

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

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday March 23, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom - 5:00 PM**

PRESENT: Michael T. Cahillane, Thomas M. FitzGerald, John E. Cotton, Dr. John Provost,
NPS Superintendent

ABSENT: Mayor David Narkewicz

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:

Mr. FitzGerald commended the facilities manager Tim Smith, custodial and farm tech crews on the work done around campus.

Mr. Cahillane thanked the administration for the work they've put in during the pandemic and keeping the students on campus in a hybrid model since the beginning of the school year.

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded John E. Cotton to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost - yes

APPROVED 4-0

Information and Proposals:

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

Mr. Cahillane mentioned a write up in the Boston Globe over the weekend about vocational education and admissions. Dr. Linkenhoker replied there has been a lot of discussion around admissions across the state and briefly explained the concerns that vocational schools are taking the 'wrong students'. Our obstacle is access to middle school students to give information on vocational opportunities.

Dr. Linkenhoker presented the FY22 Budget draft (attached).

Dr. Provost asked will you know the tuition increase before we vote the budget? Dr. Linkenhoker replied yes, he would recommend scheduling a special meeting possibly April 6th.

Principal's Report – Mr. Bianca gave a brief report (attached). Mr. Bianca added the student rep will begin joining the meetings to give reports. Mr. Cahillane asked if advertisement will take place at the movie theater, Mr. Bianca replied we did partner with them using their streaming platform.

Facilities Report – Facilities manager Tim Smith gave a brief update on planning for summer projects. The new score boards will be installed in the gym Thursday, meeting with architect for nurses office renovation.

Mr. Cahillane thanked Mr. Smith for his work in addressing some recent inspection issues.

Business Report - Ms Fairman gave a brief update on the finances to date, tuition billing, ESSER II grant, MTRS going through reports for review.

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded Dr. Provost to approve 2021-2022 school year start date MOA

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost - yes

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded Thomas M. FitzGerald to approve the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost - yes

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded John E. Cotton to approve to extend a medical leave of absence through the 2020-2021 school year

DISCUSSION: Dr. Linkenhoker stated this is a non-represented employee.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost - yes

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Provost and seconded John E. Cotton to approve the following transfers:

\$41,000 from V5233045-511300 Para-graphics to V5233045-511200 Voc Asst-graphics

\$40,000 from V0520000-519300 Unemployment to V0430000-589000 Extra maint

\$22,000 from V4225032-528000 Soft License - admin to V4245532-528000 Soft License - Instructional

\$8,200 from V4225032-528000 Soft License - admin to V4245332-551200 Instructional Equip

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost - yes

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded by John E. Cotton to approve the following FY20 invoices for payment:

Commonwealth of MA - inspection \$50.00 - Ingersol-Rand 2019 - Tuition Revolving

Commonwealth of MA - inspection \$50.00 - Burnham 2004 - Tuition Revolving

Commonwealth of MA - inspection \$50.00 - Burnham 2014 - Tuition Revolving

Northeast Material Handling, Inc. \$435.00 - Tuition Revolving

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded Dr. Provost to approve surplus for resale from Advanced Manufacturing Technology a Cubex Duo 3D printer and printing filament and two (2) Cube2 3D printers and printing filament

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost - yes

APPROVED 4-0

TABLED Discussion/Possible Action on the FY22 Budget

Future Business:

April 13, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm - Virtual

May 18, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Virtual

Adjourn: Dr. Provost **MOTIONED** to adjourn 6:25pm.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

John Provost -

APPROVED 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Superintendent Report

March 23, 2021

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Highlights & Updates

- Weekly City Emergency Team Meetings
- Weekly MAVA Superintendent Meetings
- Weekly SVAHS Leadership Team Meetings
- Bi-Weekly DESE CTE Meetings
- 2/12/21: GCC Update Meeting
- 2/12/21: Hampshire County Superintendent Steering Committee
- 2/12/21: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 2/15/21-2/19/21: February Vacation (NO SCHOOL)
- 2/24/21: Commissioner Call
- 2/26/21: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 3/1/21: Habitat for Humanity Meeting
- 3/1/21: Summer Youth Program Planning Meeting

Highlights & Updates

- 3/1/21: Faculty Meeting
- 3/4/21: MAVA Officers, Board of Directors, & General Meetings
- 3/5/21: CVSR “Luncheon” Zoom Meeting / Region’s Legislative Body
- 3/5/21: BESE Meeting to vote on phased elimination of remote learning time
- 3/8/21: Department Head Meeting
- 3/9/21: SkillsUSA District Competition (Online test hosted on campus)
- 3/12/21: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 3/18/21: Summer Youth Program Planning Meeting
- 3/23/21: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 3/23/21: Commissioner Call

COVID-19 Updates

- Data Update:
 - [Weekly Data History](#)
 - [MA DPH Graph](#)
- DESE Update on Full-Day In-Person Requirement
 - Remote learning hours will NO LONGER count towards Student Learning Time as of:
 - Elementary Schools: April 6, 2021
 - Middle Schools: April 28, 2021
 - High Schools: TBD (Will provide minimum 2 week notice)
 - Ending our “tutoring” room after April 2, 2021

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Honorary High School Diploma

- Proposing the Board of Trustees review and potentially approve an Honorary High School Diploma for the following:
 - 86 year-old woman
 - Attended SVAHS, but had to drop out to work on the family farm
 - Father said, “she didn’t need an education to wash diapers”
 - Goal since 16 years-old has been to graduate high school
 - Attempted to earn her GED in her 50’s, but had to return to work as the sole provider for her family
 - Is adamant about trying to earn her diploma or GED
- Traditional diploma requires MCAS and potential additional courses
- Willing to discuss qualifications for an honorary diploma

Donation

- 8’x10’ dog run and rubber mat donated to Animal Science from Joe Brewer. This equipment will provide an expansion of the chicken project.

Looking Ahead

- Weekly City Emergency Team Meetings
- Weekly MAVA Superintendent Meetings
- Weekly SVAHS Leadership Team Meetings
- 3/26/21: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 4/1/21: Franklin/Hampshire MassHire Executive Board Meeting
- 4/5/21: MAVA Officer Meeting with Commissioner Riley
- 4/9/21: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 4/9/21: CVSR “Luncheon” Meeting
- 4/13/21: Board of Trustees Meeting

April Focus

- Full-Day In-Person Updates

Contact Information

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Superintendent

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Phone (413) 587-1414

Mr. Joseph C. Bianca
Principal



www.smithtec.org

March 23, 2021

**Principal's Report
March 2021 Board Meeting**

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Student Representative to the Board:

Tyrese Cordova

Enrollment:

529 students

Admissions:

March 2021 = 238 total applications in our system, with 48 (20.1%) of them from Northampton. Year over year increase of 13.3%

March 2020 = 210 total applications in our system, with 49 (23.3%) of them from Northampton. Year over year increase of 6.5%

March 2019 = 197 total applications in our system, with 33 (16.75%) of them from Northampton. Year over year increase of 8.8%

March 2018 = 181 applications, with 41 (22.65%) of them from Northampton Year over year decrease of 15.8%.

March 2017 = 225 applications.

SkillsUSA:

This year at the district 6 regional test our students did extremely well, with 38 medalists! We also scored 4 of the top 5 individual scores in the district competition:

- 1. Natalie Velez - Graphics - 432**
- 2. Yisehak Touchette - Machine- 425**
3. Lower Pioneer Student - 424
- 4. Dylan Fil - Plumbing - 413**
- 5. Zoe Lapis - Health Tech - 412**

Skills Capital Grant:

Ms. Chartier, Dr. Linkenhoker and I have completed the Skills Capital Grant Application for 2021. This grant is focusing on our Collision Repair and Automotive Programs, to bring in new equipment, technologies and curriculum. Grant focuses on next generation electric car tech, aluminum welding and industry standard training. We will take one more look and submit tomorrow, March 24, 2021.

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.

Athletics:

We have football and cheer in season currently. Our spring sports, softball, baseball, and lacrosse are currently running captain's practices. We have also opened up for intramurals and the weight room after school (2:30-4:00).

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bianca
Principal

Founded in 1844 by Oliver Smith

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sex, gender identity, disability, religion or sexual orientation.*