

SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
NORTHAMPTON, MA

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday January 17, 2023
5:00 PM

PRESENT: Mr. Michael T. Cahillane, Dr. Julie Spencer-Robinson, Mr. Richard Aquadro

ABSENT: Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra, NPS Interim-Superintendent Dr. Jannell Pearson-Campbell

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

ABESNT: Ms Crystal Fairman, School Business Administrator

STUDENT REP: Ms Mandy Wright (absent) Ms Jayanna Daniels (absent)

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

Participation by the Public: Jacob Furtaw, Criminal Justice student. Went through old yearbooks looking for his grandfather who graduated in 1963, looked at the sports also. He'd like to plan a SVAHS throwback sports event, gave a brief history of the athletic teams during his research. Throwback jersey's, work with the alumni association. Reconnecting of alumni, possible publicity event.

Participation by the Trustees: Dr. Spencer-Robinson reported attending the MASC Learning Lunch sharing three points on state accountability (attached).

Dr. Spencer-Robinson stated after a conversation with the School Business Administrator, Crystal Fairman, she would like to recognize Joe Cook, procurement officer for the city, for his contribution to our school at next board meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mr. Aquadro to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting.

APPROVED 3-0

School spotlight: Grant funded lab modernization (attached). Mr. Bianca thanked the vocational director for assisting in this slide show.

Mr. Cahillane thanked Mr. Bianca for the presentation, Dr. Spencer-Robinson would like this to be shared possibly as a press release as well as with families via Superintendent Newsletter.

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

Property Subcommittee Report – Mr. Aquadro briefly reviewed the topics of the meeting, moving forward to the next step of hiring an Owners Project Manager (OPM), and getting a Request for Proposal (RFP) out. The campus projects were also reviewed.

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

Principal's Report – Mr. Bianca stated Student Rep's were unable to attend tonight's meeting, their report is attached. Mr. Bianca gave his report (attached).

Business Report – as submitted.

Facilities Report – reported under Property Subcommittee

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mr. Aquadro to support the MASC and MASS letter to Governor Healey

APPROVED 3-0

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve the following surplus for resale from Pre-Engineering – a MakerBot Replicator, a 3D printer and a New Tough Smart Extruder and from Culinary Arts – a small deep fat fryer

APPROVED 3-0

Mr. Aquadro asked that a SVAHS Capital Campaign be started, Mr. Cahillane replied this can be placed on a future agenda.

Future Business:

February 14, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

March 21, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

April 11, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

Adjourn:

At 6:21pm Dr. Spencer Robinson **MOTIONED** to adjourn Mr. Aquadro seconded.

APPROVED 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Board of Trustees Announcement January 17, 2023

I attended the MASC Learning Lunch on state accountability last Friday and want to share three brief points with the board.

1. The federal government requires states to meet certain student achievement goals, and to be accountable for that, states have to identify their lowest-performing 5% of schools. Massachusetts state law also requires identification of the lowest-performing 20% of schools. There was a waiver on that during the pandemic.

2. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assigns its high school percentile ranks based on 2 years of this data: MCAS scores, graduation and dropout rates, chronic absenteeism, progress of English language learners, and percent of 11th and 12th graders taking an advanced course.

3. These percentile ranks will be used by DESE to determine how long each school has to get student MCAS scores back to where they were in 2019. Since there was so much variance in student learning loss, they want to offer a tailored approach for schools to meet their full recovery targets. Those with the largest decline in MCAS scores will have the longest time to recover. Smith Vocational is in the 3rd quartile, so we have three years.

(AP, Project Lead the Way, dual enrollment, Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical cooperatives and articulation agreement courses)

Skills Capital and Lab Modernization Grants

- Skills Capital Grant June 2022 - \$484,580
 - Culinary Arts
- Lab Modernization Grant September 2022 – \$2,121,200
 - Animal Science
 - Horticulture
- Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – \$5,000,000
 - Horticulture
 - Agricultural Mechanics
 - Cabinet Making
 - Advanced Manufacturing

Skills Capital Grant June 2022 - Culinary Arts

- Fire Suppression Ansul Hood System
- Walk-in Fridge/Freezer
- Hands free sinks
- Rotary Oven
- Steam Kettle
- Tilt Skillet
- Food Truck
- Restaurant Floor and Outdoor Patio
- POS System



These purchases will allow Culinary to improve safety in the kitchen, lengthen the life of our consumable materials, reach curriculum deeper and richer than we have been able to do. This is accomplished through varied experiences and learning on industry standard equipment.

Lab modernization Grant September 2022 – Animal Science

- Phase 1 - Renovation of building to create office, locker room and 2 classrooms for student use – move students out of MS Barn and temporary classroom in Nursery Barn. Outfit the building with grant funds.
- Phase 2 - Replace Nursery Barn with new construction of Grooming/Kenneling Building with 1 classroom space and renovate MS Barn Classroom into Pocket Pets kenneling/lab.
- All equipment for the implementation of Companion Animal Concentration
- Improved student experience in all concentrations, increased student recruitment and retention.

Lab Modernization Grant, September 2022 – Horticulture

- Simulator System for Hoisting Equipment – This will allow us to train students more effectively through the use of control systems that duplicate the machinery. Adding the layer of visual reference and muscle memory prior to sitting in the real cockpit of a large piece of equipment. It will also allow them the experience of working together on a complex job site.
- Dump Truck, Compact Excavator, Backhoe, Track and wheeled Skid Steers (received), and a Brush Chipper – Our heavy machinery is approx. 50 years old. There have been substantial updates to usability and safety. This equipment will help our students learn and our staff work on real tasks associated with the farm and school.



Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – Horticulture

- \$3,500,000 for construction of new Horticulture building – highlights include indoor project space, 3 classrooms plus simulator classroom, indoor climbing structure, head house and retail space.
- Tables, chairs, SmartBoards for the classrooms. Much of this was lost in the May building fire.
- Battery powered chainsaws and landscaping tools.
- Utility Tractors, leaf vacs, grooming mower, Scag walk behind, Irrigation pipe puller, field and brush mower, and log splitters. Much of this equipment was lost in the May building fire.

Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – Agricultural Mechanics Highlighted Equipment

- Welding ventilation system providing improved performance, safety and increase number of direct ventilation stations
- Multi-process Welders to allow more student access to welding and use of the multi process machine in ARC, MIG, and TIG.
- Virtual Welder which will allow students to become familiar with welding concepts of pace, proximity and intensity. Be used as recruitment opportunity during tours and pre-exploratory.
- Diesel Training Engines to allow students access to 2 cylinder diesel engines to run, then disassemble and reassemble and then run to ensure proper assembly.
- Hydraulic Simulators to provide students the proper knowledge and foundational base when working on tractors and other equipment. Students will go through repair simulations. Comes with textbook and curriculum.
- These items are going to improve the depth of understanding for students and provide the opportunity for instructors to challenge students without relying on live work only, which is sporadic in Ag Mechanics.

Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – Agricultural Mechanics Highlighted Equipment

Wall- or column-mounted fume extraction systems designed specifically for welding.

Self-cleaning filter (SWX-S) model is available with choice of telescoping, standard or ZoneFlow extraction arm.

Disposable filter (SWX-D) model is available with choice of telescoping or standard extraction arm.

See page 11 for optional dual-arm add-on packages.



The capture zone redefined.
Innovative, extended-capture fume extraction system designed specifically for welding.

Exclusive ZoneFlow™ technology creates a much larger capture area than existing source-capture products and minimizes arm interactions. See page 2 for more information.

Have a certified industrial hygienist test the air in your facility to determine equipment requirements and ensure adequate protection from contaminants.

NEW!
Self-cleaning filter (SWX-S) model now available with ZoneFlow technology.

CAPTURE 95% OF WELD FUME

Standard high-efficiency filter designed to capture weld fume

EXTENDED FUME CAPTURE UP TO 5 ft.

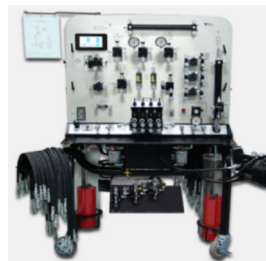
Exclusive ZoneFlow™ technology extends weld fume capture area

SOURCE CAPTURE THE RECOMMENDED CAPTURE METHOD

Filters air for welder and facility

LARGER WELD AREA LESS ARM INTERACTIONS

Better protection, more welding.



Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – Cabinet Making

- Wood 4x4 Laguna Swift CNC Machine – We have attempted to update software of existing ANC machine, but it continues to be inoperable. This will allow students to mill anything from signs, to cabinet doors and molding. This brings us in-line with modern Cabinet Making shops.
- Wide Belt sander
- Epilog Fusion Edge Laser Engraver
- Dust Collector System – Increase the safety and cleanliness of the shop.



Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – Advanced Manufacturing

- New Haas CNC milling machine with 5 axis rotary, expands our offerings from standard 3 axis and our most advanced 4 axis machine providing the opportunity to create complex shapes and replicate industry equipment.
- 3D printers with the addition of an advanced selective laser sintering printer that utilizes powdered plastic to make parts without support material and the need for post processing.
- The addition of a fiber marking laser to be able to mark and engrave bare metal parts.
- The new equipment can help recruit students by seeing new machinery and allowing students to use new advanced technology such as SLS printing and lasers to manufacture parts.

Lab Modernization Grant, December 2022 – Advanced Manufacturing

- Students will be able to utilize new features on the ProtoTrak mills and controls that will be updated. They will have new opportunities to create programs and parts in a more simple process. Part identification and serialization can be better introduced to align with our local DOD, medical, aerospace, and firearms manufacturers. The new Haas will allow for advanced students not on co-op to learn 5 axis machining to support the current technologically advanced equipment that replicates real world processes that a student could step into after graduation. The metrology equipment will allow us to teach a new, advanced style of non contact measuring to support our current equipment. Students will study on a wider range of metrology equipment allowing them to be more familiar with current industry standard equipment
- The new software, Vericut, will provide us with a computer simulation and verification of CNC programs to test them out in a computer simulation prior to running in the machines. This can allow us to identify errors in programming or machine set up in a simulation before damage occurs in the machine.

Superintendent Report

January 17, 2023

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Highlights & Updates

- 12/21/22: MIAA TMC Meeting
- 12/23/22-1/2/23: NO SCHOOL: December Vacation
- **1/3/23: January Newsletter Published**
- 1/4/23: DESE Call re: Non-Resident Tuition Procedures
- 1/6/23: Smith College Funding Call
- 1/6/23: MAVA/Aggie & FFA Hoisters License Discussion
- 1/9/23: Dietz Architects Follow Up Meeting
- *1/10/23: Mindfulness Workshop 1st Session*
- 1/10/23: WMCA Presentation: Positive Relationship between Administrators & School Counselors
- 1/12/23: Old Colony RVT & DESE Conversation
- 1/16/23: NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- *1/17/23: Mindfulness Workshop 2nd Session*
- 1/17/23: Property Subcommittee Meeting

***BOLD** = Superintendent Goal Evidence*

**Italics* = Equity Focus*

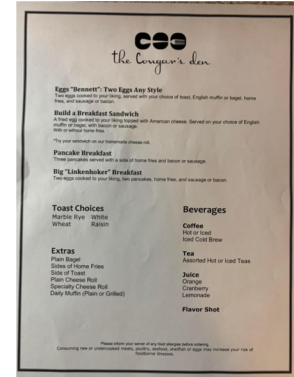
Pictures Worth 1000 Words



What Is Mindfulness?

"Mindfulness is awareness that arises through paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment, non-judgmentally," says Kabat-Zinn. "And then I sometimes add, in the service of self-understanding and wisdom."

Mindful, January 2017



Mindfulness Work

- First session 1/10/23
- 8 sessions total
- Dedicating one BAT Meeting/week through March
- This work will prepare Administrators for the important equity audit work to follow

Horticulture Building Rebuild Update

- Goal to keep budget within \$5.5 million
 - Minimize financial burden on Northampton and sending communities
 - Provide 21st century learning environment for Horticulture students
 - Pre-fire this was not an option
 - Take a negative & traumatic event and turn it into a positive for the school
- 12/5/22: Sent Smith College President McCartney letter
 - Outlined impact of Horticulture fire and current financial status and funding concerns
 - Spoke to David DeSwert, Smith College Director of Finance on 1/6/23
 - Detailed our funding status and need to close financial gap
 - Mr. DeSwert was very supportive and will follow up with potential ability to support SVAHS
- Next Steps
 - Higher a Project Manager
 - Complete Bid for Design Architecture Firm
 - Still working with state on \$275,000 Economic Bond Bill Amendment from Senator Comerford

Various Documents to Share/Discuss

- MASC/MASS Letter of Support
- MassCTE Friend of CTE Nomination
- MAVA Legislative Priorities

Donations

- None this month

Looking Ahead

- 1/17/23-2/1/23: DH Budget Meetings
- 1/18/23: MIAA TMC Meeting
- 1/20/23: CES Steering Committee
- 1/24/23: MAVA Officers Presentation @ Leadership I Session
- 1/24/23: Unit H Negotiations
- 1/25/23: General Advisory Meeting
- 1/25/23: MAVA Board of Directors Meeting
- 1/30/23: Unit H Negotiations
- 2/3/23: CVSR Luncheon
- 2/9/23: City DH Meeting
- 2/13/23: DESE Franklin/Hampshire Region CTE Superintendent Meeting
- 2/14/23: Board of Trustees Meeting

February Focus

- Horticulture Rebuild Next Steps
- FY24 Budget Priorities

Contact Information

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Superintendent

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January 17, 2023

**Student Representatives Report
January 2023 Board Meeting**

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Jayanna

Athletics:

a.) Girl's & Boy's Basketball - Shopcloth Sale: athletes and members of these school community are encouraged to shop the online "gear shop" in support of the basketball teams. The money raised will help support team activities, clothing, and equipment.

Shops:

b.) Viking Runestone (the SVAHS student and faculty generated Art and Writing publication) - Advertising campaign. Students and staff will sell advertisements to be published in the Spring 2023 edition of the Viking Runestone. The money raised will help support the publishing costs of the magazine.

Mandy

Clubs:

-Student Government facilitated Spirit Week Jan 3-Jan 6 2023. Activities included themed days and a shop vs. shop Dodgeball Tournament. This year's tournament was won by the Faculty Team

Fundraisers:

English, Math, Special Ed, Humanities:

-librarian, Ms.Skantz-Hodgson is teaching Strand 6 Technology skills to all freshman
-Spanish teacher, Mr.Mendelsohn, is teaching Criminal Justice students Spanish terms that can be useful in the field
-the semester is coming to an end: art and health are preparing to switch

Shops:

Respectfully submitted,

Jayanna Daniels and Mandy Wright
Student Representatives



Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

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Phone (413) 587-1414

Mr. Joseph C. Bianca
Principal

www.smithtec.org

January 17, 2023

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

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Enrollment:

563 students

Admissions Update:

Student applications year over year:

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

January 2019 – 139 applications

January 2018 – 139 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.

Spirit Week:

Spirit Week, sponsored by Student Government ran from January 3-6th. Themes included, Country vs Country Club, Dress up Dress down and Color Wars. We held the annual Dodgeball Tournament on the 6th and this year's winner was the Staff Team, which is a first during my time here. Student Government usually has a second Spirit Week in March.

Personnel

Posted for an Electrical Instructor due to resignation.

Posted for the third Animal Science Instructor – Companion Animal Curriculum and Concentration.

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.