

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
562 MAPLE STREET, HATHORNE, MA 01937-0346

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: G.R. Harvey, Essex, Chairman
M. Sweeney, Marblehead, Vice Chairman
M. Patterson, Department of Agriculture
D. Blake, Beverly
M. Amato, Boxford
W. Marquis, Danvers
P. Anderson, Lynnfield
J. Sabella, Manchester
A. Liteplo, Middleton
L. Bonfanti, Peabody
B. Perkins, Rockport
T. St. Pierre, Salem
W. Jackson, Swampscott
C. Robinson, Topsfield

MEMBERS ABSENT: L. Siewko-Story, Department of Agriculture, Secretary
M. Teixeira, Gloucester
D. Ketcham, Hamilton
Nahant
W. Nichols, Wenham

OTHERS PRESENT: D. O'Connell, Superintendent-Director
B. Morgan, Principal
M. Znamierowski, Business Manager
C. Worth, District Treasurer
C. Levesque, Recording Secretary
A. Marquis, Student Representative
H. Marchant, Student Representative

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. It was noted that a quorum was present.

2. Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents – Certificate of Academic Excellence

Mr. O'Connell introduced Angelina Spanks a senior from Gloucester as a co-recipient of the MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Angelina has earned a 4.63 GPA, ranking in the top 5% of the senior class and is a member of the National Honor Society. Angelina is a Design & Visual Communications student and has impressed her instructors with her work ethic. Angelina has participated in the following extracurricular activities: Drama Club, freshman mentor program, Skills/USA participant and officer, member of the student council, math team and political club. In her spare time Angelina volunteers with the Tour de Cure, Special Olympics, Walk for Alzheimer, Topsfield Fair and the Walk for Cystic Fibrosis. In the fall Angelina will attend the University of Massachusetts Boston majoring in criminal justice.

Mr. O'Connell introduced Katlyn Guerin a senior from Dracut as the co-recipient of the MASS Certificate of Excellence.

Mr. O'Connell stated that Katlyn is a senior in the Veterinary Technology program and works at the Andover Animal Hospital. Katlyn participated in the girls' basketball and soccer teams during her 4 years in high school. Katlyn is enrolled in AP classes and has earned a 4.02 GPA, ranking in the top 5% of the senior class. Katlyn is a recipient of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. In the fall Katlyn will attend either the University of Vermont or the University of New Hampshire as a pre-veterinary major.

Mr. O'Connell introduced Mr. Jack Bradshaw, Gilbane Co. Mr. Bradshaw stated that Gilbane established a scholarship for students at Essex Technical High School. Mr. Bradshaw is pleased to present a scholarship award of \$750.00 to support each student in their pursuit of higher education.

Mr. Harvey stated that Items 8a, 8b, 8c & 8d will Move Out of Order.

Ms. Arey, Companion Animal Teacher, and her students shared their experience and a video when they recently attended the Westminster Dog Show in New York City. Students Gino Isidro from Danvers; Shannon Lally from Rockport; Corey Chavis from Winthrop and Andrew Vanderpool from Beverly. The students stated that the experience reinforced their curriculums and allowed them to see firsthand what they have been working toward in the classroom. The students thanked the Committee for approving this field trip and will submit a proposal for a 2016 trip to the Show.

Ms. Corson, Equine Science Teacher, and her students attended the American Youth Horse Council Symposium in Redmond, Oregon. Katie Bolduc and Claudia Lanes from Peabody; Holly Brown from Bradford; Holly Belleau from Salisbury and Chasidy Perry from Salem reported that they attended workshops, demonstrations, and toured areas that are involved with the National Horse Industry.

Ms. Corson stated that the Symposium is held each year in various parts of the country and she is applying for Massachusetts to host a future Symposium.

Mr. O'Connell introduced Prabhjot (PJ) Kaur, a junior enrolled in Information Technology Services from Danvers. Ms. Kaur was recently Recognized for Excellence by the National Center for Women & Information Technology. Ms. Kaur explained the application process and from the thousand of applicants she was one of twenty-four (24) women to be recognized.

Mr. O'Connell stated that last summer Ms. Kaur assisted the Technology Director, Ms. Rodolico, with the 2014-15 student schedules. Mr. O'Connell added that he has no doubt that PJ will be a very successful young woman.

Mr. Morgan introduced Cailin Currie a sophomore from Danvers. Ms. Currie has qualified to compete in the 2015 World Championships/Paralympics Swimming in Glasgow, Scotland. Ms. Currie stated that she will compete in the 100 fly event. Ms. Currie swims for the North Shore Sharks at the YMCA in Beverly.

Mr. O'Connell suggested the school dedicate a "Jeans Friday" to help defray the costs for Ms. Currie to attend the Paralympics in Scotland. Staff and faculty contribute \$5.00 to wear jeans on a Friday.

Mr. Morgan reported that twelve (12) delegate students will compete at Skills/USA from April 30, 2015 to May 2, 2015.

3. Student Representatives Report

There was no Student Representatives' Report.

Ms. Marchant reported that the Drama Club participated in the Drama Festival. Gino Isidro and Matthew Knowles both seniors from Danvers were presented with an "All Star Award". On May 8 & 9 at 6:00 p.m. the Drama Club will present a full version of "Almost Maine."

Dr. Patterson stated that he enjoys hearing how students benefit from their opportunity to attend Essex Technical High School. Dr. Patterson is proud to be a part of this school.

4. Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2015 for Approval
A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson and VOTED to approve the Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2015 as presented. Abstentions: Dr. Patterson, Mr. Bonfanti and Mrs. Amato.

Mr. Harvey stated the Minutes should be amended to include Mrs. Liteplo's attendance under "Others Present."

5. Business Manager's Report
Mrs. Znamierowski reported that the September 2014 and October 2014 statements were included in the packet.

Mrs. Znamierowski reported that the District will prepare for Bonding next month.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney to accept the September 30, 2014 Balance Sheet and place it on file for audit.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney to accept the October 31, 2014 Balance Sheet and place it on file for audit.

6. Communications
Communications included in the packet were read and accepted.

Notice of Retirement

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson to accept with regret and gratitude Mrs. Skinner's notice of retirement effective June 30, 2015. Mr. O'Connell stated that Mrs. Skinner has been employed by the District for 26 years and this will be a huge loss.

Late Communications

Letter received from Mayor Bettencourt, Mayor, City of Peabody appointing Mr. James Liacos to the Committee.

Mr. Bonfanti stated that he feels Mr. Liacos will be a wonderful addition to the Committee. Mr. Liacos is a retired employee of Essex Aggie and has served on the School Committee and City Council in Peabody.

Certificate received from Mr. Singer, Town Manager for Middleton appointing Mrs. Alexandra Liteplo to the Committee.

7. Superintendent-Director's Report – Mr. O'Connell
School Choice 2015-16 School Year

Mr. O'Connell stated that he recommends that the School Committee vote not to be a school of Choice in the 2015-16 school year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson that the District will not accept School Choice students in the 2015-16 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Perkins asked if the Admission Policy would need to be amended. Mr. O'Connell answered that he will have Mrs. Skinner review the Policy.

Mrs. Amato asked how this would affect the current agricultural students. Mr. O'Connell stated that it does not as the agricultural technical students are not considered choice students.

Athletic League Affiliation

Mr. O’Connell reported that as a point of information the District will move to the Cape Ann League. Mr. Worth, Athletic Director, will request the MIAA approve the District’s application to leave the Commonwealth Conference league.

Negotiations Update

Mr. O’Connell reported that negotiations with the Bus Drivers are very close to being finalized. Proposals have been exchanged with Support Staff.

Negotiations with representatives of AFT and the teachers continue to move slowly and the last two negotiating sessions were cancelled.

Healthcare Update

Mr. O’Connell reported that there were two separate forums after school with representatives from GIC and the Health Trust.

Mr. O’Connell added that Mr. Charlie Lyons, Superintendent of Shawsheen Tech, as an impartial expert, presented several areas of health insurance including a comparison of GIC vs. Independent plans, benefits and difficulties of self-indemnification/self funding.

Mr. O’Connell reported that 68 employees are enrolled in GIC and 108 employees are enrolled in the Health Trust for health insurance.

Mr. O’Connell stated that the Health Trust is requiring a one year commitment and GIC is requiring a life time commitment.

Mr. O’Connell reported the Health Trust added another alternative health insurance option which is comparable to the “Navigator” option in the GIC. This is the most popular plan in GIC having 45 subscribers.

Mr. O’Connell stated that some of the challenges for health insurance are the employees’ contribution i.e. 80-20 or 75-25 or 70-30. AFSCME employees received dental coverage at no cost – former North Shore Tech employees were self insured for dental coverage.

Mr. O’Connell stated that he will continue to think “out of the box” to seek revenue such as the district assuming the communities assessment for transportation.

Mr. O’Connell is recommending the Committee support the Superintendent in moving the District from GIC to Health Trust.

A motion was made by Mr. Marquis and seconded by Dr. Anderson to support Mr. O’Connell, Superintendent, to research health care options from GIC to Health Trust.

Mrs. Amato asked when comparing the networks are the physicians and hospital the same. Mr. O’Connell answered that they are pretty close.

A Roll Call Vote was taken:

YES – Dr. Patterson, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Amato, Mr. Marquis, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Sabella, Mrs. Liteplo, Mr. Bonfanti, Mr. Perkins, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Sweeney, Mr. Harvey.

NO – None

WEIGHTED: YES - 25 NO – 0

Motion Carries Unanimously

Mrs. Amato clarified that this vote is for support only.

Sports Complex Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that the construction company is ready to move ahead but before they can start the project they need the Land Lease Agreement. Mr. O'Connell continues to reach out to local legislators for support and stated that Representative Brad Hill has been very helpful. Mr. O'Connell feels there is positive energy for the project and most realize how time sensitive this project has become.

Facility & Construction Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that construction has started on the Fish Barn. Some other areas of concern are that a pipe burst in Maude Hall and water issues on the ceiling in the Alumni Gym.

Mr. St. Pierre asked if the District is nearing a close out with construction. Mr. O'Connell stated that the punch list is being finalized. The fields will not be ready this season, but this was expected, as well as the costs incurred because the fields are not ready.

8. Principal's Report

Essex Technical High School Government Day Representatives

Mr. Morgan reported that Christopher Bedard, grade 12 from Danvers and alternate Allison Christoffels, grade 11 from Methuen will attend High School Government Day on April 10th at the State House. Mr. Stark, history teacher, will chaperone the students.

School Calendar and Schedule Update 2015-16

Mr. Morgan reported that the Scheduling Committee is recommending a 5:5 day schedule. The 5:5 schedule received 105 in favor of that schedule. The Committee was comprised of staff, administration, parents, faculty and student leaders.

Mr. O'Connell reported that for the 2014-15 school year he piloted the 3:3 schedule as he could not get a consensus from administrators.

The 2015-16 student schedules will be on a Wednesday to Tuesday cycle which allows students to meet with their academic and CTE teachers every week.

Mr. O'Connell reported that Essex Aggie had a 185 day school schedule and 182 for North Shore Tech and 183 is negotiable.

Mr. Morgan stated that the calendar included six half early release days for professional development.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson and unanimously VOTED to adopt the 2015-16 School Calendar.

Dr. Patterson asked if half day early releases for professional development are as effective as a full day. Mr. Morgan stated that students are dismissed at 11:00 a.m. this provides for activities from noon to 4:00 p.m. and 2 half days will be scheduled for each trimester.

Dr. Patterson asked if the District will meet the requirements of Time in Learning. Mr. Morgan replied yes.

English Language Arts MCAS Thank You Letters.

Mr. Morgan stated that Essex Aggie and North Shore Tech were high achieving schools. Requirements for administering the ELA MCAS required 21 Special Education groups and 8 Regular Education groups. Unfortunately, the Special Education proctors do not get a break as requirements for proctoring have changed. Some of the Sped proctors were with their group from 7:55 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. These proctors are committed and their students feel this and want to do well. Regular education teachers missed prep periods. Mr. Morgan stated that proctoring was a full school effort.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the administration appreciates that the staff go above and beyond for the students, which is a culture inherited from both schools.

Dr. Patterson stated that acknowledging and commending the faculty's efforts goes a long way.

Freshmen Assignments to CTE Program Thank You Letters

Mr. Morgan acknowledged the extra effort, time and expertise the freshmen guidance counselors gave during the weekend of March 21st to assign 350 freshmen to their CTE programs. Only 2 students were not able to be placed in their 1st choice.

Mr. Morgan also acknowledged Mrs. Skinner, Mr. Bell and Ms. Holman, CTE Coordinators for their input during this process.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the philosophy and goals for freshmen selection are different. The administration supports assigning freshmen to their first CTE choice as long as there is room in that program. Mr. O'Connell added that the district would prefer to hire teachers that are dual certified so they can work in more than one discipline.

Out of State Field Trips

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson and VOTED unanimously for grade 12 Equine students to visit Blue Seal Feed in New Hampshire on April 29, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson and VOTED unanimously for grade 11 Equine students to visit UNH, Durham, NH on May 1, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. St. Pierre and VOTED unanimously for grade 10 and 11 Companion Animal students to attend the Seacoast Cat Club All Breed Show in Concord, NH on May 3, 2015.

Mr. St. Pierre questioned why the trip would require two buses and was told teachers will drive the "green buses" and won't require paying for drivers.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Anderson and VOTED unanimously for Culinary Arts to visit the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT on May 14, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Dr. Patterson and VOTED unanimously for Culinary Arts to visit The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY on May 27, 2015.

Mr. Morgan stated that the school funds the field trip and restaurant tips help to offset the costs.

9. Old Business

Mr. Harvey encouraged members to borrow or lease to buy an iPad from the district. The options are:

- Purchase iPad for \$699.00 (includes 2 year Apple Care) equals \$30.50 per month for a 2 year lease and can be paid online.
- Borrow can take it home with a signed loan agreement but you must provide your own case.

Mr. O'Connell reported that the Golf Tournament is scheduled for August 24th at Ferncroft Country Club.

10. Sub-Committee Reports

Finance & Property Sub-Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Patterson and seconded by Dr. Anderson to purchase a combo pack x-ray machine for Dental Assisting not to exceed \$25,000.00 from the Revolving Account.

There was no meeting or report by the **District Policy Sub-Committee.**

There was no meeting or report by the **Personnel Policy Sub-Committee**.

11. New Business

Mr. Sabella reported that the First Annual Essex Tech Auto Expo will be held on June 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Essex Technical High School. Kelly Auto Group is the main sponsor for the event. Mr. Sabella stated that he needs members to visit their local businesses and police departments to seek a \$50.00 tax deductible donation to the Expo. All proceeds from this event will benefit the 501(c)(3) fund.

Mr. Sabella thank Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Porteous, Mr. Perkins, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Nichols, Ms. Cloutman, Mr. Trotter, Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Clarke for supporting this event.

Mr. Harvey encouraged members to attend MASC's "Day on the Hill" on April 29th. This is an opportunity for members to discuss the District's needs with local legislators.

12. Warrant

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and VOTED unanimously to accept the warrant of April 9, 2015 and place it on file for audit.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the Committee would not meet in Executive Session.

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. St. Pierre and VOTED unanimously to adjourn.

Mr. Harvey, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent-Director's office.

There Were No Handouts at the Meeting