

**SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
NORTHAMPTON, MA**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday November 17, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom - 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Michael T. Cahillane, John E. Cotton and Mayor David Narkewicz
ABSENT: Dr. John Provost, NPS Superintendent, Thomas M. FitzGerald
ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Dr. Andrew Linkenhoker, Principal Joseph Bianca
Business Manager Crystal Fairman
STUDENT REP: Tyrese Cordova, absent

Chair Michael T. Cahillane called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
Mr. Cahillane read the Mission Statement of the School.

Participation by the Public: none

Participation by the Trustees: Mayor reported the city council took the first reading of farmhouse surplus and it passed on the first reading

Mr. Cahillane stated the meeting will be recorded.

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded Mayor Narkewicz to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 3-0

Information and Proposals:

Superintendents Report - Dr. Linkenhoker gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

Principal's Report - Mr. Bianca gave a brief report (attached).

Mr. Bianca requested the names of the annual list of John and Abigail Adams Scholarships awardees be noted in the meeting minutes. We had 31 seniors receive this scholarship. To qualify students must score in the Advanced in at least 1 of the 3 MCAS exams and Proficient or higher in the remaining 2 MCAS exams; following which their total scores from all 3 MCAS exams must place them in the top 25% of graduating students. This offers a tuition waiver for undergraduate students at a Massachusetts state college or university.

James Biddulph, Bruce Bielunis, Brian Breitmaier, Noah Brodeur, Rebecca Connell, Julaina Craig, Jamin Davis, Brendalee Diaz, Lainie Dufresne, Dylan Fil, Calvin Filepas, Phillip Hall, William Konieczny, Zoe Lapis, Eric Leet, Eden Lulek, Abby McDonald, Dylan O'Connor, Jessie Ortiz, Dylan Ostrowski, Rebecca Reyes, Ashley Schabacker, Ella Sherman, Jenna Soden, Daniel Solomonyuk, Amanda Tobin, Jeremy Torres Gonzalez, Noemi Vega, Natalie Velez, Kevin Venne and Gabe Zink

Business and Facilities Report:

Facilities Manager Tim Smith updated on a few projects: cement poured for charging stations, redesigned sidewalk to gym lobby, prep for locker room renovation is done, painter will be in soon, anticipate painting to be completed in about 10 days.

Ms Fairman reported on the finances of the school to date. Tuition bills have been sent.

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded by Mayor Narkewicz to approve the cell tower lease renewal.

Dr. Linkenhoker briefly explained recent correspondence and conversation regarding the lease renewal request (request letter attached).

DISCUSSION: Mayor would like an attorney to review, doesn't have an issue with renewing the lease, a prior request was to sell them land to access the tower, Mayor added he is agreeable to the renewal if the superintendent does not foresee any hinderance to the educational experience for the students.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 3-0

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded by Mayor Narkewicz to approve the Admissions Policy addendum

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 3-0

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded by Mayor Narkewicz to approve the School closure remote day

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 3-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Narkewicz and seconded John E. Cotton to approve the following surplus disposal from Cosmetology: Eleven (11) manikin heads

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 3-0

Future Business:

December 15, 2020 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm - Virtual

January 19, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm - Virtual

Adjourn: 5:50pm

Mayor Narkeiwcz **MOTIONED** to adjourn.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Superintendent Report

November 17, 2020

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Highlights & Updates

- Weekly City Emergency Team Meetings
- Weekly MAVA Superintendent Meetings
- Weekly SVAHS Leadership Team Meetings
- 10/27/20: Commissioner Riley Call
- 10/28/20: MAVA Officers, Board of Directors, & General Meeting
- 11/1/20: Open House
- 11/2/20: Commissioner Riley Call
- 11/3/20: NO SCHOOL: Election Day
- 11/6/20: Commissioner Riley Call
- 11/11/20: NO SCHOOL: Veterans Day
- 11/16/20: DESE CTE Call

COVID-19 Updates

- **Reopening Phases Adjustment**

- Increasing at-risk population students and non-internet students into academic learning
- Freshmen & Sophomores return to in-person academic learning is paused until January 19th.
 - Mitigates potential ramifications of large-scale quarantines on vocational programs; specifically Exploratory.
- Juniors & Seniors return to in-person academic learning is paused until after February vacation.

COVID-19 Updates

- **New State Metrics**

Group	Old State Metrics	New State Metrics (11/6/20) (Northampton Population)
Gray	<5 cases	< or = 10 cases
Green	<4 cases/100k	<10 cases/100k AND > 10 cases
Yellow	4-8 cases/100k	> or = 10 cases/100k OR > or = 5% positivity rate
Red	>8 cases/100k	> or = 10 cases/100k AND > or = 5% positivity rate

COVID-19 Updates

- **New State Metrics: Implications**

- In essence the state “moved the goalposts”
 - Ex: Northampton had 36 cases over the past 14 days (current report)
 - Old Metrics would determine this is RED
 - New Metrics determined this is GREEN
 - Ex: Monson (My residence) had 10 cases over the past 14 days (current report)
 - Old Metrics would determine this is RED
 - New Metrics determined this is GRAY
- Has a direct impact on our Metrics:
 - Will require higher numbers to impact the Northampton being RED for 3 consecutive weeks metric
 - Will require higher numbers to impact the 35 Communities being YELLOW or RED metric

Admissions Policy Addendum

- The areas of attendance and academic record will only be scored for the period of time leading up to and including March 13, 2020. These two categories will not be scored from March 16, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Pass/Fail grades from 2019-2020 will not be considered. Our current admissions policy practices for academics and attendance will resume effective July 1, 2020.
- Upon BoT approval, addendum will be forwarded to DESE for final approval for this school-year only.

Campus Closure Remote Days

- Commissioner Riley approved this year only for districts to offer remote learning days on what would have been traditional snow days.
- Remote learning day must provide valuable student learning while ensuring it's simply not a "day off" for instructional staff
- Proposal accounts and considers the following variables:
 - Current scheduling model prevents delayed openings. There will be NO delays considering dismissal is already at 11:40am.
 - Thus there will potentially be far greater numbers of needed "snow days".
 - Must weigh financial impact of hourly employees who only get paid for days worked.
 - Leadership Team will develop options for these employees to make themselves whole.
- Proposal is for first 4 needed days to be remote learning days
- Any additional days will be considered traditional snow days and will be made up in June

2020-2021 Superintendent Goals

- Provide the leadership and vision to support the entire school community through the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the SVAHS community.
- Shoulder the responsibility for the academic and state accountability expectations so all faculty and staff can focus on the primary goal of providing a rigorous and relevant learning experience for all students during this difficult year.

Donations

- **Assorted baking equipment:** Donated by Deborah Martin. The equipment will be used by Culinary to enrich and expand the baking curriculum
- **\$250 Employee Engagement:** Donated by Anthony Amato from Great River Hydro. The donation will be used to purchase Agriculture Mechanics tools.
- **Assorted meats and proteins:** Donated by Smith College's Chapin Kitchen. The meats and proteins totalling \$8,500 will be used in both Culinary & the Cafeteria.
- **Assortment of cosmetology materials & supplies:** Donated by Deb Kicza @ Styles by Deb. Most of the materials and supplies were given to Cosmetology students to assist with projects at home. The remainder will be used within the shop to prevent sharing of supplies.

Looking Ahead

- Weekly City Emergency Team Meetings
- Weekly MAVA Superintendent Meetings
- Weekly SVAHS Leadership Team Meetings
- 11/18/20: MAVA Officers & "6 Schools" Meeting with Commissioner Riley re: Admissions Policies
- 11/19/20: Commissioner Riley Call
- 11/20/20: Hampshire County Superintendent Steering Committee Meeting
- 11/25/20-11/27/20: NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)
- 12/1/20: Animal Science Framework Meeting w/ DESE @ Aggie Schools
- 12/3/20: MassHire Executive Board Meeting
- 12/4/20: MAVA Officers Meeting
- 12/11/20: Hampshire County Superintendent Steering Committee Meeting
- 12/15/20: Board of Trustees Meeting

December Focus

- NEASC Update

Contact Information

Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D
Superintendent

Email: alinkenhoker@smithtec.org

Office: (413) 587-1414 x3406

Fax: (413) 587-1405



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

November 17, 2020

**Principal's Report
November 2020 Board Meeting**

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Enrollment:

531 students

Open House

Our annual Open House was held on November 1, 2020. We had commercials running on the local radio stations and social media. Additionally, this year, we contracted with a company for census data and addresses for the families with students ages 12-14. We mailed out almost 5500 postcards announcing the Open House. We also had newspaper ads in the Gazette, The Summit, and the Amherst Bulletin.

Guided Tours:

2017 – 219 people took tours

2018 – 252 people took tours; with countless others going on self-guided tours of the campus

2019 – 270 people took tours; with countless others going on self-guided tours of the campus

2020 – 105 individual family tours, including Spanish Speaking Tours

Student applications coming into the weekend:

2016 – 0

2017 – 23

2018 – 27

2019 – 26

2020 - 14

Student applications at Open House:

2016 – 34

2017 – 51

2018 – 64

2019 – 68

2020 – since Open House 82

Adams Scholarship:

The annual list of John and Abigail Adams Scholarships awardees was submitted to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School. We had 31 seniors receive this scholarship. To qualify students must score in the Advanced in at least 1 of the 3 MCAS exams and Proficient or higher in the remaining 2 MCAS exams; following which their total scores from all 3 MCAS exams must place them in the top 25% of graduating students. This offers a tuition waiver for undergraduate students at a Massachusetts state college or university.

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.

James Biddulph
Bruce Bielunis
Brian Breitmaier
Noah Brodeur
Rebecca Connell
Julaina Craig
Jamin Davis
Brendalee Diaz
Lainie Dufresne
Dylan Fil
Calvin Filepas
Phillip Hall
William Konieczny
Zoe Lapis
Eric Leet
Eden Lulek
Abby McDonald
Dylan O'Connor
Jessie Ortiz
Dylan Ostrowski
Rebecca Reyes
Ashley Schabacker
Ella Sherman
Jenna Soden
Daniel Solomonyuk
Amanda Tobin
Jeremy Torres Gonzalez
Noemi Vega
Natalie Velez
Kevin Venne
Gabe Zink

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph C. Bianca
Principal



AMERICAN TOWER®



**TOWER
ALLIANCE**

October 19, 2020

Dr. Andrew Linkenhoker
Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
80 Locust Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Subject: Lease Extension Proposal
ATC ID: 371771 NORTHAMPTON MA
Original Lessor: Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

Dear Dr. Linkenhoker,

I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me today regarding American Tower's request to extend the cell site lease ("Lease") on your property, referenced above.

As discussed, there have been some recent changes in the industry that have impacted industry standards. Aside from carrier's launching 5G, which has triggered renegotiations between tower companies and carriers, T-Mobile finalized their acquisition of Sprint on April 1. As a result, we will be losing Sprint along with MetroPCS as clients nationwide and American Tower is taking a closer look at each of their owned and managed sites to ensure they are financially viable.

T-Mobile amongst others have taken the position of cancelling installation arrangements on sites that have revenue share provisions of 25% and higher, therefore American Tower is asking to modify the existing revenue share provision to 20% for future installs only. Your existing agreement with AT&T will continue at the current rate of 25%. Aside from this, American Tower has signed new Master Lease Agreements with the larger national carriers allowing them to install at reduced rates in order to help increase our odds of getting new/additional tenants. American Tower's goal is to keep the tower for as long as possible, so that both our landlords and American Tower can mutually benefit from the site for years to come. American Tower has proposed making the following changes to your lease:

Lease Extension

- Rent to continue at \$2,786.89 per month escalating at 3% per year
- Reduce revenue share to 20% per carrier from 25% (this applies to new tenants only)
- Extend lease by adding 6 additional 5-year renewable terms
- One Time Payment of \$25,000 upon full execution of the lease

After you have an opportunity to review this letter, please contact me to discuss. I can be reached directly at 561-705-0134.

Sincerely,

Jorge Medina
Lease Consultant for American Tower Corporation
Tower Alliance, LLC
5000 T-Rex Avenue
Suite 160
Boca Raton, FL 33431
(561) 705-0134 office
JMedina@toweralliancellc.com

***PLEASE NOTE: Offers subject to change, with required final approval by American Tower, and are for discussion purposes only. The parties will not be bound in any respect until and unless a written agreement is signed by all.*