SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

750 Winter Street
Framingham, MA 01702

REGULAR MEETING OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 2, 2026 @ 6:00 PM – School Committee Meeting Room 226

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2026

II. GUESTS AND VISITORS

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
1. Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee Update

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT
2. MSBA Update (Appendix 2026-9)
3. CTE Selection Update (Appendix 2026-10)
4. District Counsel Update (Appendix 2026-11)

VII. FINANCIAL MATTERS
5. Budget Update
6. Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2026-12)

VIII. COMMUNICATION
7. ACCEPT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MATERIALS (Appendix 2026-13)

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**One or more members of the South Middlesex Regional Vocational Technical School Committee may be participating remotely in accordance with the Attorney General's Regulations and Procedures {940 CMR 29.10}.*

Posted: Keefe Tech Web Site: https://www.keefetech.org/community/public-meeting-info
cc: Legal Counsel, Administrative Staff, School Treasurer, Metro West Daily News, KTEA President, and Town/City Clerks: Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick

Approved by School Committee:
February 2, 2026

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 12, 2026

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

ASHLAND
Ed Burman

FRAMINGHAM
Michele Burns
Luther Evans
Linda Fobes (Remote)
Rick Gallagher
Maria Martinez
Steven Patriarca
Steve Starr

HOLLISTON
Sarah Commerford
Barry Sims

HOPKINTON
Sabine St. Pierre
Brendan Tedstone

NATICK
Gerry Hartwell
Henry Haugland

ALSO PRESENT:
Jonathan Evans, Superintendent
Shannon Snow, Principal
Dolores Sharek, Director of Business & Finance
William Hurley , Treasurer
Skylar Marshall, Student Representative
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 person in accordance with the Attorney General's Regulations and Procedures. Mrs. Fobes will be participating remotely. All votes this evening will be by roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2025

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2025.

MR. TEDSTONE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2025. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR. TEDSTONE AND MR. BURMAN VOTED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES; MRS. MARTINEZ ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

GUESTS AND VISITORS

There were no guests or visitors

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Marshall reported that students have returned from a long winter break and are ready to begin the second half of the school year. She reported that tryouts for the school play will begin this week. They will be performing "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown". Ms. Marshall reported that SkillsUSA is beginning their study sessions for the District Competition. She also reported that Mock Trial season has begun and that students from the Criminal Justice program went to Westborough District Court for their first trial. Ms. Marshall reported that the sports teams are all very excited about competing. The Cheerleaders are gearing up for their competition season and cheer at the boys home basketball games. The Wresting team has won their last 3 consecutive dual meetings and they look forward to competing in the first ever Central Massachusetts Athletic Conference Quad in January. The Ice Hockey Team is back to being a coed team for this season, and for the first time in a long time the team can offer a Varsity and JV Schedule because of high enrollment. The Boys Basketball team has won its last two games in a row and the Girls Basketball Team is in their second Varsity season since 2017-2018 and are off to a strong start.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no Chairman's Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was No Executive Session

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Career Night Update

Superintendent Evans reported that in November we had a very successful Career Night. Superintendent Evans reported that we continue to have a large amount of interest in our programs. Superintendent Evans reported that we had a large number of student ambassadors helping and along with the mandatory lead teachers, there were many staff members who volunteered their time. The event was extremely well organized by Mrs. Bogusky and her team. Superintendent Evans reported we have already received over 500 applications and that we have not reached the application deadline yet. Superintendent Evans reported that we continue to have great relationships with our communities and that our popularity is high. A Committee member reported that she is very impressed with the use of student ambassadors and how memorable this can be for students and families who are attending these events. It really helps students to make decisions when they see these student ambassadors and their success.

- Principal's Mid-Year Update

Dr. Snow reported that starting this morning our grade 9 students are in the process of selecting their Career and Technical Programs. She reported this creates much excitement. All students explored eight different programs. This is a very happy and exciting week for students and staff as it shows interests in programs. So far the selections are going very well.

She reported that course selection time is here and that teachers, counselors, students and families work together to help make academic recommendations. Students are emailed available courses they can choose from. She reported that we are offering a few new electives such as guitar, photo, speech and debate, and financial literacy.

Dr. Snow reported that each January administrators visit vocational programs by grade level. This visit allows them to talk in smaller groups to students, typically about 15-20 students at a time. They discuss things such as programming, course selections, college planning events and the seniors path to graduation and scholarship information. She reported this is a great time to check in with students and to hear from students. She reported that they also applaud students who are on honor roll and high honor roll.

Dr. Snow also reported that parent teacher conferences are at the end of this month. Parents can make appointments to see any of their students' teachers either in person or by zoom. She reported that conferences are offered on an early release day and one evening. Dr. Snow reported that school counseling offers Junior Planning Night for families in two different languages to make accessible to all families. They also meet with instructors and build relationships.

- MSBA Update (Appendix 2026-01)

Superintendent Evans reported that we are still in the early days of the MSBA Process. He reported that the packet included the facility report that was submitted to MSBA. Superintendent Evans reported that we have had one Building Committee meeting. He reported that he planned to wait until we had more to talk about, however, today he was contacted by the MSBA with the next step, which is the enrollment meeting. He reported that the meeting will be scheduled at the end of the month. Superintendent Evans said he will be contacting the members of the Building Committee with the information regarding the meeting once he has been contacted with further information. He reported that the MSBA has copied the municipal members on the need for this meeting. Superintendent Evans said he is planning to speak with our point of contact at the MSBA tomorrow for clarification of a few questions. He reported the meeting will most likely be either January 26th or 28th. Superintendent Evans said at the enrollment meeting we will be discussing rationale for enrollment and trends in the community and to get questions answered in the next steps of this journey. Superintendent Evans reported that shortly after the enrollment meeting with MSBA he will be scheduling a Building Committee meeting. Superintendent Evans reported that once again the Framingham City Council Finance Sub Committee has asked about bonding for the cost of our feasibility study, and he reported back that the Committee has not changed their plan. We have received very positive feedback from our four towns for our funding strategy throughout this process. Chairman Burman said that instead of bonding we are going to save the city and four towns over a million dollars in interest. Superintendent Evans asked if the Committee had any

additional questions regarding our funding strategy for feasibility, and if there was any interest in adjusting our approach. No questions nor motions were brought forward by the Committee.

- 2025 Annual Report (Appendix 2026-02)

Superintendent Evans presented the 2025 Annual Report that will be sent to our member municipalities after being approved by the Committee. He reported this is something that must be done each year and is part of our City and Towns Annual Reports. He reported that this year he has cut back some of the information as the municipalities sent guidelines and our report was much longer than theirs. He reported that he included information about the Committee and the most important highlights about our district. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA TO APPROVE THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO OUR FIVE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR. TEDSTONE AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Advisory Board Meeting (Appendix 2026-03)

Superintendent Evans informed Committee members there is a planned General Advisory Board Meeting on January 15th. He said this is the most informative meeting for Committee members to attend. At this meeting reports are presented from each program, with enrollment numbers and projection of program needs. Superintendent Evans told Committee members if they would like to attend, to please let Superintendent Evans or Mrs. Ward know.

- Recruitment, Admissions and Retention Policy (Appendix 2026-04)

Superintendent Evans reported that at the November meeting the Committee voted to approve the updated Recruitment, Admissions and Retention Policy. He reported that after the meeting we submitted the policy to the DESE. DESE responded with a couple of suggestions of minor changes to the Policy. We have highlighted a few areas where you will see changes were made. He reported that we will need another vote to approve the updated policy. MR. BURMAN MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. TEDSTONE TO APPROVE THE UPDATED RECRUITMENT, ADMISSIONS AND RETENTION POLICY. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR.

TEDSTONE, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2026-05)

The Highlights Report and Non-Salary Expenditure Report were provided to the Committee. This report covers activity through December 2025. Mrs. Sharek reported that she continues to review accounts nearing or exceeding budget balances. She reported that 48% of the FY26 Budget has been spent, including salaries. She reported the audit for FY25 is almost completed and expects the report to be presented within the next couple of months.

- Approval of Budget Sub-Committee Minutes (Appendix 2026-06)

Mr. Sims, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee, reported the Committee has completed their work. He reviewed the process of how the Budget Sub-Committee reviewed each line item. He reported this process continues to work well. Mr. Sims asked for a vote of the December 16th Budget Sub-Committee Minutes. MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2025, BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MRS. FOBES, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR. TEDSTONE, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- Budget Sub-Committee Update

Mr. Sims, Chair of the Budget Sub-Committee, updated the Committee on the status of the Committees work to bring a Preliminary Budget to the full Committee. Three meetings were held in December. At each meeting the administrator for the appropriate area went through each budget line item. Sub Committee members complimented the efforts made by all of the presenters to demonstrate an awareness of their areas of oversight and responsibly request what is needed for the students they serve. Chair Sims reported that the Budget Sub Committee has approved the recommendation to the full Committee Preliminary Budget of $27,945,681 or 6.21% over FY26. He reported that Superintendent Evans and the administration will continue to look for efficiencies before we arrive at the final FY27 budget request. Superintendent Evans said he will continue to be in touch with our district

municipalities so they can have projections of where we stand. He said he is also waiting for the Governor's Budget and Chapter 70 funding.

- Vote to Approve the FY27 Preliminary Budget (Appendix 2026-07)

Superintendent Evans thanked the Budget Sub-Committee members for their work on the FY27 Preliminary Budget. He reported that some of the major increases are health insurance, and the cost of living increase in the contract for educators. He reported that this is the higher cost of living year in a three year contract because we were anticipating the need for funds for the MSBA project last year. Superintendent Evans also reported that he is waiting on the Governor's Budget to see if we will be able to have the increase of two positions in the FY27 Budget. He reported at this time he is allocating for another HVAC instructor because we are in the fourth year of the program and it is a sought after program. He also has included the position of a carpentry instructor to be assigned to the shed program which is being renovated under the Skills Modernization Grant. Superintendent Evans reported that the administrative team will continue to look for efficiencies and will have an update after receiving the State Budget hopefully for the February meeting. MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. TEDSTONE TO APPROVE THE FY27 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS PRESENTED BY SUPERINTENDENT EVANS OF $27,945,681, WHICH REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 6.21% OVER FY26. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR. TEDSTON, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

COMMUNICATION (Appendix 2026-08)
The Committee was provided with an article highlighting the "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

ADJOURNMENT
MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR.

TEDSTONE, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

The next meeting is February 2, 2026
The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting – January 12, 2026
ACTION SHEET

- MR. TEDSTONE MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2025. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR. TEDSTONE AND MR. BURMAN VOTED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES; MRS. MARTINEZ ABSTAINED. THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA TO APPROVE THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO OUR FIVE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, MRS. ST. PIERRE, MR. TEDSTONE AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

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