

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

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday November 16, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom - 5:00 PM**

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

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

STUDENT REP: Tyrese Cordova, absent

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

Participation by the Public: none

Participation by the Trustees: Mr. FitzGerald commended the facilities director and farm crew for keeping the grounds and campus looking so good.

Mr. Cotton spoke on the article in the paper.

Mr. Cahillane spoke briefly on the MASC/MASS Joint Conference, much discussion in regard to what is happening across the state to school committees.

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded by Thomas M. FitzGerald to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 4-0

Information and Proposals:

School Spotlight: James Anspach shared with the Board the highlights of the FFA National Competition. (attached)

Mr. Cahillane stated he is proud of the clear thinking and hitting the ground running in order to get back from the competition given the travel hurdles.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Linkenhoker gave his report in a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

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

Mr. Cahillane added he heard positive feedback on the open house, thanked the admin and staff for the work put into this.

Business and Facilities Report - Facilities Director Tim Smith gave an update on current projects on campus: C building boiler project is done; nurses suite is just about completed. Mr. Cahillane

thanked Tim and his staff on the renovation, it is a very nice suite. Ms Fairman added these two projects were the result of the city's capital improvement funding.

School Business Administrator, Crystal Fairman gave an update of the finances to date.

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded by Thomas M. FitzGerald to approve the updates to Policy JFA - Admissions

Discussion: Dr. Linkenhoker added a couple of questions were sent by Dr. Provost in regard to offering application material in home language – recommends it be a little more generic, the second item was school choice declaration – SVAHS doesn't accept – admission policy needs to be voted each year and school choice declaration needs to be voted each year.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton – yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded by John E. Cotton to approve payment for the following FY21 invoices:

\$15.63 to Auto Plus dated 6/9/21 from the Farm Revolving Account

\$40.00 to Swiss Cleaners 5/14/21 from Tuition Revolving/Animal Science Revolving

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton – yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 4-0

A **MOTION** was made Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded by John E. Cotton to approve the following surplus for resale from Health Technology full length cushioned side rail safety pads and a small Hoyer Sling.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton – yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 4-0

Future Business:

December 21, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm - virtual

January 18, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm - virtual

February 15, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm - virtual

Adjourn: Mayor Narkewicz **MOTIONED** to adjourn, John E. Cotton seconded 5:48 pm

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton – yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

APPROVED 4-0

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Report to the Board of Trustees November 16, 2021

James Anspach, FFA Advisor

We took 11 students and 3 teachers to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis for the week of October 25 - 30th.

Our four member dairy evaluation team earned a silver team award and the four individuals placed as follows:

Nellie Hankinson Gold

Suzanne Van Geel Silver

Allison Devino Bronze

Grace Clenedenin Bronze

Henry Sarafin, Class of 2019, earned his American FFA Degree, based off of his SAE (Supervised Ag Experience) in Maple Sugaring and Cordwood production. Henry started his SAE as a 9th grade student and continued it post graduation, a requirement of the degree. He was required to invest at least \$10,000 of his own money into his SAE and log a minimum of 3,000 hours working on his SAE, as well as other record keeping to qualify.

There have been less than 100 individuals from Massachusetts that have obtained the American Degree since Massachusetts was first chartered into the FFA Organization in the 1930's.

Henry is one of six Smith FFA Members, to have achieved the American FFA Degree in the past twenty years.

Henry and his entire family drove out to Indiana to join us for the week.

RAIN, RAIN, RAIN was a major emphasis for most of our week unfortunately, between delaying our departure flight to begin our journey by a few hours, to preventing us from using or being able to observe harvesting equipment out working in fields, to completely soaking kids in Official dress while walking to and from the convention hall. Our students took it all in stride including trying to traverse the muddy farm fields on foot after a four inch rainstorm!!! :)

We toured a 4,000 acre popcorn field, picking some corn by hand. Toured a peppermint crop field, approx 400 acres, and toured the peppermint oil distillery. Toured a large scale John Deere implement repair and sales dealership and had a live demonstration of remote diagnostics demonstrated by a mechanic using their laptop and wireless network connection to a tractor out working in a field in the next county over.

Smith school students are incredibly resilient as they had to overcome the rain and the obstacles and losses of experiences that the rain created. Students also rallied to collect themselves and rise to the occasion in order to successfully complete a last minute change of plans, to convert our plane ride home from Chicago into an overnight train to Albany, New York from Chicago.

I would like to thank Jeremy (custodial staff) for being willing to drive a Smith School bus out to Albany on a Sunday afternoon to pick us all up and get us safely home. I would also like to thank Joe Bianca for taking my unexpected and very late night after hours calls, to help us find a solution for our homebound transportation woes.

Superintendent Report

November 16, 2021

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Highlights & Updates

- 10/20/21: P.A.C. Meetings
- 10/26/21: CJ Shark Tank
- 10/26/21: Commissioner Riley Zoom Call
- 10/27/21: MAVA Board of Directors & General Meetings
- 11/2/21: NO SCHOOL (Election Day)
- 11/3/21-11/5/21: MASC/MASS Joint Conference
- 11/15/21: DESE CTE Update Zoom Call
- 11/7/21: Open House

Program Advisory Committee Highlights

- 10/20/21: In-person committee meetings for first time since Fall '19
- Many programs had large advisory participation
- P.A.C is key stakeholder in Ch. 74 education to garner valuable input and recommendations on equipment, curriculum, and student outcomes

MASS/MASC Conference

- Sessions/Highlights:
 - Socially & Emotionally Competent Leadership for Social Change
 - Commissioner Riley Presentation
 - School Districts at the Center of Polarized Community Debates
 - Fidelity, Fiscal Cliffs, and Future Focus
 - MAVA/CTE Roundtable Discussion
 - MA Teacher of the Year Presentation
 - Amplifying Student Voices During Complex Times

Admissions Policy

- Recommendations:
 - **Discipline**
 - 10 pts = No 37H, 37H ½ or 37H ¾ suspensions
 - 5pts = 37H ¾ infractions leading to 10 days cumulative suspensions
 - 0pts = 37H or 37H ½ suspensions
 - **Attendance** (Unexcused absences only)
 - 10 pts = 0-10 absences
 - 5 pts = 11-20 absences
 - 0 pts = 21+ absences
 - **Grades** (English, Math, History & Science)
 - 10 pts = A's & B's
 - 5 pts = C's & D's
 - 0 pts = F's

Admissions Policy

- **School Counselor Recommendation**
 - 0-100 pts
- **Rubric**
 - Discipline = 1.5 weight
 - Attendance = 1.5 weight
 - Grades = 1.0 weight
 - Recommendation = 1.0 weight
- **Tie Breaker Process**
 - Lottery to be used to select applicants with same scores
- Maintain current "priority" admission of Northampton applicants (top 30 Northampton applicants accepted prior to any non-resident students)

Correspondence

October 22, 2021

Hi Tina:

Just wanted to say Thank you for helping to be able to do my Court on Sunset Hill again this year. It was my 48th year of counting Sun top of the hill.

I had a grand total of 5,767 Corners (602) Nighthawk. My best evening was 1,439 on August 20th.

I
The last week or a half we counted by our cars, just out side of gate. We felt that we did not need to push our luck with that bull.

Tina Logan 402-599-6503

2022 season. We averaged 44 finishers per race this year and hope to do a bit better next time.

With appreciation, and our best wishes for the fall and winter,

Yours sincerely,
Don & Sue Quist

1. September 10, 2021

Dear Tom, Thank you for clearing the cross-country course for us. A lot of the runners did their best times at our last race, and they also enjoyed seeing the goats at work. We appreciate the time and energy you put into maintaining the Vocational School property!

It's hard to believe we've completed the race season, but we are looking forward to the

Donations

- 2 vending machines donated to the cafeteria from Frederick Tracey

Looking Ahead

- 11/18/21 & 11/19/21: Health Class Drug Court Juror
- 11/24/21-11/26/21: NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)
- 12/1/21-12/5/21: ACTE National Conference (New Orleans)
- 12/6/21: Faculty Meeting with Gift Exchange
- 12/7/21: Smith College Virtual Community Breakfast
- 12/8/21: MAVA Officers Meeting
- 12/13/21: MAVA Officers Meeting with Commissioner Riley & Staff
- 12/21/21: Board of Trustees Meeting

December Focus

- Recognition of outgoing Board of Trustees Members

Contact Information

Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Super

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 16, 2021

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

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:

Enrollment:

546 students

Open House

Our annual Open House was held on November 7, 2021. We had commercials running on the local radio stations and social media. Additionally, this year, we contracted with a company again for census data and addresses for the families with students ages 12-14. We mailed out 4,000 postcards announcing the Open House, and distributed more to schools for dissemination. School Counselors also visited Hampshire Regional, Central Berkshire, Gateway, Mohawk and JFK for various in-person presentations. Hopkins Academy allowed for a virtual presentation. We also ran ads at the Hadley Movie Theater.

Guided 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
2021 – Change in calculation for visitors – approx. 800 visitors

Student applications coming into the weekend:

2018 – 27
2019 – 26
2020 – 14
2021 - 29

Student applications at Open House:

2018 – 64
2019 – 68
2020 – since Open House 82, including the week after the even
2021 – 62

Current total applications for the 2022-23 school year:

110 (25 Northampton 22.7%)

Personnel:

Hired a paraprofessional – all positions for the 2021-22 school year are now filled.
Continue to post for an Electrical Teacher/Long term Substitute

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.

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.

Kris Safford
Ella Poudrier
Jordan Dunham
Amber Pensivy

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph C. Bianca
Principal