

South Hadley Public Schools

School Committee Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

- I. **Call to Order:** Noticing a quorum at 6:00pm, Chair Friesner called to order the remote South Hadley School Committee meeting, a Zoom meeting accessible via SHCTV15 and SHCTV.com

In Attendance: Eric Friesner, Chairperson; Danielle Cooke, Vice Chairperson; Lynda Pickbourn-Smith, Member; Lawrence Dixon, 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: Charles Miles, Capital Planning Member; Susan Cook, SH Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Coordinator; Steve Fleming, SH Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Director; Carla Lussier, Plains Principal; Cindy Flynn, Mosier Principal; Chris Fontaine, MESMS Principal; Liz Wood, SHHS Principal; & Beth Cooke, Director of Student Services.

Absent: Daniel View, Member.

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

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

- IV. **Capital Planning Committee:** At 6:01 passed over to return upon Charles' arrival. Revisited at 6:07pm. The School Committee has two appointed seats for the Capital Planning Committee, both seats are for three-year terms, and both are up this year. Currently these seats are held by Charles Miles and Christine Philips. At this time the Committee can reappoint the current members or appoint new members beginning Jul 1, 2023. Charles Miles shared personal experience of being a part of this committee and the work done by this committee. Both Charles and Christine are willing to continue serving the district in their capacity.

(VOTE) Cooke made a motion to nominate Charles Miles to continue for a three-year term as a School Committee Representative for Capital Planning Committee.

Pickbourn seconded.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

(VOTE) Cooke made a motion to re-elect Christine Philips to serve a second term as a School Committee Representative to the Capital Planning Committee.

Dixon seconded.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

- V. **Routine Items:**

- A. **Approval of Warrants (2 VOTES)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Warrant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
May 16, 2023	Warrant #2023-281	\$201,252.85
May 23, 2023	Warrant #2023-288	\$85,513.56
May 30, 2023	Warrant #2023-293	\$412,611.49
June 8, 2023	Biweekly Payroll	\$784,534.54

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(VOTE) Danielle Cooke made a motion to all those eligible to approve the following warrant, warrant #2023-293, dated May 30, 2023, in the amount of \$412,611.49.

L. Pickbourn seconded.

No further discussion.

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

This motion passed with 3 in favor and 1 abstention.

(VOTE) Danielle Cooke made a motion to approve the following three warrants, warrant dated May 16, 2023, warrant #2023-281 in the amount of \$201,252.85, warrant dated May 23, 2023, warrant #2023-288 in the amount of \$85,513.56 and warrant dated June 8, 2023, a biweekly payroll in the amount of \$784,534.54.

Dixon seconded.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes – 6/1/23 (VOTE)

(VOTE) Friesner entertained a motion to approve the minutes for 6/1/23.

Cooke so moved.

Pickbourn seconded.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

C. Budget Transfers (VOTE)

Jenn Voyik explained the budget transfer.

(VOTE) Friesner entertained a motion to accept the budget transfer as presented.

Cooke so moved.

Dixon seconded.

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

This motion passed unanimously.

VI. Reports of Standing Committees

A. Subcommittee Reports: None.

B. Report of Student Representative: Chair Friesner welcomed and introduced student representative, Tobias Smith. Tobias shared all schools had fun with the Special Olympics the previous Friday. MESMS had field trips for each grade, 5th went to Plymouth, 6th to Cape Cod, 7th to the Bronx Zoo and 8th to Washington DC. They also had field day and fourteen students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Mosier had an electrical safety presentation, a PTO sponsored game show assembly, a games day celebration and 4th graders will have step up day on the 16th. At Plains there was an art show that was attended to by families, field day and lots of end of year classroom celebrations. SHHS was busy with final exams.

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- C. Report of Interim Superintendent:** Mark McLaughlin welcomed and thanked Tobias for working as the student representative. Dr. McLaughlin stated that this is a significant meeting as it marks the end of a school year and provided a brief review of the year. He spoke about enhanced communication to help the community understand the things that are good that are happening in the district and to be transparent about the things which still need improvement. Dr. McLaughlin summarized the year by speaking about contract negotiations, the creation of fourteen necessary positions, a revised schedule for MESMS due to partnership between administration and SHEA, an impactful literacy initiative, the work on an arts & music curriculum, the Joint Labor Management Committee's work and the regular safety meetings that have included the School District, Town Administrator, Chief of Police and Fire Chiefs. He gave credit to the administrative team and the teachers.
- D. Report of Chair and School Committee:** Chair Friesner stated it has indeed been a good year and congratulated all students, teachers, and staff on a successful year. It was shared that the School Committee will take the summer to establish what they would like to accomplish in the 2023-2024 school year. Chair Friesner stated the recent JLMC meeting will be on a future agenda to discuss the work being done by this subcommittee.
- E. Appreciations:** Friesner – Plains, Ms. Goodale, the first graders and the presentation of, "It's a jungle out there". Jenn Voyik – Anna Naiman who did all the painting for the play & Eric Hodges for the stage coordination; Jenna Webb and Anna Naiman for her experience during the classroom visits. D. Cooke – 5th grade exploratory teachers, Diane Spotts & Melissa Lake.
- VII. South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition: Summary of Youth Substance Use Data:** Susan Cooke and Steve Fleming presented a slideshow which is filed with the original minutes reviewing data and survey results and the work the coalition has been doing. Susan shared appreciation for Jenn Voyik for managing the grant that supports the coalition. There was discussion about the student survey, health curriculum, and state standards.
- VIII. Year End Review of District & School Improvement Plans:** Dr. McLaughlin began by stating that "district improvement plans are only as strong as the ability of the schools to be able to execute that vision". He explained how administration worked collectively to establish three areas to be focused on, academic rigor, community engagement and learning community well-being, by each school and the goals that have been reached, ones that are being worked on and those to be worked on as these plans are multi-year plans. Each principal presented their progress, as well as Beth Cooke regarding special education. Jenn Voyik shared some information pertaining to the technology department.
- IX. Discussion on Human Rights Commission:** Chair Friesner gave an update stating an email blast was sent out to the school community who would be interested in participating in this commission. Five applications have been received and there is a deadline of June 30th to

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receive any additional ones. Chair Friesner suggested interested parties be interviewed at one of the summer meetings.

X. Summer Schedule for School Committee Meetings: July 6, 2023, and August 3, 2023 are the meetings dates scheduled for the summer.

XI. Information only

XII. Unfinished Business

XIII. New Business

(VOTE) Chair Friesner entertained a motion to adjourn.

Cooke so moved.

Dixon seconded.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:32pm.

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