

Minutes of the Regular South Hadley School Committee Meeting

Monday May, 18, 2020

Video Conference Meeting accessible via SCTV15

<p>Allison Schlachter called to order the virtual meeting of the South Hadley School Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>												
<p>Present: Kyle Belanger, Chairperson ; Allison Schlachter, Vice Chairperson; Charles Miles; Christine Phillips; Allyson Garcia Maddy Foley, Student Representative Also present: Dr. Diana Bonneville Ph.D. Interim Superintendent</p>	<p>Attendance</p>												
<p>On motion by Mrs. Phillips, seconded Mrs.Garcia the School Committee approved the following Accounts Payable Warrants from April 14th - May 5, 2020; motion carried unanimously.</p>													
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th><u>Date:</u></th><th><u>Warrant</u></th><th><u>Amount</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>April 28,2020</td><td>#2020-258</td><td>\$101,549.59</td></tr><tr><td>May 5, 2020</td><td>#2020-263</td><td>\$198,620.53</td></tr><tr><td>April 14,2020</td><td>Bi-Weekly Payroll</td><td>\$683,991.85</td></tr></tbody></table>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Warrant</u>	<u>Amount</u>	April 28,2020	#2020-258	\$101,549.59	May 5, 2020	#2020-263	\$198,620.53	April 14,2020	Bi-Weekly Payroll	\$683,991.85	
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<p>Allison Schlachter reported that the Superintendent Search Committee had a very successful day. The committee held a Zoom meeting with a Focus Group, pertaining to SEL, which is a big marker for our new Superintendent. How has the SEL been so far? What are students and parents looking for with SEL in the future? People are happy with Dr. Bonneville’s leadership. Principal’s are communicating very well with parents. We received lots of great feedback for Superintendent screenings. Next meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee is May 27, 2020 @ 6:00 PM.</p>	<p>Superintendent SearchCommittees</p>												
<p>Christine Phillips and Charles Miles had a great conversation with Mrs. Cooke, and she is providing them with data. Charles had attended a workshop that is helping greatly with this research. We will continue to work with Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Voyik while we continue to research transportation savings.</p>	<p>Transportation Sub Committee</p>												
<p>Christina Mallett sent a letter to be read at the School Committee meeting that read; I am a 5th grade science teacher at the Middle School. I have overcome obstacles to get where I am today. I was pleased to be chosen by Paul Plummer to teach in a community that values each employee, values relationships with colleagues, and fosters relationships with students. Distance Learning has given teachers time to dedicate ourselves to student learning with innovative and creative ways to draw our students in. I am a hard working, dedicated teacher, and MESMS is a valued asset to the students' education.</p>	<p>Public Forum</p>												
<p>Chairman Belanger read a letter sent to the School Committee from Kacey Kellard that read: What will post COVID world look like? How will we return to sports while social distancing from athletes, collaborations and training with our student athletes. There will be 3 phases to return:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All coaches and players will be screened for symptoms and temperature, and there should be no more than 10 people at practices and work outs.2. All equipment must be sanitized before workouts.Every person should wash their hands and clean equipment before moving on.													

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<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Moderate risk sports to resume practicing and sport, temperature and symptom checks, so that people are not interacting with athletes or the coaching staff. Reconsider the trainer position. Without this position who will take care of the health and safety of our students and athletes?4. Dr. Bonneville read a letter from Cayden Enrique, the captain of the wrestling team; in support of keeping the wrestling program intact at SHHS.5. A letter written by Brian Couture, was also read, advocating for fundraising for the Wrestling program.	
<p>Mosier is on its 4th round of collecting and distributing free books to K-12 at SHHS lunch and at Riverboat. Senior pictures are in front of the athletic field for their official last day. CARES grant is contributing \$173,086.00 starting on July 1st for Chromebooks, supplies sanitation, and supplies for social distancing. There will be no meal distribution on Monday, May 25, but lunch will be served on Friday.</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p>
<p>SHEA has been working with Administration to help with the budget and advocated saving the 4 Middle School positions.</p>	<p>SHEA</p>
<p>Congratulations to the remarkable "Class of 2020".</p>	
<p>The Positivity Committee will be having students take over their Instagram to stay in touch with everyone. The Student Council has been working with Dr. Bonneville to survey students and parents about changes for the fall if we have to have Distance Learning at the beginning of school. AP exams began online last week.</p>	<p>Student Representative</p>
<p>Chairman Belanger acknowledged the process does not end tonight, and Dr. Bonneville & Jen Voyik will continue to make fiscal decisions until the balanced budget is presented at the Town Meeting next month. This has been a very unpredictable budget, so this is just a snapshot of where we are right now. We are very grateful for the amount of money the town has given us. We will continue to re allocate as we go along. This is just the first step to be able to run our schools. Allison Schlachter has been very impressed how Dr. Bonneville, brought her team together and how Jen Voyik has a mastery of this budget. Mrs. Phillips noted that public education is evolving all the time and challenging to fund properly. She suggested combining resources with other school districts.</p>	
<p>FY 20-21 proposed budget continues to achieve the School Committee's commitment to provide resources to students for college & career readiness. The budget has been very tight in the past. The District is working diligently to keep reasonable class sizes, arts, sports and reduce the impact on as few employees as possible. A large part of the budget was dedicated to student instruction, and fulfilling legal requirements to present a balanced budget. Ever since 2015, Dr. Young has predicted a 600% increase for Special Education costs by 2020. We can no longer sustain that in our budget, so we have the opportunity to review the report line by line with the School Committee and the team.</p>	<p>Budget Hearing</p>

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The School department initially was going to ask for a 4.27% increase in the budget, but after much work, a 2.09% is needed. The budget problems are not new and for 6 years we have seen increasing costs in Special Education, retirement and insurance for town employees. The town has always supported the schools, and provides a higher % than is required by law. Our district has outpaced the funding formula that was established by the state. The school district's long term plan has enabled us to get by ½ or less of the supported school budget until the Special Education budget accelerated costs over the last 36 months. We previously had close to \$800,000 in school choice reserves and we knew we needed 1.7 million to maintain level funded services. In the fall Dr. Young had suggested letting \$600,000 from the high school, \$600,00 from the middle school and \$600,00 from Special Education budgets or heavy midyear layoffs. Which would have had a devastating impact on our budget, but we know we have to grow and go forward. District Improvement goals were reviewed. Technology goals: we will be reviewing school security and infrastructure, making upgrades to aged equipment, reviewing labs and making provisions for upgraded equipment. Professional Development: Trauma informed schools, differentiated instruction, and diversity & cultural bias training to enhance cultural competency. Due to COVID, additional safety and hygiene professional development will need to occur in the fall. We will be completing curriculum assessments for social studies and technology curriculum this year. We support the PreK-6 literacy collaborative model, PBIS and Restorative practices. This year we are starting new vocational programming at the high school, Chapter 74 for Hospitality Management, and in the future Criminal Justice, Early Childhood and perhaps Graphics and Environmental Sustainability. We are focusing on more interdisciplinary courses between vocational and an integrated program. The District is proposing the “Seal of Biliteracy Diploma” for the first year and educating Freshman about plagiarism and using plagiarism software at the high school and possibly the middle school as well. The high school NEASC recommends common planning time, developing protocols to assess student work, revising new learning and new learning rubrics as well. District is supporting a social emotional curriculum and best practices for that implication. Student services has a new program, the TTC program, which houses students that struggle with emotional regulation. This program helps to keep students in the district, instead of an OOD placement with higher costs. The District is supporting the Behavioral Response Team at the high school and the middle school. The business office is working to streamline practices and conducting a SPED Transportation Audit with Colleen Cavanaugh. The state has developed a formula that provided \$5,000 for reimbursement and this has not grown since 1991, and does not account for nursing or technology or the growth of SPED. We have not been guaranteed that money because of COVID and we will not receive this money until August. The town has been very supportive of us and has taken Jen Voyik under their wing to show us the ropes and help us succeed here.

The overview of the 2.09% (\$450,000 increase) line by line budget which is \$21,976.460 for FY21. Three big factors of the budget are going to be salary increases are step up and potential raises that may happen, Special Education and transportation. Special Education is 33% of our budget, the business official reported that Special Education being 28-36% of our total budget. So we are in the middle of looking at Special Education transportation and IEP's to make sure all the services are

Budget Overview

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correct and needed on the IEP's. We do not want this number to drive our budget, Christine Phillips and Charles Miles are researching cutting costs in regular and special Education transportation. If Circuit Breaker is fully funded, we are hoping for \$600,000 and taking into account when we look into tuitions for next year. The School Committee has allowed \$100,000 from school choice to be transferred to the local budget, leaving us with \$335,371 as a cushion. \$21,976.460, we can work within that to propose a couple of changes to allocate less to supplies, that would go towards a teacher salary and a .75 Curriculum Director. Potentially we are thinking about a math interventionist for the lower levels, and as we look to next year \$480,000 for OOD schools, a 600% increase. We need to look at how we can share services and start a strong collaboration with other districts. We need to continue to talk about cutting costs and we will continue to leave transportation and Special Education on the future agenda all the time.

Chairman Belanger would entertain a motion to accept the FY20/21 budget numbers as is, Charles Miles moved and Allyson Garcia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Bonneville presented 4 scenarios (see attached). The district needs to be prepared for 3 options- full return, hybrid and remote. Recognizing parents' safety concerns, webcams in classrooms was suggested, which would allow students to attend virtually.

PreK is at a crossroads since fall return has not been decided upon. The School Committee would like updated spreadsheets for hourly breakdowns, and we should be ready to charge for the program and have a sliding scale set for free/reduced students. As of now, we will be beginning with a full roster for PreK. The School Committee would like Plains to be promoting this program right now, not wait till we know about opening. Charles Miles felt we should lean towards the less expensive plan and build on that. Starting at the middle of the road tuition price increases by 10% each year. (\$780 per month divided by 4 weeks = \$48.75 per day).

Chairman Belanger would entertain a motion to accept the amended proposal for \$780.00 a month as we see moving forward. Moved by Christine Phillips and seconded by Charles Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

The High School has donated historical artifacts to the South Hadley Historical Society.

Template to the Commissioner to pay full load for Out Of District placements.

June 1, 2020@ 6:00 PM

Executive Session- Under M.G.L. c.30A, section 21(a)(2) in order to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

PreK

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Adjourned to Executive Session at 8:17 PM.

A true copy:

Diana Bonneville, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Date approved: _____

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	<p>Vote</p> <p>Information Only</p> <p>New Business</p> <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Executive Session</p> <p>Adjourned</p>
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