

*Approved by School Committee:
April 7, 2025*

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

March 3, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ASHLAND

Ed Burman
William Gaine

FRAMINGHAM

Michele Burns
Linda Fobes (Remote)
Rick Gallagher
Sara Hamerla
Steve Patriarca
Steve Starr

HOLLISTON

Sarah Commerford
Barry Sims

HOPKINTON

Ruth Knowles
Jaime Shepard (Remote)

NATICK

Gerry Hartwell
Henry Haugland

ALSO PRESENT:

Jonathan Evans, Superintendent
Shannon Snow, Principal
Dolores Sharek, Director of Finance & Business Operations
Skylar Marshall, Student Representative
Karen Ward, Recording Secretary

Chairman Burman called the meeting to order at 6:05p.m.

We will be conducting this School Committee meeting in person with one or more members of the South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School Committee participating remotely in accordance with the Attorney General's Regulations and Procedures.

All votes this evening will be taken as a roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 2025. MRS. BURNS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2025. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MRS. FOBES, MR. GAINE, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. STARR AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL AND MR. HAUGLAND ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

GUESTS AND VISITORS

Mr. Roselli of Roselli and Clark Associates

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- FY 24 Audit Report

Mr. Roselli presented the FY24 School District Audit Report. Mr. Roselli reported that Mrs. Sharek and her team did a very nice job and put forth great effort, with no audit material weaknesses. He reported on the cooperation from the Management and the Business Office staff for completion of the Audit. No findings were identified, and the overall financial position of the district remains strong.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Marshall reported to the Committee that the Student Council sponsored the pep rally on Valentine's Day and it was a huge success. She reported that 140 students competed in the District SkillsUSA Competition. Ms. Marshall reported that this Friday there will be an awards ceremony where students will learn the results of the competition. Ms. Marshall reported that she will be attending the Student Council Annual Conference at Cape Cod for 3 days this week. She is very much looking forward to the conference. Ms. Marshall reported the BPA State Competition is happening this weekend, and 23 students will be competing. She reported that students have worked hard to prepare for the competition, and she wishes them success. Ms. Marshall updated the Committee on the status of our athletic teams. She reported that the Cheer Team has been very busy

competing in multiple competitions. She reported that the Wrestling Team has had a great season. She reported that the Boys' Hockey Team made the State Tournament for the first time. They had an overall season of 8 wins and 9 losses. Girls Hockey did very well this year with 3 wins, 3 losses, and 3 ties. Boys and Girls Basketball also had a wonderful season and played very well.

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Personnel Activity (Appendix 2025-17)

Superintendent Evans provided two Automotive program advisory board applications for the review of the Committee. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO APPROVE THE ADVISORY BOARD APPLICANTS FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GAINES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- School Choice Decision (Appendix 2025-18)

Members received a memorandum regarding the School Choice Program for the 2025-2026 school year. Superintendent Evans explained that school choice would not be a viable option for the district, considering we have a waitlist for in district students. There will be a public hearing on School Choice at the April meeting.

- Municipal Meeting Update

Superintendent Evans reported he and Mrs. Sharek presented to the Framingham City Council and largely focused on the MSBA hopes for the future. He reported that at this meeting they did not focus on the FY26 Budget. He reported that he started off the presentation acknowledging that we have not entered the eligibility period yet and he expects there may be questions for which we may not have answers for yet. Superintendent Evans reported that he reviewed needs within our building and why we went forward with the Statement of Interest (SOI). Superintendent Evans reported the City Council did show support and also some concern around the ability to fund this project and some challenges they will have. Superintendent Evans reported he will be presenting to the Natick Finance Sub Committee on Education and Learning remotely on March 5th and that he will be presenting to the Holliston Finance Committee on March 11th. Superintendent Evans reported that he will the meeting information with the Committee members representing Natick and Holliston. He reported that the budget information has been shared with our municipalities, so they are prepared for our request.

Superintendent Evans reported that he is meeting the Ashland Town Manager tomorrow to review our plans going forward and will keep members updated on any upcoming meetings. He reported that it is important to be transparent and that our member communities have always been complimentary on our budget process.

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

Superintendent Evans reported we continue to have tremendous interest in Keefe Tech and we have a very large group of applicants for next year. Superintendent Evans reported that Mrs. Bogusky and Ms. Sanchez have completed the interview process and our first wave of acceptance letters have been sent out. He reported that families will need to confirm their plan to attend and if there are any changes or families don't respond, we will go forward with back filling from the waitlist. Superintendent Evans reported at this time we have nearly 900 students with a lot of interest from the incoming class with over 600 applicants.

Superintendent Evans reported that he expects a change to the admissions process which will be required by the Department of Education (DOE). He reported that this would not be implemented until the Class of 2029. Superintendent Evans reported he attended several meetings in Everett to show interest in the process. Superintendent Evans reported at the most recent meeting that the DOE had draft regulations prepared but are holding it for a period of public comment. Superintendent Evans reported that he will continue to advocate for what is in the best interest of our District, and he will continue to provide updates as the process progresses in the spring.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Chairman Burman requested a motion to open the public hearing and discussion of the FY26 Budget.

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO BEGIN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY26 BUDGET. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GAINES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Committee.

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR.

GAINE, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Vote FY26 Budget (Appendix 2025-19)

Superintendent Evans reviewed changes and reductions made from the Preliminary Budget presentation. He reported the leadership team was as aggressive as possible when looking for efficiencies without taking away from the needs and outcomes of our students. Superintendent Evans asked for a motion to approve the FY26 Budget for Keefe Regional Technical School in the amount of \$26,711,156 or a 6.71% increase over FY25. MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. SIMS TO APPROVE THE FY26 BUDGET OF \$26,711,156, AN INCREASE OF 6.71% OVER FY25. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GAINES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Vote Determination of District Assessment FY26 (Appendix 2025-20)

Members received the FY26 Summary of Assessments for the five member municipalities for a total of \$15,552,427. Superintendent Evans reviewed the specific changes in enrollment and assessments between FY25 and FY26. Superintendent Evans provided a list of the actual assessments for each of our member municipalities for the approval of the Committee. MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO APPROVE THE DETERMINATION OF DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS FOR FY26 TOTTALLING \$15,552,427. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GAINES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Bid-Hydraulic Press Brake for Metal Fabrication (Appendix 2025-21)

Mrs. Sharek presented a request to go out to bid for a Hydraulic Press Brake for the Metal Fabrication Program. She reported that we have an opportunity to purchase equipment that will enhance the program and allow students to work with this new equipment. She reported that we anticipate the equipment will cost approximately \$190,000. Mrs. Sharek reported that we anticipate the funds will be available through an FY25

Massachusetts Skills Capital Lab Modernization Grant. DR. HAMERLA MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GAINES TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO GO OUT TO BID FOR THE HYDRAULIC PRESS BRAKE FOR METAL FABRICATION. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GAINES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2025-22)

Members received the Non-Salary Expenditure Report along with some highlights. Mrs. Sharek reported that we have spent 55% of the FY25 Budget.

COMMUNICATION

- Keefe Tech Girls Basketball (Appendix 2025-23)

Committee members received an article highlighting the Keefe Tech Girls Basketball Team. Superintendent Evans reported that the athletes and their Coach, Mr. Collins, have done great work. He says their season validates the decision made a couple years ago to keep the level of play at JV while the athletes built their skills to get ready for this level of play.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD, TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TO ADJOURN THE MEETING DIRECTLY FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MRS. FOBES, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MR. GAINES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MRS. SHEPARD, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – March 3, 2025

ACTION SHEET

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