

*Approved by School Committee:  
November 7, 2022*

**SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 3, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**ASHLAND**

Ed Burman  
William Gainé

**FRAMINGHAM**

Rick Gallagher  
Michele Burns  
Sara Hamerla (7:05)  
Brandon Ward

**HOLLISTON**

Sarah Commerford  
Barry Sims

**HOPKINTON**

Ruth Knowles

**NATICK**

Ruth Mori

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Jonathan Evans, Superintendent  
Shannon Snow, Principal  
Dolores Sharek, Director of Finance & Business Operations  
William Hurley, Treasurer  
Karen Ward, Recording Secretary

*Chairman Burman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chairman Burman stated per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20, we will be conducting this School Committee meeting in person in accordance with the Attorney General's Regulations and Procedures.*

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 29, 2022**

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 29, 2022.

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 29, 2022. EIGHT MEMBERS VOTED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES; MR. WARD ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

### **GUESTS AND VISITORS**

Mr. Marini, Athletic Director

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

There was no Chairman's Report

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session

### **SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Athletic/Student Activities Update

Dr. Snow introduced Athletic Director, Mr. Marini to the Committee. Dr. Snow reported that Mr. Marini was a coach, physical education teacher, and health teacher before becoming Athletic Director. She reported that Mr. Kane, our recently retired Athletic Director, has worked closely with Mr. Marini to help him to acclimate to his new role. Dr. Snow reviewed events and activities that have taken place this year. She reported that the year started with class meetings. The meetings were very productive and staff members were very pleased with the excitement they felt from the students. She reported that many things were reviewed at the meetings, such as reviewing the handbook and having class advisors speak with students. Dr. Snow also reported there were other events such as the Activities Fair, Senior Breakfast, Spirit Week, and ending the spirit week with a rally. Dr. Snow shared pictures of the events. Dr. Snow said that for all students, except the senior class, this is the first time for many of them to

participate in these events because of COVID. She reported that students very much enjoyed the rally. Dr. Snow said that typically there has only been one rally, but she is considering doing another one in the winter because it was enjoyed so much by both the students and staff. Mr. Marini updated the Committee on athletics. He reported on teams that are active in the fall, and how many students are on each team. He also updated the Committee on the success the teams are having and future endeavors that he is preparing for.

- Facilities Update

Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with an update regarding the modular project. Superintendent Evans reported that he has engaged the services of our attorney, Marc Terry and a couple of other attorneys at his firm that specialize in construction management. Superintendent Evans said we are at a point where we are dealing with the permitting of the building, specifically, the need for sprinklers. This is an issue that was not within the architects plans and not something that was pursued by the construction company. Superintendent Evans said there was a significant meeting with himself, Mr. Jannetti, Mrs. Sharek, Mr. Kane and about ten Framingham officials including the fire chief, building inspector and the chief operating officer. He reported they are holding firm on the need for sprinklers. He said there is discussion on if the entire building needs sprinklers, if so, this is a monumental issue. He reported that he would not be recommending this pathway considering we are on the cusp of a probable MSBA Building Project at some point in the future where this cost would make more sense. He also reported that there is some discussion if we could get enough flow from the hydrant in the back of the building and what the additional cost would be. Superintendent Evans reported that we have additional expertise working on our behalf, with our attorneys, and we are looking into expenses and a way to go forward. Superintendent Evans reported that we have not given the construction company permission to bring the modular building to Keefe Tech until we have a better understanding as to permitting issues. He reported there are still many steps and he will keep the Committee updated on the situation.

Superintendent Evans said that in the meantime, Dr. Snow and her team have been very creative and used every nook and cranny to make the best possible use of space available. Superintendent Evans said that the students are being well served and staff have been able to make do with their space, however, being able to take advantage of grant money and have more space available would be ideal. Superintendent Evans reported that HVAC exploratory is up and running. He reported that the HVAC instructor has been able to visit some successful programs and receive information on best practices.

Superintendent Evans reported that DESE has been invited to do a safety check on the HVAC space in mid-October. Superintendent Evans reported, through the Skills Capital grant, we are working toward completing the setup of the equipment by the time the freshman are ready to start the program.

- Update on Program License

Superintendent Evans reported that after the encouragement he received from the last meeting, he reached out to Senate President Spilka's Office regarding the hoisting issue. He reported that with the help of Senate President Spilka's Office, he was able to get renewed attention to our situation.

Superintendent Evans reported that a little more than a week ago he, Mr. Flynn, and Dr. Snow were able to meet with the senior leadership of the DESE about our experience and concerns.

Superintendent Evans said that Mr. Flynn did a nice job preparing to present Laws and Regulations that Allow Students to Use Hoisting Equipment. Superintendent Evans said we have seen progress as far as being more on their radar, but we need more progress to go forward. He said he hopes to have a better update soon and will keep the Committee informed.

- MASC Resolutions for Delegate Assembly (Appendix 2022-65)

Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with an update regarding the MASC/MASS Delegate Assembly. He reported he will review the six resolutions proposed this year, and the impact they would have on our district before asking the Committee to vote on the resolutions. He also reported that Mr. Gaine is our voting delegate.

RESOLUTION 1: REGARDING SANCTUARY LAWS FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS  
DR. HAMERLA MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. WARD TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 1. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 2: TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM BLANCE ALLOWED BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND  
MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 2. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 3: MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MRS. BURNS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. WARD TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 3. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 4: PRESERVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS

MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GALLAGHER TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON RESOLUTION 4. EIGHT MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION, ONE MEMBER OPPOSED, AND ONE MEMBER ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION PASSED.

RESOLUTION 5: PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. WARD TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 5. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESERVE FUND

MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. WARD TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 6. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Budget Sub Committee Members

The following members were appointed to the Budget Sub-Committee for the FY24 Budget Development: Mr. Gaine/Ashland, Mr. Ward and Mr. Gallagher/Framingham, Mr. Sims/Holliston, Mrs. Knowles/Hopkinton, and Ms. Smith-Freedman/Natick.

- Budget Sub Committee Meeting Dates (Appendix 2022-66)

The following meeting dates for the Budget Sub-Committee were proposed: Tuesday, December 6th, Thursday, December 8th, and Tuesday, December 13th. An alternate date of Thursday December 15, 2022, if needed.

MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GALLAGHER TO SCHEDULE BUDGET SUB-COMITTEE MEETING DATES OF DECEMBER 6, 8, AND 13th WITH DECEMBER 15, 2022, AS AN ALTERNATE DATE

IF NEEDED. TEN MEMBERS VOTED TO APPROVE THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Municipality Outreach (Appendix 2022-67)

Superintendent Evans reported that he has received an inquiry from the Town of Sudbury regarding membership in our District. Superintendent Evans said that MAVA is a very strong network, and that he has learned that Sudbury has also sent this inquiry to six other districts. He said that Sudbury, along with six other districts withdrew from the Minuteman School District. Superintendent Evans reported that he has contacted our legal counsel and learned that this is neither the decision of the Superintendent nor the School Committee. This would actually be something that would be decided by our five member municipalities. Superintendent Evans reported at this time, he would like to treat Sudbury like anyone else inquiring, and invite them in for a tour to talk about what we offer. He reported he believes he needs to be very informative about our situation at this time, considering we are in the process of a possible major MSBA Building Project, and that we have a waitlist of students wanting to enroll. Superintendent Evans said once that has been done we will take whatever the next steps might be.

## **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2022-68)

Members received the Non-Salary Expenditure Report along with some highlights. Mrs. Sharek reported that 21.7% of the FY23 Budget has been spent. Mrs. Sharek reported that Student Transportation and Utilities have been encumbered for the fiscal year. She reported the electricity account is over budget with this encumbrance. She reported the encumbrance is based on last fiscal year's increased rates and the projected increase in this year's rates. Mrs. Sharek said she would continue to monitor this as the fiscal year progresses.

- Establishment of Capital Stabilization Account (Appendix 2022-69)

Superintendent Evans reminded Committee members that during last budget season he informed members the Siemens Energy Infrastructure Lease with a line item of approximately \$750,000 will be ending with the FY23 Budget. He mentioned to Committee members and to FinCom members for our District, that going forward he would like to establish a Capital Stabilization Account for unanticipated

costs or repairs considering we have a 50-year-old building. This would be a vehicle where some funding could go into a reserve to help with capital costs making it easier on Keefe and on our member municipalities. Creating this account, it will have a zero balance. It will be in FY24 when we can say to our municipalities that there is good news, approximately \$750,000 is going away, so part of this will go back to them, but in putting some money into the Capital Stabilization Account will help both of us for upcoming unexpected capital expenses. This account would be created pursuant to G.L.c.71, Section 16G1/2, as stated below.

Section 16G1/2. A regional school district may, upon a majority vote of all the members of the regional district school committee and, with the approval of a majority of the local appropriating authorities of the member municipalities, establish a stabilization fund and may, in any year, include in its annual budget for deposit in the stabilization fund an amount not exceeding five per cent of the aggregate amount apportioned to the member municipalities for the preceding fiscal year or such larger amount as may be approved by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education. The aggregate amount in the fund at any time shall not exceed five per cent of the combined equalized valuations of the member municipalities. Any interest shall be added to and become a part of the fund. The annual report submitted to the member municipalities pursuant to clause (k) of section sixteen shall include a statement of the balance in the stabilization fund and all additions to and withdrawals from the fund during the period covered by such report.

The treasurer of the regional school district shall be the custodian of such fund and may deposit or invest the fund in such deposits or investments as are legal for the deposit or investment of revenue funds of the district or in such securities as are legal for the investment of funds of savings banks under the laws of the commonwealth.

The stabilization fund may be appropriated by vote of two-thirds of all of the members of the regional district school committee for any purpose for which regional school districts may borrow money or for such other district purpose as the commissioner of elementary and secondary education may approve.

This section shall also apply to any regional school district established under the provisions of a special law.

MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GALLAGHER TO ESTABLISH A STABILIZATION FUND PURSUANT TO G.L.c.71, Section 16G1/2. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

### **COMMUNICATION**

No Communication

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Evans said there is one item that was not received in time to place on the agenda. He reported that Mr. Cameau, one of our Framingham committee representatives, has informed the Mayor's Office that he is resigning from the Committee effective the end of September 2022. Mr. Evans thanked Mr. Cameau for his years of service and said he appreciated the kind words he relayed to the City in

regards to his experience serving on the Committee. Superintendent Evans said he expects the City will be posting this position soon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Burman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting November 7, 2022



SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – October 3, 2022

**ACTION SHEET**

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