

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Tuesday December 15, 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom - 5:00 PM**

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

**ABSENT:**

**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 and farm crews for the work on the campus, looks great.

Mr. Cotton noticed the schools land by the jail on Rt. 66 is not posted, and asked should it be? There have been reports of seeing people hunting on it.

A **MOTION** was made by John E. Cotton and seconded Thomas M. FitzGerald to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting.

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes

John E. Cotton - yes

Mayor Narkewicz - yes

John Provost - abstain

**APPROVED 4 - 1 abstain**

**Information and Proposals:**

Superintendents Report - Dr. Linkenhoker gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached). Mr. Cahillane complimented Dr. Linkenhoker and the administrative staff for the hard work that they put in keeping on top of the COVID-19 challenges in addition to supporting the faculty and students during the hybrid learning.

Principal's Report - Mr. Bianca gave a brief report (attached). Mr. Bianca added that he would like to echo Mr. Cahillane's sentiment in regard to the work the administrative team under Dr. Linkenhoker's leadership, and added he is proud to be a part of this administration.

Business and Facilities Report - Ms Fairman gave a brief update on the finances to date.

Facility Manager Tim Smith gave a brief update on projects that are currently in process. Lockers delivered and installed, may put in an epoxy floor in the carpentry shop, charging station is stalled, working on a quote on changing outside lighting on all the buildings.

**New Business:**

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded Dr. Provost to approve payment of an FY20 water invoice for \$818.25 from tuition revolving

Michael T. Cahillane - yes

Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes  
John E. Cotton - yes  
Mayor Narkewicz – yes  
Dr. John Provost - yes  
**APPROVED 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Thomas M. FitzGerald and seconded Dr. Provost to approve the Superintendent to negotiate transportation contract with vendors and mirror NPS contract.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes  
Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes  
John E. Cotton - yes  
Mayor Narkewicz – yes  
Dr. John Provost - yes  
**APPROVED 5-0**

Future Business:

January 19, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Virtual  
February 9, 2021 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Virtual

Executive Session:

John E. Cotton moved to enter Executive Session, under c30A, sect. 21(a)(2) to discuss strategy for contract negotiation with non-union personnel, the superintendent, and to reconvene in open session.

Thomas M. FitzGerald seconded the motion.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes  
Thomas M. FitzGerald yes  
John E. Cotton - yes  
Mayor Narkewicz – yes  
Dr. John Provost - yes

**APPROVED 5-0**

The Board reconvened in open session.

Mr. Cahillane updated the public on a successful contract negotiation and congratulated the Superintendent.

Mayor Narkewicz motioned to approve the four-year contract for Dr. Linkenhoker. Dr. Provost seconded the motion.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes  
Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes  
John E. Cotton - yes  
Mayor Narkewicz – yes  
Dr. John Provost - yes

**APPROVED 5-0**

Adjourn: 6:05pm

Dr. Provost **MOTIONED** to adjourn.

Michael T. Cahillane – yes  
Thomas M. FitzGerald - yes  
John E. Cotton - yes  
Mayor Narkewicz – yes  
Dr. John Provost - yes

**APPROVED 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

# Superintendent Report

December 15, 2020

Submitted by  
Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

## Highlights & Updates

- 2x Weekly City Emergency Team Meetings
- Weekly MAVA Superintendent Meetings
- Weekly SVAHS Leadership Team Meetings
- 11/19/20: Commissioner Call
- 11/20/20: Hampshire County Superintendent Steering Committee
- 11/25/20-11/27/20: NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)
- 12/1/20: DESE & Aggie School Discussion re: Animal Science Frameworks
- 12/3/20: MassHire Executive Board Meeting
- 12/4/20: MAVA Officers Meeting
- 12/7/20: Faculty Meeting

## Highlights & Updates

- 12/9/20: Commissioner Call
- 12/11/20: Hampshire County Superintendent Steering Committee
- 12/11/20: Reopening Committee Meeting
- 12/14/20: Department Head Meeting

## COVID-19 Updates

- Reopening Committee Meeting on 12/11/20
  - The aggregate test positivity rate metric exceeded 5.0%
  - Committee analyzed “per capita” assessment of positivity rate and determined more accurate risk level to school community
  - Decision was to remain open
- Northampton Health Department Organizes Asymptomatic Testing
  - SVAHS was first test site on 12/11/20
  - 43 staff took advantage of this free and volunteer benefit
  - Only 1 positive result
  - Friday, 12/18/20, will be 2nd round of voluntary asymptomatic testing at SVAHS

## COVID-19 Updates

- Thursday, December 17th will be 1st Remote Learning/School Closure
  - Counts as a school day
  - All staff minus custodians/farm techs will be working from home
  
- January 4-8, 2021 Remote Learning Model
  - Response to consistent post-holiday COVID-19 spikes
  - Decision made through collaboration with Health Department and City Emergency Team
  - Instructional staff will provide synchronous instruction from classrooms/shops in the morning before going home to provide asynchronous instruction in the afternoon
  - Return to hybrid model on January 11, 2021

## COVID-19 Updates

- Commissioner Riley Recommending MINIMUM Synchronous Student Learning Time in Hybrid and Remote Learning
  - Recommendation is 35 hours of synchronous learning over two weeks for all students in hybrid learning
  - SVAHS is currently at 37.5 hours
  - Approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of districts must increase their synchronous learning time

## **MCAS Update**

- On 12/7/20, Commissioner Riley postponed the January/February MCAS testing window until later this year.
- Provides much needed immediate relief, but still poses a risk for at-risk juniors who may need multiple chances to pass.

## **Donations**

- No donations this month

## In the News...

Daily Hampshire Gazette - 11/18/2020

one day since.

### 25 Years Ago

■ The Smith Agricultural and Vocational High School can erect a greenhouse on state land off Burt's Pit Road, after receiving the City Council's approval on Thursday. Superintendent Raymond J. Cooke said this week that the state Department of Food and Agriculture, which owns the land, approved of the 70-by-30-foot structure last week.

■ The Rev. Peter Kakos preached his first sermon at Edwards Church yesterday. Kakos was chosen this fall to replace the Rev. Roger A. Barnett, who retired in June 1994.

PH-330209

PH-330209

## Looking Ahead

- 2x Weekly City Emergency Team Meetings
- Weekly MAVA Superintendent Meetings
- Weekly SVAHS Leadership Team Meetings
- 12/16/20: General Advisory Meeting
- 12/16/20: DESE & MAVA Meeting re: Admissions
- 12/23/20: DESE Review Orientation Meeting
- 12/24/20-1/3/21: NO SCHOOL (Christmas Break)
- 1/8/21: CVSR "Luncheon" Meeting
- 1/11/21: MAVA Officers Meeting w/ Commissioner Riley
- 1/15/21: Hampshire County Superintendent Steering Committee
- 1/19/21: Board of Trustees Meeting

## January Focus

- With current trends and issues surrounding COVID-19, the NEASC Update will be provided in January

## Contact Information

Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D

*Superintendent*

Email: [alinkenhoker@smithtec.org](mailto: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](http://www.smithtec.org)

---

**December 15, 2020**

**Principal's Report  
December 2020 Board Meeting**

**Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Board of Trustees:**

**Enrollment:**

532 students

**Admissions Update:**

Student applications year over year:

December BOT Meeting 2017 – 112 with 26 (23.2%) of them from Northampton

December BOT Meeting 2018 – 115 with 21 (18.3%) of them from Northampton

December BOT Meeting 2019 – 130 applications

December BOT Meeting 2020 – 99 applications

**Budget:**

Building level budget proposals were due to me by Monday, December 21, 2020. We will review the individual department requests, met with department heads, and 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 school improvement plan, and we are working on the Student Handbook.

**Toy Drive**

I want to thank Emily Dumais and the National Honors Society, who again sponsored the Toy Drive at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School this year. In collaboration with this effort, the staff again participated in the toy drive by having a Secret Gift Exchange on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Staff members volunteered to participate and we purchased toys for each other, that we felt reflected the person we were buying for. After all the toys were unwrapped, they were donated. I want to thank the National Honors Society and all staff who participated. In all over 40 toys were collected!

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.*