

*Approved by School Committee:
August 28, 2023*

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

July 17, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ASHLAND

Ed Burman
William Gaine

FRAMINGHAM

Linda Fobes
AJ Mulvey
Rick Gallagher
Maria Martinez
Sara Hamerla
Brandon Ward

HOLLISTON

Barry Sims
Sarah Commerford

HOPKINTON

Ruth Knowles

NATICK

ALSO PRESENT:

Jonathan Evans, Superintendent
Dolores Sharek, Director of Finance & Business Operations
Karen Ward, Recording Secretary

Chairman Burman called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 accordance with the Attorney General's Regulations and Procedures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2023

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 13, 2023

MRS. FOBES MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERTON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2023. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; MRS. MARTINEZ ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION PASSED.

GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no guests or visitors

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's Report

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Program License Update

Superintendent Evans updated the Committee on the hoisting licensure issue. Superintendent Evans reported he was happy that all students who took the hoisting exam passed. He said these students are now all apprentices. Superintendent Evans said he is appreciative of the efforts of Joe Flynn, Career and Technical Director, for getting us through this process. He said Mr. Flynn hired a professional in this area to prepare our students for the test, and this helped quite a lot to prepare our students. He said unfortunately, students were not able to use the equipment this year, but should be ready to go at the start of the upcoming school year. Superintendent Evans reported that Keefe Tech is looked upon as a school that has successfully dealt with this licensure issue. He reported that he was recently asked to participate in a meeting with the Under Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Commissioner of Professional Licensure, three senators and four representative as well as several superintendents. Superintendent Evans reported that he communicated that he is very grateful for their work with us in regards to this issue and appreciated the help getting our students licensed but balanced these

comments with his thoughts that there should be a better path forward. Superintendent Evans reported that if we have to continue with this process, we now have it streamlined. He said his hope for the future is that they change the age to be eligible for licensure to being a sophomore instead of being 16 years of age. He also said they are trying to get clearance to use the sports physical instead of the DOT physical, which costs the district or student an additional \$150. Lastly, he reported that some legislature is being filed that will exempt career and technical schools. Superintendent Evans said if anything changes he will keep the Committee informed.

- Update on Summer Programs

Superintendent Evans reported that we have had another successful Summer Discover Program. Superintendent Evans said there are approximately 340 campers for each of the two-week sessions. Superintendent Evans said Mr. Collins and his team have done a great job making sure the camp has been successful. Superintendent Evans said we held a credit recovery opportunity for 20 students who needed credits to be promoted to the next grade, and we had 43 students attend summer school to remedy some credit issues. Superintendent Evans reported that Mr. Jannetti and Mr. Kane's team are preparing the building for the start of the new school year.

- Update School Calendar (Appendix 2023-54)

Superintendent asked for a revote of the 2023/2024 School Calendar, as there were a couple of minor typos and one counting error to make sure we noted the 180th day. MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. MULVEY TO APPROVE THE UPDATED 2023/2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR. ELEVEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Plan for Opening

Superintendent Evans said the week of August 21st is going to be very busy. He said that on Monday, August 21st, he will have a leadership team meeting to prepare for the start of the school year. On Tuesday, August 22nd there will be an orientation program for upper class transfer students, on Wednesday, August 23rd we will hold a new teacher orientation, on Thursday August 24th we are planning the Grade 9 Step Up Day, and on Friday, August 25th is the first day for all teachers. Superintendent Evans said the first day for all students will be on Monday, August 28th. He also reported

August 28th is the next School Committee Meeting where the new staff are introduced to the Committee. Superintendent Evans said he is hoping to do something similar to what we did last year, by having a reception prior to the Committee meeting where the new hires can be introduced and interact with Committee members for a short time before the meeting. He also reported he is planning to invite a couple of past members of the Committee to the dinner prior to the meeting, in order to recognize them for their service to our district.

- Hiring Update (Appendix 2023-55)

Superintendent Evans said he has provided the Committee with a listing of new hires and their positions. He also has listed the openings that still exist. He said the leadership team is actively interviewing and we will continue to do so until we find the right candidates for the positions we have available. He reported that we have an offer out for a history teacher, and we have several good candidates for the metals position. Superintendent Evans said he is confident we will be ready to go with full staff at the beginning of the school year.

- Personnel Update (Appendix 2023-56)

Superintendent Evans presented an applicant for the Horticulture and Landscape Design Advisory Board. This candidate is experienced and has been a parent advocate for the hoisting licensing issue. MR. MULVEY MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO APPROVE THE CANDIDATE FOR THE HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD. ELEVEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- MASC/MASS Voting Delegate (Appendix 2023-57)

Superintendent Evans reminded members that the MASC/MASS Joint Conference is taking place in November. He said he has heard from several members interested in going. We will work on getting rooms and registering members for the conference. If any members are interested in attending, please let us know so we can make accommodations. At the August or October meeting, we will be asking for a nomination for a voting delegate for the conference.

- Scholarship Update from the Town of Hopkinton

Superintendent Evans reported that Hopkinton's Town Manager contacted him regarding COVID Federal Grant money that they have not used. He asked if there was a way for Keefe Tech to make use of this money. Superintendent Evans suggested a scholarship for students that need to continue their course work, such as in electrical and plumbing. Superintendent Evans said the funds will total approximately \$16,000. We will be notifying graduates of electrical and plumbing that they have an opportunity to take an evening class toward their course work paid for with this scholarship fund. We will allow each student one course, and will go forward until the funds are gone. Superintendent Evans said he expects this scholarship to benefit approximately 20 students.

- Remote Area Medical (RAM) (Appendix 2023-58)

Superintendent Evans and Chairman Burman reviewed plans for the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic to be held at Keefe Tech on August 12-13, 2023. RAM will offer dental, vision and medical exams for people with no insurance or under insured. Chairman Burman said this has been a large project with many hours spent to prepare. Superintendent Evans said that Mr. Jannetti and his team having been working to be sure everything goes off as planned. Mr. Burman reported that he expects there to be a large number of people looking for care. He also reported that they are still in need of volunteers in every area. He reported that you can sign up on the RAM website.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2023-59)

Members received the Non-Salary Expenditure Report along with some highlights regarding our current status. Mrs. Sharek reviewed highlights from the start of the FY 24 that covers activity through the first half of July 2023.

- Budget Transfer (Appendix 2023-60)

Mrs. Sharek reported this is the final budget transfer for FY23. Mrs. Sharek requested authorization to transfer funds from areas of surplus to allow the District to meet financial obligations and to close out FY23. MRS. FOBES MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO APPROVE THE BUDGET TRANSFER AS PRESENTED BY MRS. SHAREK. ELEVEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

COMMUNICATION

- Superintendent Evans shared a letter from the SkillsUSA students and advisors, thanking Superintendent Evans and Committee members for supporting them through all their endeavors.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business

ADJOURNMENT

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

The next meeting is August 28th
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – July 17, 2023

ACTION SHEET

- MRS. FOBES MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2023. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; MRS. MARTINEZ ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION PASSED.
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