SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

750 Winter Street
Framingham, MA 01702

REGULAR MEETING OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 2, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

School Committee Meeting Room 226

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2026

II. GUESTS AND VISITORS

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
1. FY25 Audit Report (Appendix 2026-14)

IV. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VI. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT
2. Advisory Board Update (Appendix 2026-15)
3. 2025-2026 School Calendar (Appendix 2026-16)
4. Admissions Update
5. MSBA Update
6. School Choice Decision (Appendix 2026-17)
7. Municipal Meeting Update

VII. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

VIII. FINANCIAL MATTERS
8. Budget Transfer (Appendix 2026-18)
9. Vote FY27 Budget (Appendix 2026-19)
10. Vote Determination of District Assessment FY27 (Appendix 2026-20)
11. Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2026-21)

IX. COMMUNICATION

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. 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:
March 2, 2026

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 2, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ASHLAND
Ed Burman

FRAMINGHAM
Michele Burns
Luther Evans (arrived 6:10p.m.)
Linda Fobes (remote)
Rick Gallagher
Maria Martinez
Steve Patriarca
Steve Starr

HOLLISTON
Sarah Commerford
Barry Sims

HOPKINTON

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 6:00PM

Chairman Burman stated we will be 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. Mrs. Fobes will be participating remotely.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2026

Chairman Burman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 12, 2026.

MR. PATRIARCA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2026. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN 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

- Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee Update

Mrs. Burns, Chair of the Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee, reported that the Sub Committee met this evening just prior to the regular Committee meeting. Mrs. Burns reported that sub-committee members will be reviewing evidence provided by Superintendent Evans. Once reviewed by all sub-committee members, evidence will be made available to any member of the full Committee who wishes to review it. The sub-committee will reconvene in a month or two, and they will make a recommendation to the full Committee for the Superintendent's evaluation rating at either the May or June meeting. Superintendent Evans thanked the members of the sub-committee for their time and willingness to be members of the sub-committee.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ms. Marshall reported that Future Farmers of America Forestry Team placed 2nd in the Massachusetts annual competition. She also reported that there is an AP Literature Mock Exam this Friday. Ms.

Marshall informed the Committee that the prom theme has been chosen "Under the Stars". The Outdoor Adventure Club has started their Friday night skiing at Wachusett Mountain. Ms. Marshall gave an update on the winter sports and reported there will be a winter pep rally on Friday to celebrate all winter sports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- MSBA Update (Appendix 2026-09)

Superintendent Evans reported that included in this packet is a PowerPoint presentation that the MSBA provided and used in a recent meeting with Superintendent Evans, Dr. Snow, Mrs. Sharek, several members of the Building Committee that are members of the school committee, four town managers and a member from the Framingham City Council. Superintendent Evans reported that at this meeting they reviewed numbers the MSBA came up with after reviewing all the information that we have provided thus far, as well as demographic information about our region compiled by the MSBA. Superintendent Evans reported we are starting to get into a little more detail on what our feasibility study will include regarding number of students we hope to be able to serve and the programs that will be considered. Superintendent Evans reported that he was not expecting to be locked into numbers during this meeting, so he is providing this information so that the Committee can determine our baseline number and the number we feel comfortable with presenting to our five communities. He also reported that there are several different scenarios that can be considered during the feasibility study. He was asked by a member if reviewing multiple scenarios will increase the cost of the feasibility study. Superintendent Evans reported that the cost of various scenarios should be included in the cost of the feasibility study. The MSBA asked if they could proceed with a range of options between a floor of 875 and a ceiling of our submitted number of 1200. The MSBA's maximum enrollment in their PowerPoint indicated 1596 students. Superintendent Evans suggested that while it may not be a viable number; to explore all options, we may wish to consider a larger ceiling. If 1200 continues to be our best path forward, considering a larger number and then ruling it out could validate our plan. During feasibility Superintendent Evans is recommending a review of several scenarios between 875 and 1400 students. He does not believe the MSBA's maximum enrollment of nearly 1600 students makes sense for consideration. MR. SIMS MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MR. PATRIARCA TO APPROVE

SUPERINTENDENT EVANS RECOMMENDATION TO START THE ENROLLMENT NUMBER FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AT A BASELINE OF 875 AND TO INCREASE THE COMPARISON RANGE TO INCLUDE 1000, 1200, 1300 AND 1400 STUDENTS. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

- CTE Selection Update (Appendix 2026-10)

Superintendent Evans reported that this has been an exciting time for students at the end of exploratory to select their program. He reported that earlier in January students had appointments in guidance to make their choice. Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with a listing of the programs, number of students enrolled, the capacity for the program, and how many students are on the wait list. He reported that this year he has added a first choice column for each program showing how many students requested the program. He reported that the construction cluster programs (Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing) continue to be extremely popular and among the highest programs enrolled. He reported that the Dental Program and the Automotive program were also highly popular. He noted that we never make big decisions based on one year of enrollment, but conversations do take place in areas of concern. If there is a program that is not getting the enrollment expected, we offer teachers an opportunity to visit sister schools to observe best practices for increasing enrollment. Superintendent Evans reported there are a few programs that we would like to see improve their enrollment.

- District Counsel Update (Appendix 2026-11)

Superintendent Evans reported that your district counsel, Attorney Marc Terry, is transitioning from practicing law at Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee, LLP to Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP. Superintendent Evans provided the Committee with a letter from Mirick, O'Connell asking if we would like to be assigned a new attorney or if we would like to follow Attorney Terry to Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP. Superintendent Evans said when there are times that we need an attorney to handle something outside of District Counsel Marc Terry's area of expertise, we in the past have been very happy with Attorney Colby Brunt from Stoneman, Chandler and Miller, LLP. Both attorneys' are aware that we have used both firms in the past. Superintendent Evans is recommending the Committee choose to stay with Marc Terry as their District Counsel with Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP. MR. BURMAN

MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. BURNS TO CONTINUE TO USE ATTORNEY MARC TERRY AND TRANSITION TO THE FIRM OF STONEMAN, CHANDLER & MILLER, LLP AS THE DISTRICT COUNSEL. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. EVANS, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER, MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Budget Update

Superintendent Evans reminded members that at the last meeting there was a vote on our Preliminary FY27 Budget. Superintendent Evans reported that just a couple of days ago we received the first draft of the State Budget and found the CH70 numbers statewide to be disappointing. He reported that last year we received a $900,000 increase in CH70 which was great news. This year he said that number is down to an increase of only $67,000. He reported that we will be looking at our wants and needs and will sharpen our pencils to trim our budget. He reported we have no plans to take away what our students need to succeed. He reported that he believes we will be able to save in areas on health insurance and liability insurance and possibly purchase some items needed with funds from the FY26 Budget. Superintendent Evans reported that less funding from CH70 funds will mean an increase in assessments for our five communities. We will work diligently to see where we can save, and we are hopeful that the Senate Budget might be better, but we know it won't be like last year. Superintendent Evans reported that he is hopeful to get the FY27 Budget down below the 6.21% Preliminary Budget that was voted on and is expecting at the March 2nd meeting and public hearing that we will be able to present something significantly below 6%. Superintendent Evans reminded Committee members that we need 11 members at the March 2nd meeting for the Public Hearing on the Budget.

- Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report (Appendix 2026-12)

Members received the Non-Salary Financial Expenditure Report along with some highlights. Mrs. Sharek reported that we are on target, currently spending nearly half of the budget. Mrs. Sharek reported the FY25 Audit is nearly complete. At this time all reports are good and Mrs. Sharek expects the Audit will be presented at next month's meeting.

COMMUNICATION

- ACCEPT School Committee Materials (Appendix 2026-13)

Superintendent Evans reported that the materials they received are required to be shared with the Committee because he is on the Board of Directors of the Collaborative. They are informational only. He reported if there are any questions, please let him know.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Snow reported that Parent Conferences last Wednesday and Thursday were very successful. She reported there were over 1250 total scheduled conferences regarding 340 students. She reported that it was a good time for parents to meet teachers and build good relationships. She reported that there were very validating conversations and good feedback to relay to teachers and the leadership team. She reported it was a valuable night. Superintendent Evans complimented the building leadership team and teachers for the work that they do to support students and families and the relationships that are being built for success over the next few years with these families.

ADJOURNMENT

MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD 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, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

The next meeting is March 2, 2026
The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Committee Meeting – February 2, 2026

ACTION SHEET

- MR. PATRIARCA MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2026. MRS. BURNS, MRS. COMMERFORD, MR. HARTWELL, MR. HAUGLAND, MRS. FOBES, MR. GALLAGHER MRS. MARTINEZ, MR. PATRIARCA, MR. SIMS, MR. STARR, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

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- MR. GALLAGHER MADE A MOTION SECONDED BY MRS. COMMERFORD 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, AND MR. BURMAN VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION; THE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.