

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

**April 7, 2025**

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

**ASHLAND**

**FRAMINGHAM**

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

**HOLLISTON**

Sarah Commerford  
Barry Sims

**HOPKINTON**

Ruth Knowles

**NATICK**

Henry Haugland  
Gerry Hartwell

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

*In accordance with the Attorney General's Regulations and Procedures, Vice Chairperson Commerford called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM*

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2025**

Vice Chairperson Commerford asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 3, 2025. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. KNOWLES, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2025. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

### **GUESTS AND VISITORS**

There were no guests or visitors.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Update on Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee member Mrs. Commerford, on behalf of Sub-Committee Chair, Mrs. Burns, who is participating remotely, provided an update to the full Committee. Mrs. Commerford reported the Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee met earlier this evening. Mrs. Commerford reported the sub-committee has finished reviewing the Superintendent's evidence binders. She reported that based on collective Sub-Committee ratings and feedback, that the sub-committee had enough evidence provided to make a determination of a rating of at least proficiency. She reported that Sub-Committee Chair Mrs. Burns will prepare a coordinated report and recommendations to be presented to the full Committee for their vote in June. Following the presentation in June, the Committee will be asked to vote on the official ratings for the Superintendent for the 24-25 school year. Mrs. Commerford reported that tomorrow the Superintendent will be sending a pdf copy of the evidence binders to all members of the full committee for their review. If any member of the Committee would like to review the paper copy of the evidence binders, please contact the Superintendent's Office to schedule a time to come to the office. Mrs. Commerford said if members have any feedback regarding the binders or the Superintendent's performance, please reach out to Mrs. Burns directly.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Marshall updated the Committee on student activities taking place at Keefe Tech. She reported that a Keefe Tech Design & Visual student won first place in the MSBA logo contest! She said there is a picture of the logo in the school committee packet and the student did an amazing job. She reported that members from the MSBA and the State Treasurer were at Keefe Tech to celebrate on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Marshall reported that the school play, Beetlejuice the Musical, is taking place on Friday and Saturday. She reported that 28 students are being invited into the National Honor Society on April 15<sup>th</sup> and she will be speaking at the event. Ms. Marshall reported that FFA students competed last week and had great results! She reported that a grade 11 student earned a much-coveted state star at the competition. She also reported that 38 students qualified for the SkillsUSA State Competition and that 6 students from the Business Professionals of America qualified for the national competition. Ms. Marshall reported that there are just 30 days to Graduation! She reported the spring sports season is just getting underway, but things are off to a good start. The volleyball team is off to a 2-2 start, the track team opened their season last Thursday and the team is the largest it has ever seen. The baseball team is hosting JV and Varsity games on April 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first time in a long time that Keefe Tech has hosted two baseball games behind our school. Lastly, the softball team is excited about their first varsity season in over 5 years. They will have separate JV and Varsity schedules.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE**

Vice Chairperson Commerford asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on School Choice. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY DR. HAMERLA, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

No members of the public were present. Superintendent Evans reported that a vote regarding School Choice will take place later in the meeting. MR. HARTWELL MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GALLAGHER TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

## **SUPERINTENDENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- School Choice Decision (Appendix 2025-18)

Superintendent Evans provided a memo that was presented at the March 3, 2025, meeting. Superintendent Evans' recommendation is that the school not be a school choice district for the reasons stated in his memorandum to the full Committee. MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. GALLAGHER TO NOT BE A SCHOOL CHOICE DISTRICT. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- SkillsUSA District Competition 2025 (Appendix 2025-24)

Superintendent Evans reported that Keefe Tech students had a very successful year at the SkillsUSA District Conference. He reported that we had 46 medalists, and that the gold and silver medalists will progress to the SkillsUSA State Conference that will be held at Blackstone Valley Tech. Superintendent Evans said we are very proud of our students and wish them success at the State Conference.

- Out of State Field Trip Requests (Appendix 2025-25)

Superintendent Evans presented two out of state field trip requests to the Committee for their approval. The requests are to Orland, FL. on May 7th for students to compete in the National Leadership Conference for Business Professionals of America and for students to attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Atlanta, GA. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA TO APPROVE BOTH OUT OF STATE FIELD TRIP REQUESTS. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Personnel Activity (Appendix 2025-26)

Superintendent Evans presented two Advisory Board applications for the Dental Assisting program for the review of the Committee. DR. HAMERLA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA TO APPROVE THE TWO ADVISORY BOARD APPLICATIONS FOR THE DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM. MRS.

BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Admissions Update

Superintendent Evans updated the Committee on the current status of the statewide admissions proposal for Career and Technical Education. He reported that currently the DESE has made a proposal to the BOE for what they are describing as a weighted lottery. Superintendent Evans reviewed the features of current proposal, as well as the positions of advocates who wish for a blind lottery, and career and technical school districts who do not see a need for this intervention. Superintendent Evans told the committee that he will keep them up to date as the BOE considers approval of this proposal. He will also keep the Committee informed of legislative efforts geared toward a different approach. When there is clarity on the state's decision, Superintendent Evans will provide recommendation to the Committee regarding the path toward apportioned seats for our member communities.

- Update of Municipal Meetings

Superintendent Evans reported that he and Mrs. Sharek have presented to Natick Education and Learning Sub-Committee of the Natick Finance Committee, where they received unanimous approval. Superintendent Evans thanked Mr. Hartwell and Mr. Haugland for their support and for participating remotely. Superintendent Evans reported that he presented to the Holliston FinCom, he thanked both Mrs. Commerford and Mr. Sims for their support and participation. Superintendent Evans reported that he met with the Ashland Town Manager here at Keefe Tech and also reviewed our numbers with the Hopkinton Town Manager. As he reported at the previous meeting, general information regarding our Budget and MSBA strategy has been presented to the finance committee of the Framingham City Council. Superintendent Evans reported that town meeting season will be starting soon, beginning with Natick on April 29<sup>th</sup>, Hopkinton on May 5<sup>th</sup> and Ashland and Holliston on May 7<sup>th</sup>. He reported that he has reached out to all our communities, and he feels we are in a good place. People have asked fair questions, and he feels that no one is against our efforts and that we are sensing full support. Superintendent Evans reported that at our next meeting, May 5<sup>th</sup>, Dolly will be representing us at the Hopkinton Town Meeting. Superintendent Evans reported that both Holliston and Ashland Town Meetings are on May 7<sup>th</sup> and that Mrs. Sharek and Dr. Snow will represent us at each of those meetings.

- District Medical and Dental Insurance Plans (Appendix 2025-27)

Superintendent Evans requested approval for the FY26 Medical Insurance and Dental Insurance Plans. Superintendent Evans reported that after meeting with the IAC, they unanimously voted to approve the FY26 Medical and Dental Insurance Renewal to maintain our self-funded Health Plan and continuing with Altus dental. He reported that the one change would be with the prescription carrier changing to CVS Caremark. He said there were a few instances where our members had a difficult time getting their prescriptions filled through Truescripts, and that CVS Caremark would be a better choice for our district. Superintendent Evans reported there would be a 5% increase in FY26 compared an 11-13% increase if we transitioned to the GIC. Superintendent Evans reported that we will continue to compare and always do what best for our district. MR. PATRIARCA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY DR. HAMERLA, TO APPROVE THE FY26 DISTRICT MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Bid – Hydraulic Press Brake for Metal Fabrication (Appendix 2025-28)

Delayed until the May Meeting

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2025-29)

Members received the Non-Salary Expenditure Report along with some highlights. Mrs. Sharek said we have spent 62% to date. Mrs. Sharek said we are in line with where we would expect to be at this point in the fiscal year. Mrs. Sharek said she will present a budget transfer at the next meeting.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with a copy of the MSBA winning logo and the awards ceremony brochure, which our student representative, Skylar Marshall, referred to earlier in the meeting. Superintendent Evans reported that several MSBA Directors attended as well as the State Treasurer, Representative Lewis, and representatives from Senate President Spilka's Office and Representative Souza's Office. Superintendent Evans said it was a nice ceremony where the Keefe Tech student that won the competition, and their parents could celebrate their success. There were hundreds of entries statewide and 20 from Keefe Tech.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session

**ADJOURNMENT**

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY DR. HAMERLA TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next meeting is May 5, 2025

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – April 7, 2025

**ACTION SHEET**

- MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. KNOWLES, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2025. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, DR. HAMERLA, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS AND MR. STARR VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.
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