

*Approved by School Committee  
July 21, 2025*

**SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
750 Winter Street, Framingham, MA 01702  
Room 226**

**June 9, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**ASHLAND**

Ed Burman

**FRAMINGHAM**

Michele Burns  
Linda Fobes  
Rick Gallagher  
Steve Starr

**HOLLISTON**

Sarah Commerford  
Barry Sims

**HOPKINTON**

Ruth Knowles

**NATICK**

Gerry Hartwell

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

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

*Per Governor Healey'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.*

*Superintendent Evans explained he would preside over the meeting for the purpose of electing a Chair for the 2025-2026 school year.*

Superintendent Evans asked for a nomination for Chair for the South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School Committee.

MRS. COMMERFORD NOMINATED MR. BURMAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; MRS. FOBES SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations for Chair of the School Committee, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. BURMAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

MR. BURMAN NOMINATED MRS. COMMFERFORD FOR VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; MRS. FOBES SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations for Vice Chairman of the School Committee, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MRS. COMMERFORD AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

Superintendent Evans asked for a nomination for Assistant Treasurer of the School Committee. MRS. FOBES NOMINATED MR. SIMS AS ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; MRS. BURNS SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations for Assistant Treasurer of the School Committee, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. SIMS AS ASSISTANT TREASURER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

MR.. GALLAGHER NOMINATED MRS. BURNS AS SECRETARY OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR. MRS. FOBES SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations for Secretary of the School Committee, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MRS. BURNS AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

Superintendent Evans asked for a nomination for Treasurer of the School Committee. This is a paid position. MR. GALLAGHER NOMINATED MR. HURLEY AS TREASURER OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; MR. BURMAN SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations for Treasurer of the School Committee, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. HURLEY AS TREASURER FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

Superintendent Evans asked for a nomination for Recording Secretary of the School Committee. This is a paid position. MR. GALLAGHER NOMINATED MRS. WARD AS RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; MRS. COMMERFORD SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MRS. WARD AS RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 5, 2025**

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 5, 2025. MRS. FOBES MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 5, 2025. NINE MEMBERS 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 Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee**

Sub-Committee Chair Burns reported that the Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee had their final meeting this evening. Chair Burns extended her sincere appreciation to members of the Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee for their time, review and thoughtful contributions through the process. The sub-committee concluded their review of the District Improvement Plan (DIP) and recommendations for all four standards and indicators. The DIP Goals are: 1) Pursuing Opportunities to Maintain and Improve Facilities for Current Students and for the future, 2) Continuation of Admissions Policy Review, and 3) Information Technology. Chair Burns reported that the collective conclusion of the sub-committee is that there is ample evidence that all three DIP goals have been achieved or exceeded with implicit understanding that all goals will continue to be monitored and adjusted in response to changing district and student needs. Chair Burns reported that after thoughtful review of the evidence binders, the sub-committee unanimously found a wealth of documented evidence to support significant progress toward all four standards and indicators. The Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee is recommending to the full Committee an averaged out Summative rating of Exemplary in the following 4 standards: **Standard I**/Instructional Leadership, **Standard II**/Management and Operations, **Standard III**/Family and Community Engagement, and **Standard IV**/Professional Culture. The Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee is recommending an overall rating of Exemplary. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. FOBES TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION SUB-COMMITTEE TO ACCEPT THE SUMMATIVE RATING OF EXEMPLARY FOR STANDARDS I, II, III, AND IV WITH AN OVERALL RATING OF EXEMPLARY. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- **Committee Member Announcement**

Dr. Hamerla, Committee member representing the City of Framingham, has notified the City and Superintendent Evans that as her term comes to an end and she reflects on how much she has learned and appreciated working with the District, she realizes that with this graduating class it is time for a representative who has more connections to current students and families and that can be more responsive. She reported that she ends her term with this meeting and she wishes the best to Keefe Tech and its students.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Marshall updated the Committee on student activities happening at Keefe Tech. Ms. Marshall said the year is wrapping up. She reported the Graduation ceremony was beautiful and it was an amazing time for students. She reported that all underclassman awards ceremonies had taken place where students are recognized for both their academic and shop achievements. She reported that final exams are this week. She said that most students were feeling well prepared. She said finals are stressful but most students are feeling confident. She was very happy to report that next week is Top Shop. She explained to the Committee exactly what Top Shop is, the Keefe Tech version of a field day. She said the students really look forward to this day, where they compete as teams and with each other. She reported the Electrical program has won Top Shop the last two years and that all shops are looking forward to the competition. Ms. Marshall reported that all the sports programs have come to an end. She reported that all the athletic teams did very well this year with several teams qualifying for the MIAA State Tournament. Superintendent Evans commended Ms. Marshall for her willingness to represent the student body at the School Committee Meetings, and that she did a wonderful job keeping the Committee updated on student activities. He told her to enjoy the summer and we will see you at the beginning of the next school year.

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

- Report on Year End

Dr. Snow reported things have been going very well. She said she was grateful to members of the Committee that could join us for Graduation. She said the Warren Center is such a lovely place to hold graduation, and we were lucky the weather was nice. She reported that teachers and counselors are working with students to be sure they are ready to move on to the next grade. Superintendent Evans reported Senior Awards Night went well where students and families were celebrated. He reported that as Ms. Marshall said there is lots of fun for the student during Top Shop Day and it is a nice way for them to end the year.

- National Student Conference Update (Appendix 2025-41)

Committee Members received a list of students that placed at the BPA National Conference and the SkillsUSA State Conference. Superintendent Evans reported this was a proud moment for these students and wanted to share their success.

- School Handbook Changes (Appendix 2025-42)

Dr. Snow reported there are four major changes to the Handbook for FY26. Dr. Snow presented each change to the School Committee and asked for their approval. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO APPROVE THE HANDBOOK CHANGES AS PRESENTED BY DR. SNOW FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Retirement Announcements (Appendix 2025-43)

Members received a list of staff members retiring in 2025. Superintendent Evans said these staff members will be recognized at closing ceremonies at the end of the year. He said a faculty member will speak on behalf of each retiree.

- Personnel Activity (Appendix 2025-44)

Superintendent Evans presented two applications for advisory board for the Dental Assisting and the Metal Fabrication programs for the review of the Committee. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. FOBES TO APPROVE THE TWO ADVISORY BOARD APPLICATIONS. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Statewide Admissions Update

Superintendent Evans reported that the latest information from the Board of Education is that there will be an admissions lottery implemented. The new regulations say you must use a lottery and there are two areas for consideration in the lottery. The first is if a student in 7<sup>th</sup> and half of 8<sup>th</sup> grade has more than 27 unexcused absences or if there is a felony charge inside of school. Superintendent Evans reported that Keefe Tech has repeatedly been referred to as a district that has none of the problems associated with the reasons for the lottery and basically a model school for enrollment and for our continued relationship with our sending communities. Superintendent Evans reported he has repeatedly been asked to speak regarding a lottery to no avail. He reported he feels it is inevitable that the lottery will be required. He said at this time there is talk of creating a task force, which could possibly cause a delay but it is unlikely. Superintendent Evans reported he has been speaking with district counsel to figure out our best path forward. He said there are two scenarios he is looking in to and wants to do

what is best for all member communities. He reported that one way through this is to create apportionment which could take place through the admission policy and to be voted on at a later date by the school committee, or through the regional agreement, where there would need to be four town meetings and a vote of the Framingham City Council. Superintendent Evans said more will follow as we work with district counsel to find the best path forward. A Committee member requested we write a letter to the Board of Education, or the powers that be, to give the Committee's official view of the proposal of a lottery to be sure our voice is heard and for them to realize how this will adversely affect our district. MR. STARR MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. GALLAGHER TO HAVE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT WRITE A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE FULL COMMITTEE STATING THEIR OPINION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ADMISSIONS LOTTERY. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- MSBA Update

Superintendent Evans reported that at this time there is not a lot to report. Superintendent Evans reported our eligibility period will start in August. He reported that our liaison is Claire Learner. We expect she will reach out in July to start the process. Superintendent Evans reported that at the July meeting he expects to have more information and anticipates some recommendations for the review of the Committee.

- Conflict of Interest Law (Appendix 2025-45)

Committee members received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Law. Members need to acknowledge receipt of the Conflict of Interest Law by submitting the acknowledgement form to the Superintendent's Office. Each Committee member also needs to make sure they have completed the online Conflict of Interest Survey that needs to be completed every two years. Superintendent Evans said if any member needs assistance with the State's online process to contact our Business Office.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Metrowest Daily News – Keefe Tech Graduation (Appendix 2025-46)

Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with an article highlighting the Keefe Tech Graduation.

- Metrowest Daily News – Framingham Rotary Club Scholarships (Appendix 2025-47)

Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with an article highlighting the Framingham Rotary Club Scholarships that were awarded to Keefe Tech Students. He reported that the Rotary Club Scholarship luncheon was held here at Keefe Tech and that it was a wonderful day for Keefe Tech students and their families.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chair asked for a Motion that the Committee go into Executive Session for the purpose described in G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee and the Chair so declares will reconvene in open session. This requires a roll call vote of the Committee. MRS. FOBES MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS, TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. HARTWELL, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. KNOWLES, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

### **OPEN SESSION**

- Collective Bargaining Agreements

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. SIMS TO APPROVE THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS FOR THE KTEA AND THE SECRETARIAL UNITS AS PRESENTED BY SUPERINTENDENT EVANS. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Budget Update (Appendix 2025-48)

Superintendent Evans reported that in May, he and Mrs. Sharek attended a meeting with the Finance Sub Committee of the Framingham City Council. During this meeting, the Chair asserted that Keefe Tech should go to bond for the funding of our Feasibility Study in FY26. He said this is a standard practice used by most schools. The Chair specifically asked Superintendent Evans to report back to the Committee about an incoming request from the Framingham City Council. A formal vote is expected by

the Framingham City Council at their meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Evans explained that, through his own research with seven CTE school districts and consultation with the MSBA, going to bond for feasibility is, in fact, a very unusual practice for a district like ours.

Superintendent Evans also provided an update regarding a potential source of funding for part of the Feasibility Study through surplus in FY25. Specifically, Superintendent Evans reported that, due to lower than expected utilization of health insurance, we will be recommending a transfer of \$400,000 into our newly created feasibility study account later in this meeting. Once completed we will be in a position where we might be able to reduce our FY26 Budget by \$400,000, which would benefit all of our member communities.

The Committee decided that, since no formal vote has been taken by the Framingham City Council, and since no request has been received, we should hold before making any decision on either bonding or budget reductions. By our next meeting, we should have sufficient information to make decisions in these areas.

- Superintendent Contract

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD TO FOLLOW THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR FY26 COMPENSATION. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2025-49)

Members received the Non-Salary Expenditure Report along with some highlights regarding our current status.

- Request Budget Transfer (Appendix 2025-50)

Mrs. Sharek requested authorization to transfer funds from areas of surplus to allow the District to meet financial obligations. Mrs. Sharek reported because of low utilization of health insurance there was a surplus and that \$400,000 of this budget request will be transferred into the Feasibility Study Account. Mrs. Sharek is requesting a budget transfer of \$552,914, MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO APPROVE THE BUDGET TRANSFER OF \$552,914, AS PRESENTED BY MRS. SHAREK TO MEET

DISTRICT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Transfer to Transportation Revolving Account (Appendix 2025-51)

Mrs. Sharek presented a transfer into the Transportation Revolving account in the amount of \$791,262 to offset a portion of the FY26 transportation cost. This is an anticipated transfer which meets the guidelines of the Transportation Revolving account. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. BURMAN TO APPROVE THE TRANSPORTATION REVOLVING ACCOUNT BUDGET TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$791,262 AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Request Transfer to OPEB Trust (Appendix 2025-52)

Mrs. Sharek asked the Committee to approve transferring \$50,000 to the OPEB Trust for FY25. MRS. FOBES MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. SIMS TO APPROVE A TRANSFER OF \$50,000 TO THE OPEB TRUST ACCOUNT. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Bid-Hydraulic Press Brake for Metal Fabrication (Appendix 2025-53)

Mrs. Sharek reported the District held a second public bid conference on June 4, 2025 for a Hydraulic Press Brake. Three bids were received, however, only two met the requirements for the District to accept the bid as a valid bid. Mrs. Sharek is requesting the Committee enter a contract with Cincinnati Incorporated as they were the only responsive and responsible bidder meeting all of the requirements. The total cost of the equipment is \$187,500 and will be funded through the Skills Capital Lab Modernization Grant. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. FOBES TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH CINCINNATI INCORPORATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE HYDRAULIC PRESS BRAKE FOR METAL FABRICATION AS PRESENTED BY MRS. SHAREK. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Evans reported that after the agenda was posted, some information related to the international trip being planned for 2027 was received. As we approach the end of the year, we have been working with attorneys on vetting and protections to have in place. We would like to give families a 2 year payment window. This information is to let you know we have communicated with EF and coordinating with your attorney to look at requirements and our intent to tell families that we will be opening up the process allowing them to start payment plans for a trip being planned for two years from now.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. BURMAN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

The next meeting is July 21, 2025  
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – June 9, 2025

**ACTION SHEET**

- MRS. COMMERFORD NOMINATED MR. BURMAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; MRS. FOBES SECONDED THE NOMINATION. Superintendent Evans asked if there were any other nominations for Chair of the School Committee, there were none. NINE MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. BURMAN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.
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