

SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
NORTHAMPTON, MA

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday June 13, 2023
5:00 PM

PRESENT: Mr. Michael T. Cahillane, Dr. Julie Spencer-Robinson, Mr. Richard Aquadro (5:04pm), Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra (5:03pm), Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell NPS Interim-Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Dr. Andrew Linkenhoker, Principal Mr. Joseph Bianca, Ms Crystal Fairman, School Business Administrator

ABSENT: Facilities Director Mr. Tim Smith

STUDENT REP: Mandy Wright (5:27pm)

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

Participation by the Public: None

Participation by the Trustees: Dr. Linkenhoker requested a minute to recognize both Dr. Pearson-Campbell, Northampton School Superintendent and Ms. Mandy Wright, Student Rep for their service on the Board. At 5:02pm there was a short break in the meeting to enjoy a few refreshments in their honor.

The meeting resumed at 5:10pm

Dr. Spencer-Robinson reported attending the May 19th MASC Division 8 meeting with MAVA to learn about bills being considered by the state legislature to expand access to vocational education by increasing the number of seats, and increasing the state reimbursement rate to districts for the cost of building vocational schools since they are more expensive to construct, and also spoke briefly of the May 31st board meeting of the Collaborative for Educational Services.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson added she enjoyed being a part of the senior class banquet at the Garden House at Look Park, as well as participating in graduation.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson stated the formative evaluation for the superintendent wasn't added to this agenda as planned. This will on the July agenda.

Approval of Minutes: A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Dr. Pearson-Campbell to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2023 meeting.

APPROVED 5-0

Information and Proposals/Trustees Questions & Answers (Q&A):

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Linkenhoker presented his report (attached).

There was discussion around the lottery admissions that is currently a topic in the state.

Principal's Report – Mr. Bianca gave his report (attached). Mr. Bianca thanked Mandy Wright for her service on

the Board of Trustees. Mr. Cahillane added his thanks and recognized her accolades while a student here. Dr. Linkenhoker also expressed his thanks and congratulated Mandy on her career here.

Business Report – Ms Fairman gave a brief update of the budget to date.

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve an out of state overnight trip to Indianapolis IN for the National FFA Convention October 30 – November 5, 2023

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Dr. Pearson-Campbell the recommended changes to the Faculty Manual

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bianca briefly went over the changes.

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra the updates to the 2022-2025 School Improvement Plan

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked about the terms for school council members ending, in researching the law and what the representation the school council is made up of, offered her assistance in finding participants not represented. Also asked about vocational competencies listed on the transcript, and will follow up with Mr. Bianca.

There was lengthy discussion on the school improvement plan as Dr. Spencer-Robinson had many questions in regard to data analysis, curriculum and instruction, assessment, college and career readiness, and school climate.

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Dr. Pearson-Campbell an increase to the cafeteria substitute rate to \$15.50

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson the surplus for scrap a Ford Crown Victoria Cruiser from Criminal Justice

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson the surplus for scrap of miscellaneous old lab scales from the Agriculture Dept.

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro and seconded by Mayor Sciarra the surplus for disposal 132 mannequin heads from Cosmetology

APPROVED 5-0

Upcoming Events:

June 21, 2023 Last Day of School: Retiree Recognition and Superintendents Award

Future Business:

July 18, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

August, 15 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

Adjourn:

At 6:30pm Dr. Pearson-Campbell **MOTIONED** to adjourn Dr. Spencer-Robinson seconded.

APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Superintendent Report

June 13, 2023

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Highlights & Updates

- 5/17/23: General Advisory Meeting
- 5/23/23: *Cyndi Weekes-Bradley Equity Work*
- 5/24/23: Katie Rozenas-Hanson (State Ag. Ed Coordinator MDAR)
- 5/24/23: FFA Banquet
- 5/25/23: Marie Burkhart Meeting (SBHC)
- 5/26/23: Senior Picnic
- 5/29/23: NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day
- 5/30/23: MAVA Officers Meeting w/ Commissioner Riley
- 5/30/23: Horticulture Building Design Services RFQ Review
- 5/30/23: Senior Banquet
- 5/31/23: Senior Awards Program
- 6/1/23: Graduation
- 6/2/23: Meeting with OCRVT & Left Field OPM Firm
- 6/5/23: *Cyndi Weekes-Bradley Coaching Session*
- 6/6/23: NEASC Bruce Sievers Visit
- 6/6/23: Horticulture Building Design Services Interviews
- 6/7/23: SBHC Meeting with Hilltown Health Network & City Officials
- 6/8/23: Building Committee Meeting

***BOLD** = Superintendent Goal Evidence*

**Italics* = Equity Focus*

Horticulture Building Rebuild Update

- Design Services Interviewed and selected
- Building Committee met 6/13/23
- Must begin to finalize budget/next steps
 - Financial Support Document finalized and must be shared with identified stakeholders
 - Priorities to close potential funding gap:
 - Scale back project
 - Fundraising
 - Bond
 - Other
- Anticipated project completion: March, 2025

Donations

- No donations to report this month

In the News...

Daily Hampshire Gazette - 06/10/2023

SPORTS

INGRAM, VIKINGS CAPTURE TITLE

NORTHAMPTON SMALL SCHOOL STATE VEGGIEBOWL CHAMPIONSHIP: SMITH VOC 4, RED COLONY 3

When the home crowd got off to a fast start, the Vikings were able to take control of the game. The Smith Vikings scored first in the first quarter with a 22-yard field goal by Matt Smith. The Vikings then scored again in the second quarter with a 15-yard touchdown pass from Matt Smith to Matt Smith. The Vikings then scored again in the third quarter with a 22-yard field goal by Matt Smith. The Vikings then scored again in the fourth quarter with a 15-yard touchdown pass from Matt Smith to Matt Smith.



Smith Vikings Matt Smith (10) played the Vikings and the Vikings won the championship. Photo by [Name]

LOOK BACK

50 Years Ago

• Bernard V. Tobin has resigned from the Northampton School Committee in order to become a candidate for a newly defined position in the school system. Tobin resigned May 11, one day after the committee agreed to fill the new post of assistant to the superintendent. Tobin currently teaches at Gateway Regional School.

• Highest honors at St. Michael's High School honors night on June 3 will go to David Schmittlein as valedictorian and Rosemary Harvey as salutatorian. Northampton High School Principal John Feeney will be the guest speaker.

25 Years Ago

• A "peace garden" will be created at the Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School to symbolize the May 22 violence that left one student dead from a stab wound and another in a juvenile detention facing a murder charge. Smith Vocational Principal Veronica Carroll said Friday that Gretchen Werle, the school's nurse, suggested planting such a garden, after a week of helping counsel students aggrieved by a fellow student's death.

• A longtime member of the Northampton Police Department has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant and will be officer in charge of the department's patrol division and day shift. Robert H. Dunn Jr., 40, joined the force as an officer in 1982.

and worked in the detective bureau for many years.

10 Years Ago

• The Amherst Regional High School locker rooms will be renovated this summer to make them more accessible for transgender students as well as those covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The middle school already has changing rooms for students to use based on the gender they identify with.

• The benches are back. After receiving "swift, impassioned and substantial" feedback about his experiment to curb loitering and nuisance behavior downtown by removing a half-dozen public benches on Main Street, Mayor David J. Narzewicz reversed course Thursday morning. He ordered the six benches reinstalled to their previous locations.



JIM BRIDGMAN

LOOK BACK

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Looking Ahead

- 6/14/23: Sports Recognition Night
- 6/19/23: CAMPUS CLOSED: Juneteenth
- 6/20/23: Field Day Activities
- 6/21/23: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- 6/28/23-6/29/23: Connecting for Success Conference
- 7/4/23: CAMPUS CLOSED: Independence Day
- 7/11/23-7/13/23: MASS Conference
- 7/18/23: Board of Trustees Meeting

July Focus

- 2023-2024 School Planning Updates
- Superintendent Self-Evaluation Formative Assessment

Contact Information

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Mr. Joseph C. Bianca
Principal

www.smithtec.org



June 13, 2023

**Principal's Report
June 2023 Board Meeting**

Student Representative to the Board:
TBD

Enrollment:
566 students

Admissions:
126 first round students have registered (84%); and additional 14 second round students for a total of 140 enrolled. There are 25 students from Northampton enrolled (17.9%). Waiting on second round responses still, if necessary we will send out third round letters.

MCAS
Testing is complete for the year. Thank you Mike Parks for organization and oversight.

Personnel:
PE – Interview Phase
Health Technologies Instructor – Interview Phase
Assistant Principal Hired – Mr. Joshua Clark
Math Teacher – Hired – Mr. Chris Blake
Agricultural Mechanics – Hired – Mr. Seth Reed

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bianca
Principal