

MINUTES OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
July 6, 2020  
Video Conference Meeting accessible via SCTV15

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<p>Chairperson Kyle Belanger called the virtual meeting of the South Hadley School Committee to order at 6:04pm.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></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><b>Attendance</b></p>															
<p>Chairman Belanger entertained a motion to accept minutes for May 18, June 1, and June 15. Moved by Allison Schlachter, seconded by Charles Miles; motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>															
<p>Charles Miles raised a concern for the record that we are spending approximately half a million dollars on those warrants for services which were either not delivered at all or dramatically reduced, and that while we had no real choice in the matter given contract requirements and DESE guidelines, it's important to note this was taxpayer money. Christine Phillips seconded that concern during the meeting. OOD students received remote services, which required payment. DESE encouraged all districts to reach transportation agreements locally and pay negotiated percentages.</p>	<p><b>Approval of Warrants</b></p>															
<p>Christine Phillips made a motion to accept the warrants as read, moved by Allison Schlachter, and seconded by Charles Miles; motion carried unanimously.</p>																
<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Warrant</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>June 16, 2020</td> <td>#2020-301</td> <td>\$255,551.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 23, 2020</td> <td>#2020-310</td> <td>\$173,102.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 25, 2020</td> <td>Bi-Weekly</td> <td>\$860,558.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 30, 2020</td> <td>#2020-314</td> <td>\$199,121.63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Warrant	Amount	June 16, 2020	#2020-301	\$255,551.17	June 23, 2020	#2020-310	\$173,102.04	June 25, 2020	Bi-Weekly	\$860,558.60	June 30, 2020	#2020-314	\$199,121.63	
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<p>Allyson Garcia reported on the Racial Justice Task Force. Allison Garcia spoke with Glenn Coucher for guidance in setting up this task force, which would include community, teachers and students. Kyle Belanger and Allyson Garcia have attended several meetings of the SHHS Student Union. And have been very impressed with Liz Wood and the students. One of the students proposed a class being offered at the high school, which would focus on racial justice issues.</p>	<p><b>Racial Justice Task Force</b></p>															
<p>Allison Schlachter spoke about the latest Focus Group that she and Christine Phillips had hosted for students and teachers. Superintendent candidates will be asked to submit diversity statements. Writing interview questions will be the next task.</p>	<p><b>Superintendent Search Committee Report</b></p>															
<p>Darcey Chapdelaine wrote, "thank you for all your time and thoughtfulness for the Class of 2020. A graduation at Brunelle's Marina would be beautiful with all the COVID requirements in place. Thank you to the Yee family for their gracious offer.</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>															
<p>Moira McDermott a senior, who is also the Valedictorian wrote, August 7, 2020 at Docksider would be great. COVID rates are low in Massachusetts, masks can be worn, and everyone will be outside. I see no reason not to have this work. We need to grant</p>																

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good decisions for our seniors.

Deborah Piscotta thanked all the teachers for the remote education during the pandemic. "I am supporting the Yee's Dockside Graduation. Honestly, I would support anything that would give our seniors face to face graduation. Transmission is the lowest in the country".

Darlene Sullivan writes "thank you for letting me share my feelings about the tuition to the families and the integrity of Plains with lack of Peer mentors. "Having the times 9-3 will not help working families, who would have to find daycare for the rest of the day. Is there a possibility the School Committee could come back to reconsider the amount they have set for tuition?"

Lilly Neumann has concerns about the SRO's in the schools and would like to hear from the students how they feel about it. Also, we know racism is clearly rooted in our schools, and we need to begin to look at this closer.

Natasha Matos is writing in concern about Police presence in our schools. "I am troubled about counseling and diversion strategies. Challenging for SRO's to get all the training they need about implicit bias".

Felix O'Connor opposes police officers in the schools, we need to end policing in the schools. Invest in mental health resources and should be spent on Plante Restorative Justice which they use in Holyoke.

IDEA rights and regulations with students with disabilities (especially students of color). Disproportionate percentage in the school to prison trajectory. Development Bias & Racism article is attached. Deeply consider removing the SRO's. Kristy Reardon.

Leslie & David Cirone are in support of 1<sup>st</sup> person graduation with the Yee's at Dockside. Surrounding towns have had safe and organized graduations as long as protocols are met. With in-school scenarios 3 weeks later, and Yee's and Brunelle's are willing to work with us and follow protocol and safe guidelines.

Jodi Midler and Batya Anne Sobel would like to eliminate the SRO program and use the monies for specialty programs. Police Department should not be there for disciplinary reasons. NASRO has only 20% of SRO's in schools. Reallocate these funds for mental health and restorative practices.

Logan Waite's mother, Christy will be fine with the safety of students at Dockside. I am a parent of 2 seniors in this class, and I trust Andy Yee to make this graduation something special.

Dr. Bonneville noted that Paul Goodhind has resigned, and new hires include Susan Cook who has become the Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Coordinator, Phillip Gallo has become the Vocational Carpentry teacher, Alex Temple has taken the 8 Librarian position at the Middle School. Christina Mallett has accepted the position of the Long-term Substitute/Technology Support at MESMS and we have 2 retirements

**Personnel Report**



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Bonneville spoke about Officer Fleming, he is not a disciplinarian, he has had a role in mental health and played a role in drunk google driving, cyberbullying and is in the loop about parties and talk of drugs in the school and is involved in the crisis team meetings. Chief Gunderson spoke to the role in cyberbullying, it is so concerning in all schools, negative outcomes or someone shares an inappropriate photo with friends, and it spreads like wildfire. The student is put into crisis, we always involve the parents first before speaking to a parent if we can reach one. Educating the parents, educating the students that this is a criminal offense. Suicide threats, the police can get information on guns or weapons in the home and we have information schools cannot get. The criteria where an SRO is asked to step in might be a restraining order, an angry parent, a student has taken off from school. There have been no formal complaints lodged against an SRO within our district. Sexual assault goes through the DA's office because that comes from a trauma informed response for all involved, because so much damage can happen to a student. Some students like the safety of the SRO in the school and sharing with the public about all the things the SROs' are included in within the schools. We want to make sure everyone has the option to speak up about their experiences with the SROs' Chief Gunderson stressed the importance of the right fit for the SROs' and filling the open SHHS vacancy, will be a top criterion. Chief Gunderson and Dr. Bonneville will bring forward the final candidate to School Committee. The town is financially supporting both of those positions.

Liz Wood has outlined 4 options for graduation and Andy Yee is on the call because option #3 is at his facility.

#1. Plan for the lower field that was denied for various reasons, no porta potties during COVID, with hand washing stations. Guests must be pre-registered and escorted to the pod of 3, platform for stage with canopy with diploma distributing. Rain dates because of rented equipment, we have reached out to a sound company for a sound system. Police would be present (4) at this event.

#2. August 7<sup>th</sup> would be modeled after Town Meeting at St. Theresa's. Graduates would be outside of car but social distanced, guests would remain in their cars. Cars would be parked in a semi-circle in front of the stage with graduates in semi-circle in front of cars. There will be no rehearsals, drive in graduation.

#3. We have discussed with Andy Yee, guests set in pods in front of the pavilion, with rest rooms in Boathouse. Marina traffic would come in from the McCray Farm end exit out towards South Hadley Center. 2 chokepoints for parking cars and walking guests to their pods. Do we have a plan to keep people from walking into graduation, Mr. Yee will have it fenced off. Since this is a super spreader situation which could be dangerous. They will try to rope off the no wake zone near the graduation and have a jet skier out there to turn people away.

#4. Drive through graduation, students come in one car with family, walk across the stage to receive diploma, all the speeches will be spliced together along with the walking of the graduates. We trust our students to be safe and healthy and must be up to the town for approval. We have a short time to plan graduation and begin planning fall opening. We could rent golf carts for disabled guests.

**Class of 2020  
Graduation**

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<p>Chairman Belanger spoke about his concerns about graduation being a super spreader event. He also thought that the plan at the Boathouse and Marina should be the first choice and the graduation at the high school field with modifications should be second. These 2 options make the most sense and the best security. Chairman Belanger feels very comfortable ranking these plans in this order and the rest of the School Committee agreed.</p>	
<p>The FY20 graduation budget will be used to purchase science and athletic equipment (\$5,000) and FY21 funds.</p>	
<p>Sophia Kennedy has been a big part of this team collaboration (23 members and 2 School Committee members) into a larger school conversation. We would like to start these groups at the schools (MS &amp; lower levels). Effect change in our ELA (diversity &amp; inclusion) with English authors and History curriculum. Student Union would like to hold a vigil on school property? There will be a moment of silence for 8minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time the policeman knelt on George Floyd's neck. For the vigil, students will bring their own signage and masks. Speeches would made in an audio file and then played. SC gave them there blessing to hold the vigil at SHHS.</p>	<p><b>Student Union</b></p>
<p>Dr. Bonneville reviewed fall guidelines. The 3 models (see attached). School Committee does not support full return of all students and prefers to endorse the hybrid model. Chairman Belanger felt that this would allow the population a profound need to have an option to stay safe. We are only talking about 45 days, and families that are comfortable with remote can keep their children home. Families that traditionally home-school might have the chance for their students to opt into remote learning. The hybrid model gives students that need to be at school that opportunity and the students that need to remote if that works for their families. Until we know that science is on our side remarked Chairman Belanger, it concerns me greatly.</p>	<p><b>Fall Contingency Plans</b></p>
<p>Scott Beaulieu commented that SHEA has a large role in this plan. If teachers are not leaving their classes, someone will have to cover them for lunches. School Committee has agreed to plan FY21 school year in 45-day increments.</p>	
<p>Chromebook Insurance Contract ( first reading)</p>	
<p>Present Diana's contract and vote on that at next meeting.</p>	
<p>Next meeting is on July 20, 2020 @ 6:00 pm via Zoom.</p>	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p>
<p>There is no Executive Session this evening</p>	
<p>Chairman Belanger entertained a motion to adjourn, Christine Phillips moved, and Allison Schlachter seconded; motion carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>Adjourned 10:36 PM</p>	<p><b>Adjourned</b></p>

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True copy:

Diana Bonneville, Ph.D.  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Executive Session**

**Next Meeting**

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