

SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL
NORTHAMPTON, MA

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday August 15, 2023
5:00 PM

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

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

STUDENT REP: absent

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

Participation by the Public: none

Participation by the Trustees: Mr. Aquadro stated the building committee meeting that took place just prior to this meeting went very well, there was a lot of good discussion. Mr. Aquadro stated he is running for the board but didn't get his papers in on time and will run a write in campaign.

Approval of Minutes: A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting.

APPROVED 5-0

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

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

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

Mr. Aquadro stated 60 towns, is that right? Mr. Bianca replied we average 55 – 62 towns sending students here.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked how we compare to area vocational schools as far as fully staffed, Mr. Bianca replied there are area schools that are still advertising. Dr. Spencer-Robinson replied that speaks well of the school, being fully staffed states teachers want to work here.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if the math placement test is electronic or paper and pencil. Mr. Bianca replied it is electronic and was developed by our math department staff.

Facilities Report – Mr. Smith gave a brief update on the AC project in C Building, the culinary kitchen should be put back together Wednesday, the cafeteria kitchen floor grease trap is waiting for inspection, autobody floor and ceiling should be completed next Tuesday, the pocket pet classroom is just about finished, the companion animal building foundation poured and the trusses are onsite and ready for install, and the apple storage building contractor is waiting for material.

Mr. Aquadro asked about the fob entry system, did all go well were there any glitches? Mr. Smith replied as far as facility wise all went well.

Mr. Chaillane wanted to state for the record his compliments to Mr. Bianca on his involvement with the campus projects, his ability to answer many questions at the board meetings as well as participating in the building committee meeting and helping keep it neutral when committee members voice their disappointment.

Financial Report – Ms Fairman gave a brief update of the budget to date. The Governor has approved the budget item of free school lunches for the state of Massachusetts.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson expressed her happiness with the free school lunches for our students.

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson for discussion and possible action (vote) to move to an electronic process of approval of warrants.

DISCUSSION: This agenda item was carried forward from the July 18, 2023 meeting. Mr. Cahillane reiterated his feelings on in person review and stated it is part of the job of the trustees to review the invoices. Mr. Cahillane added that he does understand the need for a quick turnaround but in over one hundred years and according to the Oliver Smith Will the trustees elected by citizens of Northampton oversee the Will and part of the Will states the trustees oversee and review invoices.

Mayor Sciarra stated she had missed the last meeting and asked is agenda item for signing warrants similar to what Northampton Public Schools (NPS) does, is the digital copy different from the what information the warrant has? Mr. Aquadro stated the backup paper work wouldn't be supplied. Mayor added she feels that the digital process works very well and she finds she is able to review the warrants and ask questions as they come up.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked Ms Fairman in the years she has been here has trustees reviewing the invoices ever change the outcome of the warrant. Ms Fairman replied no it hadn't changed an outcome. Dr. Spencer-Robinson prefers the digital. Mr. Aquadro prefers to abstain.

The Chair asked for a roll call vote:

Mr. Cahillane - no

Dr. Spencer-Robinson - yes

Mr. Aquadro - abstain

Mayor Sciarra - yes

Dr. Bonner - yes

APPROVED 3 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain

Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if there is request for more detail on a warrant item will the information be available? Ms Fairman replied yes, a scanned copy of an itemized invoice can be emailed.

Dr. Linkenhoker asked if the board will identify the trustees who will be the designated signatures. Mr. Aquadro feels it should go to all trustees, Dr. Spencer-Robinson agrees.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Aquadro and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve payment of FY23 invoices listed in the Financial Report (attached).

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve to amend the 2023-2024 School Calendar last day of school change to June 13, 2024

Discussion: Dr. Linkenhoker gave a brief explanation for this item adding that the March presidential primary date was omitted inadvertently and he just learned this afternoon there will be no primary Sept 19. Shall we keep Sept. 19th as a no school day and add March primary date? or pull back Sept 19th and add the March date and keep last school day of the 12th. Dr. Linkenhoker shared his concern if we pull back the 19th and how it would affect families who may have made appointments etc. Mr. Aquadro prefers to keep Sept. 19th as a no school day. Mr. Bianca agrees with Dr. Linkenhoker. Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if teachers should be polled on their preference.

Mr. Cahillane made a motion to amend the motion and authorize Dr. Linkenhoker to make the decision regarding September 19th and to decide the last day of school accordingly. Dr. Spencer-Robinson seconded.

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve to amend Policy IKF Graduation Requirements to increase graduation requirement credits by 6 beginning with the Class of 2027

Discussion: Mr. Bianca briefly explained the rationale for this request. Mr. Aquadro asked if the students would take pre-exploratory more serious, Mr. Bianca replied he believes so. Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if there was input from teachers. Mr. Bianca replied this was teacher driven.

APPROVED 5-0

A **MOTION** was made by mayor and seconded by Mr. Aquadro to approve the surplus for donation a medical exam table in good working condition from the Adult Education Program

APPROVED 5-0

Future Business:

September 19, 2023 Building Committee meeting 3:00pm – Library

September 19, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

September 20, 2023 General Advisory Committee meeting 7:00am – Oliver Smith Restaurant

October 17, 2023 Building Committee meeting 3:00pm – Library

October 17, 2023 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

October 25, 2023 Program Advisory Committee's Meetings 6:00pm – Cafeteria/Shops

Adjourn:

At 6:55pm Dr. Bonner **MOTIONED** to adjourn Mr. Aquadro seconded.

APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Superintendent Report

August 15, 2023

Submitted by
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

Instructional Leadership

- Admin Retreat
 - 2023-2024 Theme: "What is Your WHY?"
 - [WHAT vs. WHY Video](#)
 - [MY WHY Video](#)
- All Staff Return/Convocation planned for 8/24/23

Management & Operations



C Building A/C



Electronic Key Access



Split-Rail Fencing

Management & Operations



Culinary Hood System



Ath. Dir./Co-Op Office



Collision Repair Related

Management & Operations



Comp. Animal Building



Ext. Pocket Pet Lab



Int. Pocket Pet Lab

Management & Operations



Storage Barn Repairs



Stormwater System

Management & Operations

- Horticulture Building Update
 - Continuing with design revisions
 - Various required testing is being arranged
 - Design should be going to Estimator in September/October for cost analysis

Family & Community Engagement

- New Student Orientation planned for 8/25/23
- Monthly Newsletter focus areas brainstormed by Leadership Team
 - Attendance
 - Ch. 74
 - Advisories
 - Co-Op
 - MCAS/MassCore
 - IRC's
 - Extra Curricular Impact
 - School Governance
 - Student Support: Transitions, Post HS Planning
 - Superintendent Award/Faculty Highlights
 - New Technologies
 - Wellness/Nutrition
 - Community Outreach/Activities
 - Student Projects
 - Legislation

Family & Community Engagement

- Hatfield Town Administrator: Marlene Michonski
 - School Membership/School of Preference Discussion
- Planting of butterfly habitat in field adjacent to VA Property

Professional Culture

- MAVA Planning Retreat
 - Keynote Speakers:
 - Education Secretary Tutwiler
 - Commissioner Riley
 - BPS Superintendent Skipper
 - SkillsUSA Massachusetts Director Karen Ward
- School Spotlight Schedule
 - September: Adult Ed
 - October: Art (Humanities?)
 - November: FFA
 - December: Health Assisting
 - January: English
 - February: Athletics/Co-Op
 - March: Animal Science
 - April: Engineering/Physics
 - May: SkillsUSA
 - June: Plumbing/Electrical (may be after end of year)

Donations

- No donations this month

In the News...

Smith Voc to get new health center

NORTHAMPTON

Hilltown Community Health Center lands nearly \$1M for initiative; services available regardless of ability to pay

By JAMES PENTLAND

Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON — Marking a significant step in its plans for a second school-based clinic, Hilltown Community Health Center has received almost \$1 million toward a new center at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services announced the \$963,000 award last week, part of \$70 million in capital funding for community health centers statewide that was included in the Legislature's 2022 economic development bill. "Hilltown Community Health Center meets our people with the care they need in the places where they can access it," Sen. Jo Comerford, D-Northampton, said in a statement. "That's why the Legislature continues to invest in our community health centers."

When open, the Smith Vocational Health Center will be one of 42 school-based health centers in the state, offering comprehensive primary care and behavioral health services, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

"School-based care is a proven model in Massachusetts, and I am happy to see this project move forward to serve our residents," state Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, D-Northampton, said in a statement.

In 2022, the Department of Public Health identified Smith Vocational as a priority school for the provision of enhanced on-site health services to improve students' immediate and longterm health outcomes. In recognition of this need, DPH awarded the Hilltown health center a \$150,000 annual grant to establish a new school-based health center at the school.

Smith Vocational enrolls over 530 students

SEE HEALTH A5

Smith Voc to get new health center

HEALTH FROM A1

from 60 towns and cities in western Massachusetts, with approximately 20%

The Smith Voc center would be the second school-based clinic operated by the Hilltown Community Health Center, which has run a center at Gateway Regional School in

Looking Ahead

- 8/22/23: Weekly Horticulture Building Check-In Meeting
- 8/23/23: New Staff Orientation
- 8/24/23-8/27/23: Cummington Fair
- 8/24/23: All Staff Report: Convocation
- 8/25/23: New Student Orientation
- 8/28/23: First Day of School
- 8/29/23: Weekly Horticulture Building Check-In Meeting
- 9/1/23: NO SCHOOL
- 9/1/23-9/4/23: 3 County Fair
- 9/4/23: NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)
- 9/5/23: Weekly Horticulture Building Check-In Meeting
- 9/8/23: CVSR Luncheon: Commissioner Riley
- 9/11/23: Faculty Meeting
- 9/12/23: Weekly Horticulture Building Check-In Meeting
- 9/13/23: Student Early Release Day
- 9/18/23: DH Meeting
- 9/19/23: NO SCHOOL: Primary Election
- 9/19/23: Building Committee Meeting
- 9/19/23: Board of Trustees Meeting

Contact Information

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Mr. Joseph C. Bianca
Principal



www.smithtec.org

August 15, 2023

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

Enrollment Update:

Current enrollment for 2022-2023 is 578 (461 tuitions).

148 - 9th grade students have registered, 27 (18.2%) are from Northampton. We are still sending out notices to students on the wait list, as spots become available, in order to fill to 150.

Opening of School Update:

New Staff Orientation - August 23, 2023

Convocation - August 24, 2023

New Student Orientation - August 25, 2023

First Day of School – August 28, 2023

Fair Staffing:

Administrators will support the Cummington Fair. Staff have signed up for the Tri-County Fair on Labor Day Weekend. Admin will work the Friday night. We have assigned the Admin on Duty for the weekend, it is Josh Shearer.

Personnel Updates:

PE – Hired

Respectfully,

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.