

*Approved by School Committee:  
January 13, 2025*

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

**November 4, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**ASHLAND**

Ed Burman  
William Gainé

**FRAMINGHAM**

Michele Burns  
Linda Fobes  
Rick Gallagher  
Sara Hamerla

**HOLLISTON**

Barry Sims

**HOPKINTON**

Jaime Shepard

**NATICK**

Gerry Hartwell  
Henry Haugland

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

*Chairman Burman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.*

*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 OCTOBER 7, 2024**

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 7, 2024.

MRS. BURNS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. SHEPARD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2024. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; ONE MEMBER ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

### **GUESTS AND VISITORS**

There were no guests or visitors

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- New Committee Members

Superintendent Evans reported that he expects two new Framingham representatives at the next Keefe Tech School Committee meeting, filling two open positions.

- December 2nd School Committee Meeting

Superintendent Evans reported that typically we cancel the December School Committee meeting because members of the Budget Sub-Committee have three meetings that month and that usually the December agenda would be very light. He recommends that we do the same this year. He said if by chance there needs to be a December meeting, if anything should come up that needs attention, he will reach out the Chairman Burman to schedule a zoom meeting. MR. GAINES MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. BURMAN TO CANCEL DECEMBER 2, 2024, KEEFE TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session

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

- 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan Update

Superintendent Evans reported that after speaking with Chairman Burman, regarding the 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan (DIP), he is expecting to present his plan later in the year as the items he is going to report out on have several different avenues they can take, which will could significantly change the plan going forward. Superintendent Evans reported that the MSBA Board of Directors met at the end of October. We were hoping to hear if we were being accepted into the MSBA Core Program. However, at that meeting, they didn't make those decisions. They have a meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>, and we are hoping to hear from them at that point. For the area of Facilities in the 2024-2025 District Improvement Plan, the plan will be different if we don't get into the pipeline for a major project. This is the reason for delay of the reporting of those two areas. The other major area in the DIP, Admissions, is also in a holding pattern as we await word from regulatory boards as to whether they are implementing a lottery system, or if they come up with an alternate plan. If faced with a lottery, there would be discussions on revising our Regional Agreement, to seek approval from our four towns and city council to add some apportionments to the Regional Agreement. Superintendent Evans was not able to give concrete plans going forward. Superintendent Evans reported that he will keep the Committee informed once we hear about the MSBA Project and the status of the Admissions situation.

- Review of Resolutions for MASC/MASS Joint Conference (Appendix 2024-72)

Superintendent Evans reminded Committee members that Mr. Gaine is serving as the Committee's voting delegate at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference next week. He reported that at the last meeting he provided Committee members with a copy of the resolutions that will be voted on. Superintendent Evans is again providing you with a copy of the resolutions and after discussion will ask for you to vote as a Committee on how you would like Mr. Gaine to represent you in the voting process.

### **RESOLUTION 1: DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE HIGH STAKES MCAS TEST**

MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. FOBES, TO NOT SUPPORT RESOLUTION 1. SEVEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; TWO MEMBERS OPPOSED. THE MAJORITY VOTE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

RESOLUTION 2: INCREASE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. BURMAN, TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON RESOLUTION 2. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF ABSTAINING FROM VOTING ON RESOLUTION 2. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 3: SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS, TO NOT SUPPORT RESOLUTION 3. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; ONE MEMBER ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 4: SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SURVEILLANCE ACT AND ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GAINES TO NOT SUPPORT RESOLUTION 4. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; ONE MEMBER ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 5: ALIGNING TAXING AUTHORITY WITH THE REQUIRED LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

MR. GAINES MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY DR. HAMERLA, TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION 5. EIGHT MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; TWO MEMBERS OPPOSED THE MOTION. THE MAJORITY VOTE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.

RESOLUTION 6: SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FISCAL HEALTH OF RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

DR. HAMERLA MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GAINES, TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON RESOLUTION 6. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 7: FULLY ADJUSTING CHAPTER 70 AID FOR INFLATION

MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. FOBES, TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON RESOLUTION 7. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 8: EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR NON-REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH TRANSPORTATION COSTS

MR. HARTWELL MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. SHEPARD TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON RESOLUTION 8. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 9: MSBA GRANTS EVALUATION FOR CHAPTER 74

DR. HAMERLA MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO VOTE IN FAVOR RESOLUTION 9. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

RESOLUTION 10: EXPANSION IN CAPACITY IN CHAPTER 74 VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. HAUGLAND TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION 10. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- STEM Week Event with State Leaders (Appendix 2024-76)

Superintendent Evans reported that last week Keefe Tech hosted honored guests, including the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, and the Lt. Governor to celebrate STEM Week. He reported that a number of students and staff joined us late in the afternoon after dismissal to show the HVAC and Electrical areas and the enhancements made with Skills Capital Grants that have been received by Keefe Tech.

- Advisory Board Applicants (Appendix 2024-77)

Superintendent Evans presented five advisory board applications for the Electrical, Information Technology and Plumbing Programs for the vote of the Committee. MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. FOBES TO APPROVE THE FIVE ADVISORY BOARD APPLICANTS. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Health and Wellness Fair Update (Appendix 2024-78)

Superintendent Evans provided Committee members with a letter that was sent from Senate President Spilka thanking Keefe Tech staff for their efforts with the Health & Wellness Fair.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2024-79)

Members received the Non-Salary Expenditure Report along with some highlights. Mrs. Sharek reported that we have spent 24% of the budget through October. She reported the Audit work has begun with the auditing firm Roselli, Clark & Associates. The final audit report will not be available until later winter/early spring.

### **COMMUNICATION**

- MAVA Press Release Skills Capital Lab Modernization Grant (Appendix 2024-80)

Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with an article highlighting the Skills Capital Lab Modernization Grant received by Keefe Tech. Superintendent Evans said that Dr. Snow and Mr. Flynn represented Keefe Tech at Upper Cape Cod Tech last week where they announced recipients of the grant.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Fobes updated the Committee on a flyer produced by the Friends of Saxonville highlighting great work completed by the Keefe Tech Carpentry students and instructors on a local project.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MR. HAUGLAND MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. SHEPARD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. TEN MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

The next meeting is January 13, 2025  
The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – November 4, 2024

**ACTION SHEET**

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