

**2022 Annual Report  
South Middlesex Regional  
Vocational Technical School  
Committee  
(Keefe Regional Technical School)**

This annual report is prepared by Superintendent /Director, Jonathan Evans, and composed on behalf of the members of the School Committee of the **South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School District** and submitted after review and approval by the full Committee in compliance with the provisions of the Agreement among the City of Framingham and Towns of Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick.

This report reviews the major items with which the Committee was concerned during the year. It is a representative account of matters solely within the policy making authority of the Committee and also of matters which the Superintendent/Director brought before the Committee for information and consultation. For greater detail and discussion, the reader should read the extended minutes of Committee meetings and the attachments thereto which are available on the district website.

In addition to serving as a public high school, the South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School District provides continuing education opportunities for adults through the Keefe at Night program as well as Summer Discover, a summer program for area youth.

The Committee reorganized on June 13, 2022 with officers elected unanimously to the following positions:

**Chair:** Edward Burman (Ashland)

**Vice-Chair:** Sarah Commerford  
(Holliston)

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Smith-Freedman  
(Natick)

**Assistant Treasurer:** Barry Sims  
(Holliston)

Staff members working on behalf of the District and School Committee are Karen Ward, **Recording Secretary** and **Treasurer**, William Hurley who was appointed in August following the retirement of Jack Keating, who served in this role for 45 years.

The balance of this report presents a summary of the discussions and actions of the Committee on a number of the important matters brought before the Committee for advice or action.

### **Community Engagement**

Over the course of the past year our program areas have participated in a number of projects throughout the district and member municipalities.

#### **Carpentry**

Barnyard Adventures Ashland Tiny House Project - Framed, sided and applied exterior trim

Framingham Parks and Recreation - Framing Portico for office building

#### **Design and Visual Communications**

(Framingham Centre Common Cultural District) Many Cultures, One Heart Framingham Public Art Project - Selected as artists to paint the sculpture relaying diversity showcased at the new MassBay Department of Health Services building  
Morse Institute Library Outdoor Reading Room Natick - Design and schematics chosen from a multitude of artists' submissions. DVC is working with the Carpentry and Metal Fabrication programs to bring this idea to life.

## **Electrical**

Farm Pond Dog Park Framingham -  
Underground service and outlets

## **Horticulture**

Natick Community Organic Farm -  
Weekly tasks to grow vegetables and  
flowers to help sustain the operation  
Framingham Parks and Recreation -  
Cushing Park maintenance and  
improvement projects

Pearl Street Food Cupboard - Holiday  
decorations for food pantry participants  
Ashland Nyanza Healing Park Project -  
Beginning to work on renovation project

## **HVAC/R**

On November 1, 2022 Keefe was granted  
Chapter 74 approval by Commissioner  
Riley for a Heating Ventilation Air  
Conditioning and Refrigeration  
program. The renovation of program  
space, and the construction of the project  
began in mid-July, when Keefe Tech was  
awarded \$472,250 through a  
Massachusetts Capital Skills Grant.

## **Administration**

In 2022, Jonathan Evans completed his  
ninth year in the role of Superintendent  
Director, with 27 years of service to the  
district.

The School Committee completed its  
periodic evaluation of the Superintendent  
using the DESE rubric, and provided a  
rating of Proficient Approaching  
Exemplary. The complete record of this  
evaluation is a public document that will  
be available at the South Middlesex  
Regional School District Superintendent's  
Office.

## **School Improvement Plan**

The School Improvement Plan for the  
2022-2023 school year includes the  
following objectives: 1) The faculty and  
staff of the career and technical education  
programs will implement social-emotional  
learning supports for all of the students, 2)  
Increase support for our clinical and  
counseling staff, 3) Implement a peer  
mentoring program to support the  
transition of our incoming grade 9 class,  
4) Implement a comprehensive social-  
emotional learning (SEL) curriculum for  
all students

The Professional Development Program  
included a series of workshops hosted by  
Dr. Kalise Wornum on the topic of  
cultural proficiency. The goals of the  
professional development included:  
developing a clear understanding of the  
definition and theory of cultural  
proficiency while learning practical  
classroom applications; participants were  
exposed to proven strategies to counter  
the negative effects of micro-aggressions,  
modern forms of racism, and implicit bias;  
gained an understanding of what it means  
to be a culturally proficient leader,  
supervisor, coach; and raise questions and  
discuss challenges in real time.

The opening of school for teachers  
featured a motivational presentation by  
Dr. Daniel Steele. Dr. Steele spoke to the  
Keefe Tech faculty and staff about being  
the difference in students' lives.

## **Handbook**

With review by the School Council,  
updates to the Handbook were made. A  
section on the attendance policy was  
updated in accordance with legal  
requirements. The cafeteria services were

also updated to reflect free breakfast and lunch for all students.

### **The Budget Process**

2022 continued to be a challenging year for all. The District adjusted the budget to meet the state guidelines pertaining to the pandemic issues that were faced. The District was able to utilize grant funding totaling \$2,255,980, through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I & ESSER II) to purchase items such as the rental of tents for utilizing outdoor space for students and staff, Chromebooks for students, and support for mental health initiatives to address learning loss challenges students have faced due to the pandemic.

In 2022, the Superintendent continued the practice of communicating early in the budget process with the financial officers of the member towns to develop mutual awareness of both municipal budget constraints and the efforts of the Committee to manage the school efficiently and effectively while recognizing those limitations. The Committee continued to consider reductions in the preliminary budget and the budget of \$23,271,488 as submitted to the member municipalities for FY23, was approved by all.

In December of 2022 the Budget Sub-Committee members William Gaine, Rick Gallagher, Barry Sims, Jamie Shepard Elizabeth Smith-Freedman and Brandon Ward are beginning the FY24 budget development process.

### **Auditor's Report**

The annual audit by the independent accounting firm of Roselli, Clark &

Associates is in the process of preparing the financial statements for committee review. It is expected that the audit report that calculates our energy project will meet the stipulated guarantee benchmarks for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

### **Enrollment, Recruiting and Student Retention**

Keefe Regional Technical School is a school of application. Maintaining a healthy enrollment of students for our day school operation is essential for our overall operational success. The Superintendent has indicated that he believes that the quality and rigor of our school programs and the safety and culture of our school environment will lead to our success in attracting students and their families to Keefe Regional Technical School. The Superintendent has emphasized that the administration, faculty and support staff must work together to ensure that Keefe Regional Technical School continues to be recognized by our community as a career and technical school of high quality.

As a district, we were pleased to welcome 8th grade students onto our campus in November 2022 for our Showcase Days. Students had the opportunity to explore different Career and Technical Programs and learn about everything Keefe Tech has to offer. Interested students had the opportunity to bring their families back to our Career Night Open House at the end of November. All of our 16 Career and Technical Programs were represented at this event, as well as our academic departments and all other aspects of our school programming. We continued to have an excellent turnout of prospective students and their families at this event and appreciate the relationships we have with our sending communities to

support students accessing our school as an option.

We are pleased to report that we have maintained full enrollment, with 841 students on October 1, 2022.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Keefe Regional Technical School has been occupied continuously since September 1973. The facility is used not only during the school day and year but also evenings, weekends, and during the summer months.

Facility upgrades that were completed in 2022 include replacement of oven units in the student cafeteria kitchen, expansion of the video surveillance system, replacement of first floor corridor carpeting with vinyl composition tile, renovation/conversion of a CTE space to accommodate a new HVAC/R Program, replacement of carpeting in common areas, upgrades/repairs to turf areas of the football field, mechanical and control upgrades to the building HVAC system, replacement of heating/steam line system components through participation in the Eversource Energy Efficiency Rebate Program, refinishing gym and stage floors, replacement of several exterior glass window panels, reconfiguring various classrooms and common areas to accommodate increased student enrollment, the purchase of a modular building (four classrooms) to alleviate overcrowding in academic classrooms, replacement of the AC cooling tower well pump, painting of exterior doors and building panels, replacement of numerous interior stair treads, plumbing and electrical upgrades, and replacement of custodial equipment. In July 2022, the Keefe Technical pool reached the end of

its lifespan due to a failure of the waterproofing systems.

### **Student Achievement**

Keefe Tech is excited to report several updates specific to student achievement.

We are incredibly proud to announce that 46 students in grade 12 were awarded the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship for 2022-2023. The John and Abigail Adams Scholarship is a merit-based program providing tuition for undergraduate education at any Massachusetts state college or university.

Additionally, Keefe Tech hosted the Seal of Biliteracy exam for students in grades 11 and 12. Out of the thirty exams given, eighteen students earned the Seal of Biliteracy, and eleven students achieved the Seal of Biliteracy with Distinction.

Lastly, Keefe Tech received notification from both DESE and College Board regarding student participation and results from state and national exams. ACCESS scores continue to demonstrate growth in language proficiency from our ESL students. A total of 5 students demonstrated English language proficiency and tested out of the ELL Program. Keefe Tech also hosted 85 AP exams, representing seven academic disciplines, for students in grades 11 and 12. Student "mean scores" from the AP exams showed significant growth in two of the seven content areas as compared to the prior school year.

The Massachusetts SkillsUSA District III Leadership and Skills Conference was held remotely on February 11, 2022. Keefe Tech. students earned a total of 40 medals at the District Conference: 14 gold, 15 silver and 11 bronze. Keefe Tech. sent 35 competitors and 13

delegates to the Massachusetts SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference. One student won a gold medal in Extemporaneous speech at the state event.

Horticulture and Landscape Management had four students qualify for the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Conference based on their performance at the state level. On October 27, 2022 the students, and advisors traveled to Indianapolis Indiana to compete in the 2022 National Conference event. The team earned a bronze medal.

The State Business Professionals of America competition was held at the Sheraton Tara in Framingham and Keefe Tech took home 11 gold medals, 8 silver medals, 8 bronze medals. A group of 7 Keefe students advanced to the National competition in Dallas Texas, where students won 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals.

### **General Advisory Board**

The General Advisory Committee meeting for the spring of 2022 was held in person April 7, 2022. All of the committee members were updated in their program areas about student competitions, cooperative education placements, curriculum, and Perkins purchases. Each program was allocated time to present budget and equipment requests as part of their meeting.

The fall General Advisory Committee meeting for the 2022-23 School year took place on Thursday October 13, 2022. During this meeting programs elected their new chairperson, reviewed Perkins indicators, were updated on student program enrollment, and allocated time for budget recommendations and five-year equipment planning.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Evans  
Superintendent-Director

### SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

#### **ASHLAND**

Edward Burman - Chairman  
William N. Gaine, Jr.

#### **FRAMINGHAM**

Michele Burns  
Linda Fobes  
Sara Hamerla  
Maria Martinez  
A.J. Mulvey  
Rick Gallagher  
Brandon Ward

#### **HOPKINTON**

Ruth Knowles  
Jaime Shepard

#### **HOLLISTON**

Sarah Commerford  
Barry Sims

#### **NATICK**

Ruth Mori  
Elizabeth Smith-Freedman