

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

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday January 23, 2024
Library 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Michael T. Cahillane, Dr. Julie Spencer-Robinson, Mr. Richard Aquadro, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra (5:03pm), Dr. Portia Bonner, NPS Superintendent

ADMINISTRATION: Superintendent Dr. Andrew Linkenhoker, Principal Mr. Joseph Bianca, School Business Administrator Ms Crystal Fairman, Mr. Tim Smith, Facilities Director (absent)

STUDENT REP: Brandon Diaz (absent), Domeniq Sanchez (absent)

Superintendent Linkenhoker called the meeting of the January 23, 2024 Board of Trustees to order at 5:00pm

Dr. Spencer-Robinson led the pledge of allegiance.

Dr. Linkenhoker stated as the first organizational meeting after elections the first order of business is to nominate a chair and vice-chair. Dr. Linkenhoker requested nomination's for Chair.

Mr. Aquadro nominated Mr. Cahillane for Chair. Dr. Bonner seconded the nomination.

APPROVED 4-0

At this time, the Superintendent handed the meeting over to the elected chair.

At this time Chairman Mr. Cahillane called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Mr. Aquadro nominated Dr. Spencer-Robinson for Vice-Chair. Dr. Bonner seconded the nomination.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson declined the nomination and nominated Mr. Aquadro for Vice-Chair. Dr. Bonner seconded the nomination.

APPROVED 4-0

The Chair stated after the election of officers at the regularly scheduled Trustee's meeting in the month of January following the Northampton General Elections the next order of business is to read excerpts of the Will of Oliver Smith. The Chair read the excerpts of the Will.

Mr. Aquadro read the mission statement.

Mr. Aquadro alerted Mr. Cahillane that he would need to leave at 6:00pm this evening.

Participation by the Trustees: none

Participation by the Public: Jonathan Parrot briefly introduced himself, has a PhD in Forestry, was a former teacher in Horticulture, he is a member of the building committee and spoke in regard to the construction of the horticulture building and the options of the metal pre-fab and wood structure. Understanding the cost of a wood structure is more expensive but is optimistic the state will come up with grant funds in order to construct a wood structure.

Twig Burlingame resident of Florence and attended the adult electrician class. Mr. Burlingame gave a brief background on his path to becoming an electrician. Mr. Burlingame asked about the companion animal program would start, his granddaughter who is a current student in Animal Science would like to be in the concentration.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2024 meeting.

APPROVED 5-0

School Spotlight: English Teachers, Luis Cote and Rosemary Thresher presented on the English Department (attached).

Mr. Bianca briefly explained that Mr. Cote will be leaving at the end of the week and thanked Mr. Cote for being a great addition to our staff and for working on behalf of the students, he will be missed.

Information and Proposals:

Superintendents Report: At this time Dr. Linkenhoker gave a PowerPoint presentation on his report to the Board (attached).

Discussion in regard to the Horticulture construction project. Mr. Aquadro stated we've come a long way with the design starting out with a beautiful building with a cost of \$12million. Mr. Aquadro feels we should go with the second option and hire a contractor to review the designs and asked Jonathan Parrot's thoughts. Dr. Parrot agreed with getting a local assessment. Mayor Sciarra noted that the cost for the electrical upgrades will need to be added to this cost.

At this time the Chair changed the order of the agenda to bring forward the Design Documentation (DD) item under new business.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro to *table* the Design Documentation (DD) vote for the Horticulture building project to February 13, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson seconded the motion.

APPROVED 5-0

Mr. Aquadro made a motion to hire a local contractor for up to \$10,000 to review the Design Documentation.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson seconded.

APPROVED 5-0

Mr. Aquadro departed the meeting at 6:10pm.

Principal's Report – Mr. Bianca gave a brief report (attached). Dr. Spencer-Robinson stated she missed the students being at the meetings and asked Mr. Bianca what the challenge of getting students to attend the meetings. Also asked the Mayor if there was a similar challenge for student reps on the Northampton School Committee.

Mr. Bianca replied the reason students don't attend regularly is between athletics and transportation.

Mayor replied there is a student rep that attends each meeting and there is a meeting of the student advisory and school committee every other meeting. Dr. Bonner suggested possibly the student “zoom” in. Mr. Bianca replied it is possible that if the students knew that their report would be a specific time it may be helpful. Dr. Spencer-Robinson stated maybe their report could be at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Bianca will ask the students for their input.

Facilities Report – Ms Fairman reported on behalf of Mr. Smith and gave a brief update on campus projects. We are waiting on windows and heat pump for the Companion Animal building. Plumbing has completed their rough-in and it has been inspected. Working with a roofing company to address recent leaks. Sewer line project for farm area/Companion Animal building has a contract with Hatfield Equipment. Project to start as soon as weather permits.

Business Report – Ms Fairman gave a brief review of the finance report.

Dr. Linkenhoker stated there was an item from last month’s meeting that didn’t make the agenda and asked the Chair if this could be added for vote under the clause listed on the agenda as noted: *The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

Mr. Cahillane made a **MOTION** to approve the international trip to Italy in February 2025

Seconded by Dr. Bonner

APPROVED 4-0

New Business:

The NEASC Principles of Effective Practice agenda item is being tabled to the February 13th meeting.

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve to surplus a 12inch Rockwell Disc Sander and a MAX Oscillating Spindle Sander from Cabinetmaking

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the following Reimbursable Grants:

FY2024 Proficiency-based Outcomes in Languages other than English – collaborating with other Vocational Schools Essex, Pathfinder, Keefe, Shawsheen, Nashoba and SVAHS. Nashoba has taken the lead on this grant and will receive the funds from DESE. \$48,500 total awarded.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the Northampton Education Foundation’s (NEF) Small Grants to Teachers program - \$3,000 for 3D mapping.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the Northampton Education Foundation’s (NEF) Small Grants to Teachers program - \$1,500 for Doug Anderson: The Things He Carries”.

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the Career Technical Initiative Grant (CTI) - \$240,000 – Culinary Adult Ed
APPROVED 4-0

Recommend March meeting be changed to March 26th to provide more time for tuition rate announcement

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked about the close proximity of the March 26th and April 9th Board meetings. Dr. Linkenhoker replied by waiting until later in March we should have the non-resident tuition rate to aid in assembling the FY25 budget and the earlier date in April allows the budget to be approved in time to send to the Mayor in compliance with the city charter.

Future Business:

Tuesday February 13, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00pm Library

Tuesday March 26, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00pm Library

Tuesday April 9, 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting 5:00pm Library

Upcoming Events:

March 4 – 7, 2024 DESE TFM Review

March 19 – 20, 2024 NEASC Visiting Team

March 20, 2024 Spring Program Advisory Committees Dinner and Meetings

April 3 – 5, 2024 FFA State Convention Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conf. Center

April 11, 2024 Outstanding Vocational Student Awards and Banquet – 5:30pm Mechanics Hall Worcester

Adjourn:

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Bonner and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to adjourn.

APPROVED 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Smith Vocational & Agricultural High School
English Language Arts Presentation

January 2024

9th Grade Digital Book Projects

Students worked in small groups, reading and discussing books that focused on protagonists who chose to set themselves up for success. Student group projects show how the main characters of their respective novels were able to succeed, even in the face of various challenges.

"Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise"
- The Avett Brothers

This song is about the constant question and hesitancy we have in life. Through the lyrics—specifically its metaphor of "the bro"—the song reminds the listener of the importance in bravery, as well as our choices and our actions. I feel that this connects to Wes because throughout his adolescence, he was constantly questioning himself. He really needed that reminder that his actions affect his life, his future, and the people around him.

English 9 Trimester 1

Book Club Project Options
Essential Question:
How do you set yourself up for success?

Map of Twycross Zoo

Christopher wanted to know what the zoo looked like. He also wants to know where he's going at all times. He most likely would've picked the most simple map to use to make things easier to find.

B. Today we are interviewing the main character of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, Christopher. So, we are going to ask you some questions about the success of your "murder mystery".

J. Oh that's fine with me.

B. OK so the first question we have for you is how were you so successful in solving the dog's death?

J. Well the first thing that did to solve the murder was assess the murder and figure out how the dog was killed. Once I figured out the dog had been killed by a garden fork I decided to start interviewing people on the street. I asked them what they saw and the murder.

Vocaroo
Vocaroo - The premier voice recording service.

9th Grade Digital Book Projects Continued

We chose this search because in the book "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" while in the train station, it would have been helpful if Christopher was able to search this to help him find his pet rat.

When searching this you will find a link to instructables.com a website that tells you how to catch an escaped pet rat. You will also find it says to check under appliances.

How can I make my son with autism better understand me?

He would learn that a better way to communicate with Christopher would be to make eye contact and carry talk to him and being at his level would help as well.

Christopher's dad Ed was searching this up because he wanted to try and figure out how Christopher could understand him and why he acts the way he does. Christopher doesn't take his dad seriously even after his dad yelling at him which shows he doesn't understand what his dad's point is if he figures out how to talk to him he won't have to yell and scare Christopher.

Success

This song relates to the book because it's about overcoming challenges and becoming a "champion" in the end. Christopher successfully solves the mysterious murder of the dog. He passes his math test. He also successfully found his mother. He didn't just pass the test, he got an A+. He went to a university to become a scientist and he wrote his book.

10th GRADE LETTERS ABOUT JUSTICE

Students spend 10th grade focused on the topic of justice. For their trimester 1 final project, they wrote letters to officials about laws they found unfair. Some creative examples below!

If I wanted to buy new headlights I would fail an inspection... I have to buy damaged, used headlights because of this arbitrary law.

You can't hunt on weekdays because it is dark by 4:15 and that leaves no time... Not being able to hunt on Sundays is like not planting the plants in the planter.

As a Snake breeder I feel we should lift the ban on reticulated pythons in Mass. Only 2 people have died from non-venomous snakes worldwide unlike dogs...

10TH GRADE PATHS TO MCAS SUCCESS

NO RED INK GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

An engaging, entertaining way for the students to practice their grammar, spelling and vocabulary using topics they are interested in.

The screenshot shows the NoRedInk interface. At the top, it says "Common Errors #1". Below that, a sentence reads: "Vincent Crabbe thinks he can become the world's greatest acrobat if he practices a lot." A dropdown menu is open, showing "Missing" vs "Misusing" with a list of words: "acrobats", "acrobatic", "acrobatic", "acrobatic", "acrobatic". Below the exercise is a "Class Average" table with green checkmarks for all students.

Class Average	"Missing" vs "Misusing"	"Misusing" vs "Missing"	"Missing" vs "Missing"	"Missing" vs "Missing"
Alicia Boyd	✓	✓	✓	✓
James Cate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mason Cruz	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dorian Fishel	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gavin Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓
Owen Fishery	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ryan Gougoun	✓	✓	✓	✓

COMMONLIT LITERACY PROGRAM

A comprehensive digital library which includes measured benchmark assessments, supplemental lessons, digital media, and researched based ELA curriculum. Most of the lessons found here align with the Massachusetts Framework.

The screenshot shows the CommonLit 360 interface. At the top, there's a grid of units (Unit 1 to Unit 6) for Grades 10, 11, and 12. Below that, there's a "Class Assignment Average Scores" section with a bar chart showing 70% correct. To the right, there's a "Performance Snapshot" section with a pie chart showing 72% correct.

QUILL GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

A comprehensive use of grammar and vocabulary lessons structured in a similar format one would see on assessments such as CommonLit and MCAS.

The screenshot shows the Quill Proofer interface. It displays a text passage about Patrick Henry and a grammar exercise: "Fix the punctuation. The speech was powerful. The speech was to inspire the colonists." Below the exercise, there's a list of activities with checkboxes, including "Proficiency: And, Or, But, So".

And finally, choosing a Quill Proofer activity that covers these conjunctions (And, Or, But, So):



Students spend the first part of 11th grade studying rhetoric and argumentation. Then they apply those techniques, including rhetorical devices and persuasive appeals, to cover letters. Meanwhile, the students start their resumes with help from their shop teachers and the school librarian, before bringing them to the English teachers to proofread and wordsmith.

11th GRADE RESUME WRITING and COVER LETTERS

The screenshot shows a resume template. The "Objective" is "To be a dedicated vet technician". The "Education and Training" section lists "Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, Northampton, MA" and "Animal Science" with a graduation date of June 2025. The "Work Experience" section lists "Yankee Home, 36 Justin Dr, Chicopee, MA 10022 / Data Entry" and "Brookside Friesians, 33 N West St, Feeding Hills MA 01030 / Barn Worker".

The screenshot shows a cover letter template. The recipient is "Stephanie L. Vasser, Equine Vet assistant, Great Falls Equine Vet, 891 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls / Franklin County, MA / United States". The letter is addressed to "Dear Dr. Vasser," and the body text discusses the student's interest in being a vet assistant and their experience working at Greene Acres Equestrian center.

11th GRADE EDITORIAL WRITING

After cover letters and resumes, 11th grade students apply their knowledge of rhetoric to an editorial writing assignment. Students are encouraged to submit their editorials to local and national publications.

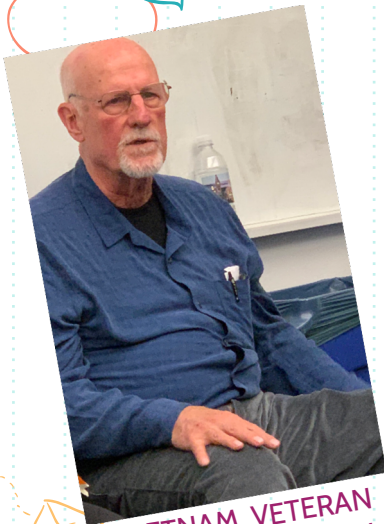
I believe that financial literacy classes should be a mandatory class for high school students so they can learn and understand the basics of money management and taxes. This will help young adults be more prepared for the real world and life with responsibilities.

Even though we have plenty of problems already on our own planet, colonizing another planet would be in our best interest. This is because it can not only help with these problems, but also lead to technological advancements to solve many others, all while keeping our species alive and thriving.

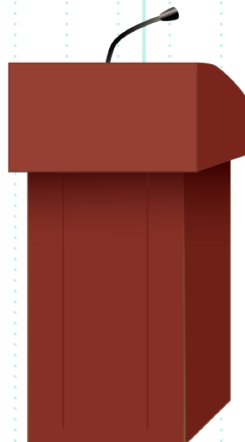
Electric cars are not fit for the environment yet as they are not fit for climate, have inaccurate range, and can be fire hazards.

12TH GRADE STORY TELLING THROUGH MEMOIR WRITING

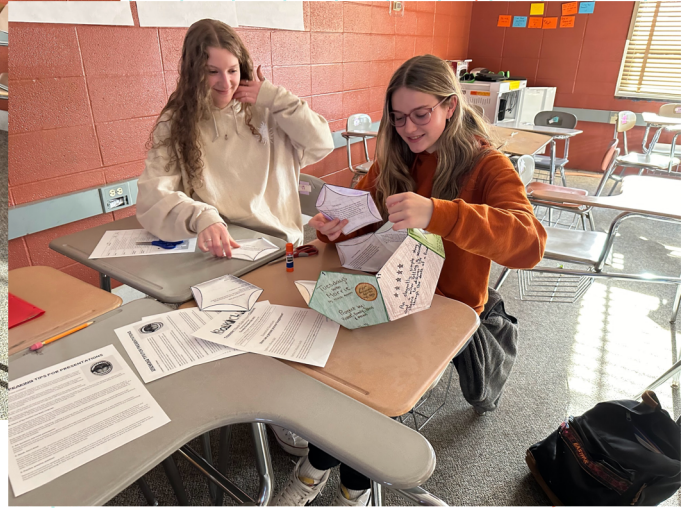
VETERAN VISITS



VIETNAM VETERAN DOUG ANDERSON



12th GRADE HANDS-ON BOOK CLUB PROJECTS



GAMIFYING CURRICULUM

AP PROGRAM

	# of Students Passing AP Lang Exam (11th grade)	# of Students Passing AP Lit Exam (12th grade)
2023	4	5
2022	3	6
2021	1	3
2020	No class offered	3
2019	No class offered	1

What our students are saying....

"I love to be creative with my writing, which was encouraged during this project."

"I was very surprised to learn about the difference between the resume and cover letters and the role they each play."

"Working with my friends and getting extra support from teachers helped a lot with my schoolwork."

"Many parts of the assignment were harder than I thought but it really helped having people in my group to help me and have you come by whenever I needed it."

"I learned that writing isn't so bad, and it can actually be fun."

"This is, by far, the most effort I've put into an assignment in a long time. We need to be doing more of these kinds of projects."

Superintendent Report

January 23, 2024

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Instructional Leadership

The education leader promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by cultivating a shared vision that makes powerful teaching and learning the central focus of schooling.

- 12/20/23: MDAR Commissioner Randle Visit
- 1/3/24: CJ MRE Challenge



Management & Operations

Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by ensuring a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment, using resources to implement appropriate curriculum, staffing, and scheduling.

- Campus Updates
 - Companion Animal Building:
 - Exterior doors installed
 - Plumbing inspection completed
 - Still waiting on completion of HVAC system



Management & Operations

Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by ensuring a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment, using resources to implement appropriate curriculum, staffing, and scheduling.

- Program Advisory Committee Membership Needs:
 - Advanced Man.: Racial/ Linguistic Minority
 - Ag. Mech: Post-Secondary, Apprenticeship
 - Animal Science: Organized Labor, Post-Secondary
 - Automotive: Person w/ Disabilities, Post-Secondary
 - Cabinet Making: Person w/ Disabilities, Racial/Linguistic Minority, Parent/Guardian, Student
 - Carpentry: Person w/ Disabilities, Post-Secondary, Parent/Guardian, Student
 - Cosmetology: Non-Traditional
 - Electrical: Person w/ Disabilities, Racial/Linguistic
 - Graphics: Person w/ Disabilities, Racial/Linguistic Minority, Non-Traditional, Parent/Guardian
 - Health Tech: Racial/Linguistic Minority

Management & Operations

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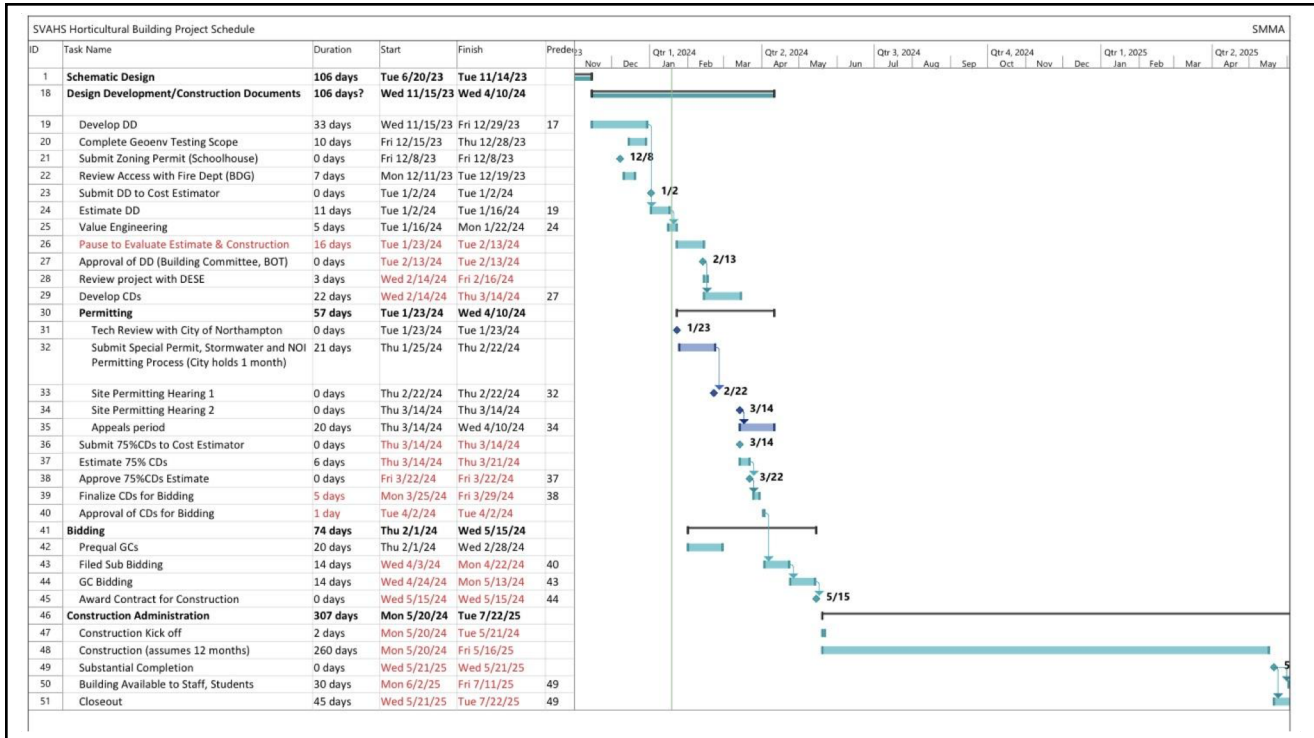
- Horticulture Building Updates
 - Recent site testing (around existing slab) provided no negative findings
 - Old equipment/materials were found in slope on backside of football field
 - Design Documents (DD) for 2nd estimate received 1/18/24
 - Options Moving Forward:
 - Option 1:
 - Vote between DD documents (Light Wood Framing) vs. Metal Prefab Framing
 - Option 2:
 - Delay vote to February 13, 2024 BoT Meeting
 - Vote to hire local GC to provide estimate on building material options
 - Use local estimate & SMMA estimates to determine building material decision
 - Once vote occurs, move onto Construction Documents (CD)
 - Another estimate will occur during this phase
 - Once CD is complete and approved then move on to bidding process

Management & Operations

Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff by ensuring a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment, using resources to implement appropriate curriculum, staffing, and scheduling.

- Horticulture Building Updates
 - No new substantial revenue sources
 - Still tracking \$6,026,109.31 as total available assets towards building
 - Need to invest in upgraded electrical infrastructure; not initially anticipated
 - Discussion around generator requirement; potential added cost
 - Difficult decisions must be made to ensure project moves forward and is completed before losing Skills Capital Grants

	Prefab Metal Building Nov. 2023 BoT Meeting	AM Fogerty 1/18/24 Estimate Light Wood Frame	1/19/24 Hypothetical AM Fogerty w/ Prefab Building
New Construction	\$3,068,741.00	\$4,161,300.00	\$3,068,741.00
Sitework	\$994,167.00	\$599,302.00	\$599,302.00
New Greenhouse			
Direct Costs	\$4,062,908.00	\$4,760,602.00	\$3,668,043.00
Design Contingency	\$406,290.80	\$238,030.00	\$238,030.00
Escalation	\$97,510.00	\$112,469.00	\$112,469.00
	\$4,566,708.80	\$5,111,101.00	\$4,018,542.00
Bonds			
GCs			
GRs			
Building Permit (City Waive?)			
Insurances			
OH&Profit	20% Markup	15.5% Markup	15.5% Markup
	\$5,480,050.56	\$5,903,321.66	\$4,641,416.01
Soft Costs	\$1,304,905.00	\$1,304,905.00	\$1,304,905.00
TOTAL	\$6,784,955.56	\$7,208,226.66	\$5,946,321.01



Family & Community Engagement

Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff through effective partnerships with families, community organizations, and other stakeholders that support the mission of the school and district.

- [January Newsletter](#)
- 1/5/24: Meeting w/ Sen. Velis' Office re: Admissions & Lottery
- 1/9/24: SBHC Update Meeting
 - In process of hiring Behavioral Health Remote Therapist & Community Health Worker
- 1/12/24: Mass General/Brigham Hospital Meeting
 - Modifying/Expanding Athletic Trainer Model
- MSBA Executive Director Visit (Arranged by Sen. Comerford)
 - Planned 2/6/24 Visit
 - MSBA backed out of visit:
 - "...in part to a complicated history here, and Smith Voc not having submitted a Statement of Interest."

Family & Community Engagement

Promotes the learning and growth of all students and the success of all staff through effective partnerships with families, community organizations, and other stakeholders that support the mission of the school and district.

- 1/18/24 Hoisting License Update
 - Ventry Associates met with Rep. Gonzalez, House chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
 - Positive meeting including the Committee's legal counsel
 - Hopeful to have bill reported out soon from Committee
 - SVAHS was specifically referenced during the meeting

Professional Culture

Promotes success for all students by nurturing and sustaining a school culture of reflective practice, high expectations, and continuous learning for staff.

- 1/3/24: NEASC Steering Committee
- 1/5/24: CVSR Luncheon: Attorney Long Presentation
- 1/8/24: Megan Lena Faculty Meeting Presentation
 - Implementing Story Lines in Biology
- 1/17/24: MAVA Officers Presentation to Leadership I Candidates

Donations

- None this Month

In the News...

LETTERS

Increase funding for vocational education

With regards to the article "School leaders balk at lottery for vocational ed" (Gazette, Jan. 13), I was most impressed with Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Superintendent Andy Linkenhoker's final statement that ideally the answer is more seats. "If we have 300 applicants, why can't we take all 300?"

Why not, indeed. More students and their families want a vocational education than there are openings, and there is a great need for training in these professions.

Students who graduate from vocational school will most likely not be using taxpayer-subsidized state college tuition, so steering an increase of tax dollars to vocational education could provide more equitable educational options.

Where could the funding for more vocational education come from? How about reviewing the generous salaries of the highest-paid Massachusetts state employees to start? I do not begrudge anyone a fair salary for their training and expertise, and appreciated that the commonwealth wants the best possible people in positions of responsibility, but perhaps even a modest redistribution of taxpayer dollars could yield an increase in vocational education funding and a bigger investment in the commonwealth's future.

JANET SHARP
Florence

GLOWING TRACTORS



Hundreds gather along Main Street in Florence as 39 illuminated tractors make their way from Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School to Look Park last Friday night during the first annual Holiday Lighted Tractor Parade put on by the Florence Civic and Business Association.

STAFF PHOTO DAN LITTLE

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**Ag commissioner tours Smith Voc
NORTHAMPTON**

Horticulture program key focus of Randle's visit
By ALEXANDER MACDOUGALL
Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle returned to her native western Massachusetts and paid a recent visit to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, touring the school's horticultural building and meeting with students in the Future Farmers of America program.

Randle, the first female MDAR commissioner and the first one in decades to hail from western part of the state, has deep ties to the school; her mother serves as an advisor for the school's animal science program and several of her family members have attended classes there, according to Smith Voc Superintendent Andy Linkenhoker.

"It was great to have her on campus to discuss the current state of affairs across the commonwealth, what we're trying to do with our animal science program and obviously trying to rebuild our horticulture program," Linkenhoker said.

Smith Voc's horticulture
SEE COMMISSIONER A4



Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle speaks with Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Superintendent Andy Linkenhoker during a visit to the school on Dec. 13.

STAFF PHOTO/ALEXANDER
MACDOUGALL

Randle meets students

COMMISSIONER FROM A3

building was severely damaged in a May 2022 fire after a riding mower's exhaust came into contact with combustible materials. The school elected to demolish what remained after the fire and build a new building. The part of the

letting most students use the equipment. In September, two Smith Voc students testified at the Massachusetts State House last week on a bill that would allow vocational school students to use hoisting equipment while still in school.

The bill, introduced by state Rep. Patricia Haddad, D-Somerset, would amend the state's regulations to allow exemptions for vocational

Looking Ahead

- 2x Weekly BAT Meetings
- Weekly Leadership Meetings
- Monthly MAVA Meetings
- Monthly Staff & DH Meetings
- FY24 Budget Meetings
- 1/24/24: MAVA Officers Meeting w/ Commissioner Riley
- 1/26/24: Senator Comerford Meeting re: Governance/Building Issues
- 1/30/24: Joint City Council, NPS School Committee, & SVAHS Trustees Meeting
- 1/31/24: GAC Meeting (Rescheduled from 1/24/24)
- 2/2/24: CVSR Monthly Luncheon
- 2/8/24: City DH Meeting
- 2/9/24: Policy Subcommittee Meeting
- 2/13/24: Mock Interviews
- 2/13/24: Board of Trustees Meeting: State of the School Presentation

Contact Information

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Superintendent

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Phone (413) 587-1414

Mr. Joseph C. Bianca
Principal

www.smithtec.org



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Principal's Report

January 2024 Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Student Representative to the Board:

Brandon Diaz
Domeniq Sanchez

Enrollment:

573 – Total Students

Admissions Update:

Student applications year over year:

January 2024 – 230 applications in our system, with 50 (21.7%) of them from Northampton.

January 2023 – 206 applications in our system, with 44 (21.4%) of them from Northampton.

January 2022 - 172 applications in our system, with 32 (18.6%) of them from Northampton.

January 2021 – 129 applications

January 2020 – 150 applications

Budget:

We began our individual department meetings with department heads this week. We will continue to review proposals and then combine into one proposal for Dr. Linkenhoker to incorporate into his budget request to the Board of Trustees.

School Council:

We are in the processes of updating the Student Handbook.

Youth Advisory to the Principal:

First meeting took place on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. We discussed planning around the idea for a Positive Choices Month at SVAHS. We are looking at the Month of March to include presentations, outreach, social media posts, and announcements centered on educating students about positive choices when it comes to relationships, substance abuse and school culture. Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

Personnel:

Health Assisting Vocational Instructor Long Term Substitute – posted

Health Assisting Instructor – reposted

English Teacher Long Term Substitute – Hired

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bianca

Principal

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.