

SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
NORTHAMPTON, MA

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday May 17, 2022
5:00 PM

PRESENT: Michael T. Cahillane, Dr. Julie Spencer-Robinson, Richard Aquadro (5:12pm)
Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Dr. John Provost, NPS Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Dr. Andrew Linkenhoker, Principal Joseph Bianca, Facilities Director
Tim Smith

ABSENT: School Business Administrator Crystal Fairman

STUDENT REP: Mandy Wright

Chair Michael T. Cahillane called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and read the Mission Statement of the School and Vice-Chair Dr. Spencer-Robinson lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Participation by the Public: Cyndie Ouimette spoke briefly spoke in regard to the senior banquet, would like faculty to be subsidized at the same rate as what the board and administrators are subsidized at.

The Chair announced there will be no executive session as listed on the agenda.

Participation by the Trustees: Dr. Spencer-Robinson stated she will represent the PTO at Florence Savings Bank awards presentation next week at the Garden House in Look Park.

Approval of Minutes:

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Provost and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022 and April 26, 2022 Board of Trustees meetings with the following change to the April 26th meeting minutes:*Chief Kasper stated that approximately ~~150~~ 180 nights in a year is a rough estimate.....*

APPROVED 4-0

School Spotlight: Skills USA – Armand Lamour spoke briefly on the skills program, Tara Sherman as the second advisor. Mr. Lamour spoke on the process of the competition, starting with district levels with medal winners moving on to the state competition, students who are gold medal winners then move on to the national level – this year the national competition will be held in Atlanta GA.

Dr. Provost noted in the number of years he’s been on this board it seems plumbing has many wins– is there any way Plumbing can help spread the wealth to other departments? Mr. Lamour replied because of the MA plumbing code taught in shop it helps with the students doing so well. Each shop has different theory that is taught, additionally the school has participated for many years, so just knowing what to expect is helpful in advising the students.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson added this is a great opportunity for the students, both her children have participated.

Mr. Cahillane thanked the advisors for the work they put in to support the students, as well as monitoring the students as they travel to these competitions, both in state and out of state.

Mayor Sciarra added she stated this is a joy to learn about and is very happy the students have such motivated and enthusiastic advisors.

Information and Proposals/Trustees Questions & Answers (Q&A):
Superintendent's Report - Dr. Linkenhoker presented his report (attached)

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked, in regard to the COVID numbers Dr. Linkenhoker reported on, have the staff been able to recover quickly? Have any been out for long periods? Dr. Linkenhoker replied no one has been out longer than expected. Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if there are enough subs to cover teacher absences? Dr. Linkenhoker replied yes, although we don't have a lot of subs but we've been making it work.

Mayor Sciarra stated knowing the recommendation is to continue membership with NEASC asked if next year is the large group? Dr. Linkenhoker replied the self-study is done by the school next year and sent to NEASC which is then used when hosting the large group, the year after. Mayor Sciarra asked if this would be the best time to pull out? Dr. Linkenhoker replied his recommendation to the Board for discontinuing membership was due to the facilities. A special report is requested every six months, changing the governance model is recommended each year by NEASC, most recent report by NEASC stated accreditation could be pulled. Dr. Linkenhoker requested an extension due to the pandemic. NEASC approved that request. Mr. Cahillane added for many years Bruce Seivers from NEASC has visited and spoke regarding advocating for the school. Future plans to host a legislative breakfast will be revisited.

Mr. Aquadro asked what it would matter to NEASC of us being a member? Dr. Linkenhoker replied he didn't want to speak for NEASC, reminding the board of costs.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson added with the state accountability for compliance, what is the purpose? Dr. Linkenhoker replied that groups such as this were very helpful prior to Ed Reform, have these groups run their course?

In regard to the Hilltown Health Center fundraising effort, Mr. Cahillane suggested this group have a tent at the Tri County Fair to provide information as well as seeking donations.

Dr. Provost stated he isn't sure if there will be confidentiality needs but reported NHS was awarded health assisting innovative career pathway and maybe students from NHS can work as an intern at this location.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson added this is a great service to the school community.

Dr. Linkenhoker stated this service will be open to faculty and staff also, could be a potential recruitment/retention option.

Regarding the senior banquet Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked about what went in to the planning of this event, is there a capacity limit, would there be an issue for other teachers not being able to go due to the capacity limit? Dr. Linkenhoker replied the senior advisors plan the event, shop teachers take over once the event begins and yes, there may be an issue with available tickets, and would offer available seats first to junior class advisors so they can learn the process.

Principal's Report – Mr. Bianca requested the student rep's report. Mandy Wright gave a brief report of upcoming activities, sports and clubs (attached).

At this time Mr. Bianca gave a brief report (attached).

Dr. Provost left for a prior commitment at 6:10pm

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked Mr. Bianca what he thinks the reason is for the increase in the acceptance? Mr. Bianca stated he doesn't honestly know, and is considering sending a survey asking this question. It is possible that what the state set up around communication of vocational education is the reason. Dr. Spencer-Robinson supports the idea of the survey. Mr. Cahillane added there was a family that had a celebration recorded and posted it on Facebook of their child opening the acceptance letter.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if the rubric is completed by vocational teachers weekly? Mr. Bianca

replied it is completed daily by the teacher in charge of exploratory. Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked what prompted the review of the rubric? Are students aware? Was there any input from students, was there any input on the old rubric?

Mr. Bianca replied students are made aware of the scoring rubric when they start exploratory. Some families questioned elements, also guidance and special ed staff had recommendations for this.

Referring to a report at a recent meeting Mr. Aquadro asked about visibility in middle schools, are we getting more? Mr. Bianca replied yes, some middle school are more welcoming than others, although there are still some schools that don't allow us in. Dr. Spencer-Robinson added being on the Voc. Council, and having been a middle school teacher has watched that diminish over the years. Dr. Spencer-Robinson is exploring a collaborative project between NPS and SVAHS to research best practices.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked about the school improvement plan and the MCAS numbers, wonders if this makes things more challenging for student achievement. Mr. Bianca replied the pandemic and suspension of tests has had an effect, also the state changed accountability and scoring as well as looking at making the test harder. Mr. Bianca added this is a testament to the school, our students are passing MCAS while having half the academic time than a traditional high school.

Facility Report - Facilities Director Tim Smith gave an update on current projects. (attached).

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve an out of state overnight trip to Atlanta GA for the National Skills USA Competition June 20-25, 2022

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve payment of an FY21 invoice to Florence Paint for \$155.97 from Facilities

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the 2022-2025 School Improvement Plan with the following amendment to June 2023 deadline of curriculum, college and career readiness, changing the anticipated completion dates to one year later in June 2024.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve the updates to the 2022-2023 Student Handbook

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mr. Aquadro to approve to declare a portion of the land of Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School surplus and no longer needed for school purposes and to transfer the care, custody, and control of such property to the city of Northampton for re-designation as an animal control facility

DISCUSSION: Dr. Linkenhoker briefly reported the reason for this motion is to formalize the use of the portion of land. Mr. Aquadro asked can there be any deed restrictions in regard to the shops being involved in the construction. Mr. Cahillane stated his agreement to students working on this project when able. Dr. Linkenhoker added the more participation of the students is a win-win, Mayor Sciarra agreed.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve a \$500 Superintendent Award

DISCUSSION: Dr. Linkenhoker briefly explained the background of this award adding that last year that all faculty and staff received \$250. Mr. Aquadro asked is it possible to give more? Dr. Linkenhoker replied he wouldn't turn down additional funds by the Trustee's. Mr. Aquadro moved to amend the motion and to increase the award to \$600 Dr. Spencer-Robinson seconds this. Mayor Sciarra asked if there was money in the budget, Dr. Linkenhoker replied the money comes from the Trustees account and yes there is money in the account.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mr. Aquadro to approve subsidizing cost for the senior banquet.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked how many vocational teachers would participate if the board pays for the entire amount. Dr. Linkenhoker replied there are fifteen shops so at least one instructor per shop, and asked are there categories or open to all? Dr. Spencer-Robinson replied categories: vocational teachers, senior advisors. Dr. Linkenhoker advocates with respect of the board budget. Dr. Spencer-Robinson moves to cover the full cost for vocational teachers, senior advisors, administrators and trustees.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve subsidizing cost for the retirement celebration for the hall rental of \$250.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve the following surplus for resale from Health Technology; twenty-eight (28) 2016 American Red Cross packet -for teaching CPR, First Aid, AED and one (1) standing office model Detecto Scale for height and weight.

APPROVED 4-0

Future Business:

June 7, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library
July 19, 2022 Board of Trustees Planning Retreat 12:30 – 4:00pm - Library
July 19, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library
August 16, 2022 *TENTATIVE* Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

Upcoming Events:

May 31, 2022 Senior Banquet - 6:00pm Garden House at Look Park
June 1, 2022 Senior Awards Night - 6:00pm SVAHS Cafeteria
June 2, 2022 Graduation - 6:00pm John M. Greene Hall at Smith College

Adjourn:

At 6:47pm Dr. Spencer-Robinson **MOTIONED** to adjourn Mayor Sciarra seconded.
APPROVED 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary



May 17, 2022

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

- 4/14/22: MAVA Outstanding Student of the Year Celebration
- 4/18/22-4/22/22: NO SCHOOL (April Vacation)
- 4/25/22: Rotary Club Presentation & Luncheon
- 4/29/22: SkillsUSA Massachusetts State Competition
- 4/29/22: MAVA Board of Directors Meeting
- 5/5/22: Commissioner Riley Update Call w/ Superintendents
- 5/9/22: DESE CTE Update Call
- 5/12/22: NHS Induction Ceremony
- 5/16/22: Hilltown Community Health Next Step Meeting

- Weekly Positive Cases:
 - 4/13/22: Students = 1 & Staff = 1
 - 4/27/22: Students = 5 & Staff = 1 (2 Weeks of Reporting)
 - 5/4/22: Students = 9 & Staff = 3
 - 5/11/22: Students = 12 & Staff = 4

- Financial Impact
 - 10 Year cycle: \$58,378 total
- College Impact
 - 10 local colleges/universities contacted
 - Vast majority report NEASC Accreditation does NOT impact student admissions
 - Some concerns around FAFSA and financial aid eligibility
- Faculty Input
 - 67.9% of staff recommend continuing NEASC Membership
- MAVA Input
 - No MAVA Superintendent reported dropping NEASC Membership

RECOMMEND continuing with NEASC Membership

- 4/19/22: State awarded Hilltown Community Health Center with grant to fund startup of School-Based Health Center @ SVAHS
- 5/16/22: Hilltown Community Health & SVAHS Team Meeting to discuss next phase of project (fundraising building project)
- Next steps:
 - Meeting to tour Gateway SBHC
 - Fundraising Meeting to discuss school contacts (advisory members, vendors, etc.)
 - Presentation at BOT June Meeting
 - Presentation at Fall Program Advisory Meeting
 - Develop MOU (legal and logistical agreement)

- 6/8/22 beginning at 3pm @ Beaver Brook Golf Course
- Recognizing 8 retirees from 2020, 2021, & 2022
- BOT will honor each retiree with a clock made by Cabinet Making
- Recommendation:
 - BOT pays for rental fee (\$250)
 - Tickets (\$25) covers food costs and a gift for each retiree

- Annual award by Superintendent to a staff member exemplifying what we stand for at SVAHS
- Awardee to be added to perpetual plaque found in main hallway
- BOT have historically provided small financial reward for awardee (\$500)
- All faculty/staff received award in 2021 and received \$250 each
- Will announce winner at June 6th Faculty Meeting

- Tuesday, 5/31/22 @ Look Park beginning at 6pm
- Seniors eat with their shop classmates and instructors
- Instructors speak on behalf of their students and oftentimes hand out gifts
- Tickets are \$26/person
- Past Practice:
 - BOT have paid approximately 50% of staff ticket price
 - BOT have paid for Trustees and Administrators who attended

- Keefe Tech donated the following to Graphics Communications:
 - Challenge 30" Paper Cutter
 - SWF Embroidery Machine
 - Paddy Wagon
 - Ultrafold Folding Machine Baum 714
 - Phoenix Laminator

Thank you to Ms. Chartier for making this donation become reality

Animal pound plans advance

NORTHAMPTON

Smith Voc agrees to house city kennel on campus

By BERA DUNAUI

Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — A long-standing controversy over the city's proposed location for an animal pound appears to have been resolved with an agreement to house the facility on the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School campus.

"This was really just a remarkable aligning of the stars," Mayor Gina Louise Sciarra said.

The city is now looking at building affordable or mixed affordable and market rate housing at the Moose Lodge property on Cooke Avenue off Hatfield Street, the latest location where residents had opposed using the project, according to Sciarra.

Sciarra announced the deal with Smith Vocational in a news release late Tuesday. The vocational school is preparing to open a companion animals program, and the animal control facility would be located near it. The facility would be built at the back of the campus, near the animal science department.

"It's very far from many residences," Sciarra said.

The building would house stray cats and dogs and other companion animals picked up by the town. Currently, such animals are housed at the police station, until they are claimed by owners or moved to shelters.

It will also be sited near a building on which Greenfield Community

SEE ANIMAL A6

Animal pound plans take shape

FROM A1

College has an expiring lease, and which Smith Voc will be converting for use in its companion animals program.

"That was really the catalyst," said Smith Voc Superintendent Andrew Linkenboker.

He also said that the animal control facility will provide students in the animal science department an opportunity to interact with small animals and give criminal justice students the ability to learn about animal control.

"I think it's a win-win," he said.

The city has spent several years trying to find a site for a place to house stray animals. After being rebuffed by neighborhood opposition on Glendale Road in 2019 and on Chapel Street last year, officials set their sights on the Moose Lodge property on Cooke Avenue off Hatfield Street. Last month the City Council voted 8-1 to buy the property for \$100,000, with the goal of using it for an animal control facility.

But not everyone was happy with the Moose Lodge proposal, with a number of residents in the neighborhood

"I give her a lot of credit," Moulton said.

Charlene Clark, one of the residents who opposed the Moose Lodge proposal, also expressed support for the new plan.

"We are thrilled that it is going to Smith Voc Tech," said Clark.

Clark praised Ward 6 City Councilor Marianne LaBarge, who was the only councilor to vote against the Moose Lodge plan and whom she credited for advocating on the opponents' behalf.

"Out of all this, Marianne LaBarge really deserves acknowledgment," Clark said.

She also noted that LaBarge did this even though the Moose Lodge isn't in her ward.

"She's really a hero," Clark said. "She stepped up for us."

Additionally, Clark said there was a "huge community effort," against the Moose Lodge project.

"We're back to peace and quiet on Cooke Avenue," Clark said.

- 5/19/22: FFA Chapter Banquet
- 5/20/22: Hampshire County Superintendent Roundtable Meeting
- 5/20/22: Prom
- 5/25/22: G.A.C Meeting
- 5/30/22: NO SCHOOL (Memorial Day)
- 5/31/22: Graduation Rehearsal
- 5/31/22: Senior Banquet
- 6/1/22: Senior Awards Program
- 6/2/22: Graduation
- 6/6/22: MAVA Officers Meeting w/ Commissioner Riley
- 6/7/22: BOT Meeting

- End of Year Summary
- ESSR Funds Spending Summary

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Superintendent

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May 17, 2022

**Student Representatives Report
May 2022 Board Meeting**

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Jayanna

Underclassmen:

Field Trips

-Grade 9's Class Trip is to Bounce (a trampoline park in Springfield, MA) and will take place on May 19, 2022.

-Grade 10's Class Trip is to Six Flags (an amusement park in Agawam, MA) and will take place on June 10, 2022.

FFA:

Athletics:

Spring Sports

-JV baseball is 3-1 record with 13 players on the team (limited number of games played this year due to schools not having JV programs).

-Varsity baseball 14-0 record with 13 players.

-JV softball 5-11 with 13 players.

-Varsity softball 5-11 with 13 players.

-Boys lacrosse 0-10 with 18 players (it's a new team this year in a league with lots of 9th and 10th grade students).

Guidance:

History, Health Education/PE, Health, Science:

Assigned Shops:

Mandy

Upperclassmen:

Field Trips

-Mr. Lively took two groups (one 11th Grade group and one 12th Grade group) to the New England Air Museum for a collaborative field trip between the Engineering Dept. and the History Dept.

-Grade 11's Class Trip is to Brownstone Adventure Sports Park (a water/adventure park in Portland, CT) and will take place on June 1, 2022.

-Grade 12's Class Trip is to Spare Time (a bowling center in Northampton, MA) and will take place on May 23, 2022.

-Seniors are having their barbeque on Friday, May 27, 2022.

Skills:

Clubs:

Fundraisers

- Softball Team Hit-aThon (May 19, 2022) at Sheldon Field in Northampton (they are raising money for their program)
- Student Government is selling bracelets throughout May to raise money for Ukrainian Relief Efforts
- The Football Team is selling sponsorships throughout the summer as well as popcorn (till May 20, 2022) to raise money for their program

Prom

- The 2022 Prom will be held this Friday (May 20, 2022) from 6-10pm at the Log Cabin Meeting House in Holyoke, MA

Art Club

- This year's edition of the Viking Runestone will be available for purchase this month

Yearbook

- 2022 Yearbooks have been delivered and will be distributed to Class of 2022 first and then to the students who ordered their copy (starting at the end of May)

JABOP

- 2 field trips - 1 is Friday, May 20, 2022, the club will attend a district wide GSA gathering hosted by Hampshire Regional High School
- 2 is Saturday, 21, 2022 they will head to Boston to celebrate Youth Pride

Special Ed:

English, Math, Humanities (Spanish, Library, Arts):

Library

- The librarian created a presentation for caregivers on helping their SVAHS student succeed with the Summer Reading program, as well as fun literacy activities to use with the whole family (the in-person presentation was last week, and the zoom meeting is Wednesday, May 18)

Assigned Shops:

Automotive

- 2 juniors are out on co-op and will end up with summer employment and 2 seniors have accepted full time positions for after graduation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayanna Daniels and Mandy Wright
Student Representatives



Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
80 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060-2094
Phone (413) 587-1414

Mr. Joseph C. Bianca
Principal



www.smithtec.org

May 17, 2022

**Principal's Report
May 2022 Board Meeting**

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Student Representative to the Board:

Jayanna Daniels
Mandy Wright

Enrollment:

529 students

Admissions:

First round of acceptance letters (150 students) went out in mid-April. As of May 17, 2022 125 first round students have registered (83.3). This is the highest percentage in the past 8 years. Additionally, 3 students from round 2 (26 students) have registered. We have current enrollment of 128 students, 24 from Northampton (18.75%). An additional 3 students have registered to come into 10th grade next year.

School Council

We held our last meeting of the year on May 17, 2022. The Student Handbook changes were approved.

SkillsUSA:

SVAHS had 21 students from our shop programs participate in the Massachusetts SkillsUSA Competition. Smith students earned 3 Gold Medals, 2 Silver Medals and 2 Bronze Medals! Gold Medalists will be heading to Atlanta for the National competition in June. Gold Medal winners were Brian McCullough – Automotive; Jordan Dunham – Criminal Justice; and Nicholas Jacob – Plumbing.

MCAS

Testing in Math MCAS May 17 and 18, 2022.

Exploratory Rubric Rewrite Committee

Our committee, made up of Tara Sherman, Max Weider, Mark Nevin, Melanie Chartier and myself worked over the past year to rewrite the

Personnel:

Animal Science – offer pending
Automotive – Interview phase
English – Interview phase
History – Interview phase

Founded in 1844 by Oliver Smith

SVAHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, disability, religion or sexual orientation.

PE – Interview phase
Carpentry – Interview phase
Health Vocational Assistant – posted
Long Term Sub Biology – posted Parental Leave

Graduation Prep:

Valedictorian Ella Poudrier and Salutatorian Jordan Dunham have been notified. Senior Salutes are being sent out via email and social media to the school community. Flowers are being ordered. Venue set up is being organized. Ticket requests are complete and being assigned. Senior Banquet and Senior Awards Night are in the final stages of preparation.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bianca
Principal

COVID / supply chain issues have affected all projects and purchases.

1. The manufacturer Watchfire is delivering the new front sign to Agnoli Sign in Springfield this week or early next week. They then need to fabricate a base that fits our existing sign footing/foundation. They expect installation of the sign late June to early July
2. The security vehicle should be delivered to Untied Ag Solution this month. (John Deere Gator) They need to install the option we required. Delivery in June.
3. Purchase of new school car is still on hold. The dealers I have been in contact with both say that the hybrid Chrysler Pacifica hybrid 2023 model is not available yet. They can't quote a price or submit an order yet for the school
4. Window replacement project. The project is scheduled to start during Christmas break, continue during February and April brake. The glass submittal made by R&R window was rejected due to the fact it was not tinted and appeared clear and not bronzed.
5. Sidewalk repair and replacement. Architect is drawing up plans for bidding this project.
6. C building A/C project. The engineer has completed initial design and I will review the plan next week. This project will be scheduled for the same vacations [periods during the coming, winter and final start up in April or May.