New Business

None.

Chairperson Jackson Matos entertained a motion to adjourn, which was moved by Allison Schlachter and seconded by Eric Friesner. Kaily said "Thank you" again and how much she appreciates everyone. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously: 5/0 (Matos, Cooke, Friesner, Pickbourn and Schlachter) Next School Committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022, with no further business to discuss, the School Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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

Reviewed and Approved by,
Jackson Matos
Chairperson, South Hadley School Committee
Date: May 19, 2022