

SMITH VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL  
NORTHAMPTON, MA

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Tuesday April 12, 2022  
5:00 PM

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

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

ABSENT: Facilities Director Tim Smith

STUDENT REP: Mandy Wright, Jayanna Daniels

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

Participation by the Public: Jacob Furtaw, introduced himself and read an editorial he wrote for an English class project (attached).

Participation by the Trustees: Dr. Spencer-Robinson spoke about the recent tour of the school she took with Dr. Linkenhoker. In response to Mr. Aquadro's request last month to have a few projects reinstated one being the hydro and aquaponics, and after touring through the Horticulture/Forestry shop, Dr. Spencer-Robinson would like to request a two-year plan be developed with Horticulture teachers for the hydroponic and aquaponic programs, and asked that this be presented at the May or June Meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 and March 29, 2022 Board of Trustees meetings, with the following correction of the March 29<sup>th</sup> minutes under the FY23 budget presentation as requested by Dr. Spencer-Robinson. ...*Dr. Linkenhoker requests a budget subcommittee be formed. Mayor Sciarra asked if this will be permanent or just for this budget. Dr. Linkenhoker replied as needed. Dr. Spencer-Robinson recommended the subcommittee be permanent but meet as needed. Dr. Spencer-Robinson thanked Dr. Linkenhoker for his work and attention with the budget.*

**APPROVED 5-0**

School Spotlight: FFA Mr. Bianca stated the FFA couldn't be here to report this evening, Student Rep Jayanna Daniels reported on behalf of the FFA.

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

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Linkenhoker didn't give a report this evening.

Principal's Report – Mr. Bianca requested the student rep's report. Mandy Wright and Jayanna Daniels gave their reports (attached).

Mr. Bianca replied to Dr. Spencer-Robinson's request regarding the hydroponics. At the time she toured Horticulture the shop was in process of cleaning all the equipment due to a bug infestation. Mr. Bianca state he will work with Dr. Linkenhoker on developing a plan for the hydro and aquaponics.

Mayor Sciarra asked is there a difference between hydroponic and aquaponics. Mr. Bianca replied hydroponics is a gardening method that allows for plants to be grown without the use of soil, aquaponics involves growing fishes and plants together within the same environment, which is considered to be a sustainable process. The hope is the fish will be Tilapia which can be served in the restaurant.

Mr. Aquadro stated he participated in farm share 30 years ago here, is that something that could be discussed for the future. Mr. Bianca replied there is no chapter 74 program or curriculum for farm share teaching.

At this time Mr. Bianca gave a brief report (attached).

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

New Business:

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Provost and seconded by Mayor Sciarra to approve an out of state field trip to Brownstone Adventure Sports Park in Portland CT for the Junior Class June 1, 2022 (rain date June 13, 2022)

**APPROVED 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson to approve payment of an FY21 invoice to Popular Subscription Services for \$290.80 from SOS funds

**APPROVED 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Dr. Provost to approve to not participate in school choice for the 2022-2023 school year

DISCUSSION: Dr. Linkenhoker gave a brief explanation for the new trustees for the reason behind this item. School choice costs \$5000 vs \$19,000 for non-resident tuition – cost prohibitive to participate.

**APPROVED 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Mayor Sciarra and seconded by Mr. Aquadro for **Discussion and possible action, to VOTE** Subcommittee appointments of Trustees

DISCUSSION: Dr. Linkenhoker gave a brief explanation in regard to the subcommittees having a lead to run the meetings. Dr. Linkenhoker added he doesn't see the need for a schedule of meetings rather the lead trustee will arrange for a meeting as necessary.

Dr. Provost asked that the chair assign the lead to the committees.

Dr. Linkenhoker added he will work with the chair on this.

**Motion tabled**

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra for **Discussion and possible action, to VOTE** Trustees summer retreat/planning meeting

DISCUSSION: Dr. Linkenhoker briefly spoke in regard to this topic that came out of a meeting

Dr. Spencer-Robinson briefly spoke in regard to the request Thinking this will be a less formal setting, we can learn things about the board, there are three new trustees, learn more about the school, get to know each other, and thoughts around planning the future direction of the school as well as the superintendent evaluation.

Mayor asked is there a date or is this motion to agree with the concept. Mr. Aquadro added he is ok with a morning or afternoon but not a weekend. Dr. Provost asked the Superintendent who would be responsible for organizing the agenda. Dr. Linkenhoker deferred to the board for organizing the agenda. Dr. Spencer-Robinson replied input from all trustees would be helpful.

Mr. Cahillane asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Cahillane - no

Julie Spencer-Robinson -yes

Richard Aquadro -yes

John Provost - yes

Mayor Sciarra -yes

**APPROVED 4-1**

DISCUSSION on dates: The Superintendent recommends July 19<sup>th</sup> as the date for the planning retreat. It is a board meeting day and since the trustees have the meeting in the evening the retreat could take place in the afternoon. It would be good to have guidance from the board for the school's administrative retreat which takes place usually in August.

**FY23 Budget presentation** Dr. Linkenhoker presented the budget based on the TA with Unit D and listed the areas where budget would be reduced in order to close the gap and balance the budget.

Dr. Provost asked about the social media will it be a layoff or through attrition. Dr. Spencer-Robinson added that she has been happy with the social media, a lot of good information is posted.

Dr. Linkenhoker stated he'd been asked to look into longevity of non-represented employees and reviewed the employee groups who currently receive longevity through the city policy and those employee groups who do not and briefly explained this item for discussion, and that amount would follow what Unit D receives.

Discussion: Dr. Spencer-Robinson stated she requested Dr. Linkenhoker to research what the number and briefly explained her reasons for this and asked her fellow trustees to join her in voting longevity for this budget. Dr. Provost doesn't disagree with any of this, but is concerned that it looks like cafeteria staff will get a pay cut. Dr. Linkenhoker replied the amount is the total for all cafeteria staff, not for each. Discussion on the longevity vs vacation buy out (current practice) for the cafeteria staff.

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Provost and seconded by Dr. Spencer-Robinson for **Discussion and possible action, to VOTE** to approve the FY23 Budget

DISCUSSION: Dr. Provost asked what the strategy would be for delaying the animal science teacher. Dr. Linkenhoker briefly explained his thoughts around covering cost – nonresident enrollment forecast, supplies for the starting the program. Mayor asked of the impact of the growth of the shop with the delay of hiring the instructor. Dr. Linkenhoker replied the current instructors would need to write the curriculum and plan for the program expansion in addition to their regular duties.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson thanked Dr. Linkenhoker for showing the numbers.

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Mayor Sciarra for discussion to approve the FY23 Budget with the amendment of including the longevity.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Spencer-Robinson added her thoughts on including the longevity in this budget. Mr. Cahillane added that it doesn't mean it won't happen. Dr. Provost added he agrees with everything Dr. Spencer-Robinson said adding that agriculture is the mission of this school. Dr. Linkenhoker agreed the with Dr. Provost with agriculture being the mission of the school. There was discussion on areas that could be looked at in the budget that could be trimmed in order to accommodate this as well as possibly looking at longevity for in the future. Dr. Provost stated this is essentially two tuitions, can we increase the enrollment? Dr. Spencer-Robinson asked if we could look in January at what revenue there is and see if there is a possibility of covering the longevity. Business Administrator Crystal Fairman replied it is difficult to predict because of the timing of tuition billing, also because of potential loss of tuition due to student withdrawals. There was discussion of a better time to review this, February seeming to be the best time. Mr. Aquadro supports moving forward with animal science, putting longevity on back burner, with Dr. Provost adding based on enrollment.

Dr. Spencer-Robinson motioned to amend the amended motion to approve the FY23 Budget with the amendment of including longevity and move that discussion to the February board meeting with clearer information of what revenue looks like for the school calendar year.

**APPROVED 5-0**

A **MOTION** was made by Dr. Spencer-Robinson and seconded by Dr. Provost to approve the FY23 Budget.

**APPROVED 5-0**

Dr. Linkenhoker requested a special meeting be schedule for April 26, 2022 at 5:00pm at the request of Mayor Sciarra.

Future Business:

May 17, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm

June 21, 2022 Regular Board of Trustees meeting 5:00pm – Library

Upcoming Events:

April 14, 2022 Outstanding Vocational Student Awards and Banquet – 5:30pm Mechanics Hall Worcester

May 4, 2022 Excellence in Teaching Awards Banquet – 5:30pm The Log Cabin

May 31, 2022 Senior Banquet - 6:00pm Garden House at Look Park

June 1, 2022 Senior Awards Night - 6:00pm SVAHS Cafeteria

June 2, 2022 Graduation - 6:00pm John M. Greene Hall at Smith College

Adjourn:

At 6:29pm Dr. Provost **MOTIONED** to adjourn Mr. Aquadro seconded.

**APPROVED 5-0**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Carver, Board Secretary

Jacob O. Furtaw

Mr. Brewer

Criminal Justice Class of 2023

4 April 2022

### Why Criminal Justice Should Get More Funding

Criminal Justice at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School is a great shop choice for young minds wanting to learn how to get into law enforcement, become a paramedic, firefighter and so much more. But that's not all Criminal Justice is about. We are active within the community, we do community service projects, we stand with respect, discipline and integrity. We learn from our curriculum many topics including, hazard identification, forensics, alcohol laws, crisis management, and many other units. There are so many amazing opportunities in this field that this shop prepares us for, such as the ability to go on internships and preparing us for a job within the criminal justice field.

Criminal Justice is the third least funded shop on campus with a \$7,000 budget. Plumbing and Electrical are at top with \$24,000 in their budget. Criminal Justice would benefit from more funding for shop supplies like forensics equipment, PT/DT supplies, and maybe even a virtual reality system called Apex officer. Apex Officer has many scenarios from suicidal subjects, crimes in progress, first aid and a lot more. All scenarios have no predetermined outcome so the officer

determines the outcome. Apex Officer VR has got nothing but praise from officers who have used it. Detective Kevin Connolly from Barnstable Massachusetts Police Department said "The most common response is wow. I felt like I was there." This means it must be effective for officers to train with. The system cost around \$80,000 so we would have to get a grant. Luckily there is a solution.

The solution is to hire a grant writer. In an interview with Mrs. Fairman, our school's business administrator, I was able to get more insight on what our school needs in order to acquire grants. She said that the current grants we can get are Perkins, Idea Special Education, Title 1, Title 2a, and Title 4 grants. But our school lacks the ability to get specialty grants. In this year's proposed budget, Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School wants to hire the grant writer. If this budget and position gets approved, it would not only help CJ, but also help our entire school since all of the shops might be able to acquire such grants. Also, if this proposal is approved, the job listing will be effective on July 1st, 2022. So it'll be effective by next school year. Although I may not benefit from this, the school should still prioritize this for future students to benefit from.

You may think that other shops at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School may need funding as much as us. In that aspect you are right. The ability to acquire specialty grants can benefit every shop on campus.

So looking back on what I have written and learned, the best way for Criminal Justice to be funded is by the grant writing position to acquire the specialty grants which will be extremely beneficial to our school.

**Bibliography:**

Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School Budget for 2021 and 2022

Interview with Mrs. Fairman Key Part Transcript:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rvu8acp8vS7G4-c\\_mYR0An\\_t7XRLsSyAaiAZaNm0t15I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rvu8acp8vS7G4-c_mYR0An_t7XRLsSyAaiAZaNm0t15I/edit?usp=sharing)

Apex Officer Official Website

<https://www.apexofficer.com/>

Barnstable Police department Apex Officer review

[https://www.boston25news.com/news/barnstable-police-using-virtual-reality-train-officers-with-new-simulation-experience/HWT743BEYNCYTEPU4MJBVZNA5U/#continue\\_below](https://www.boston25news.com/news/barnstable-police-using-virtual-reality-train-officers-with-new-simulation-experience/HWT743BEYNCYTEPU4MJBVZNA5U/#continue_below)

<https://www.apexofficer.com/case-studies/barnstable-police-department>

**April 12, 2022**

**Student Representatives Report  
April 2022 Board Meeting**

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

**Jayanna**

**Underclassmen:**

**FFA:**

- FFA and junior chef Pig roast on April 29th
- State FFA Convention

**Athletics:**

- All-Western Massachusetts girls basketball selections were announced and we had 9th grader Makayla tattoo, was second Team pick and 11 grader Kora Kelly earned honorable mention.
- All-Western Massachusetts boys basketball selections were announced. Four tri-county south champions were recognized. Team captain+senior Cole Boisvert and freshman Jack Riley had honorable mention. Senior Chandler Corriea was named second team and Junior Marshall Ingram was named first team.

**Guidance:**

**History, Health Education/PE, Health, Science:**

**Assigned Shops:**

**Graphics-** Later this spring we are getting ready to print and produce "The Runestone" SVAHS's Art and Literary Magazine with a combined efforts from both Ms Burke and Ms Keough who organize and create "The Runestone".

**Cosmetology-** upcoming class trip on May 4th to Ja' Duke Theater, The competition is called Beauty Battles which will be a challenge of skill, and creativity amongst the competitors, supervised by instructors.

There will be three different categories in which the students may enter as many mannequins as they would like. The categories are: FORMAL, FANTASY AND TEXTURE. Cash Prizes will be rewarded for first place; second and third place will receive gift prizes. The Battle will be judged by professional local salon /spa owners and hairstylists. Each judge will have a score sheet and rubric. On the day of the battle there will be three live student demos on stage : Make -up, formal up-do, and a texture demo.

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**Mandy**

**Upperclassmen:**

**Skills:**

**Clubs:**

- The senior prom is being held on May 20, 2022. Tickets went on sale last Monday and they are expecting to sell out this week.
- Junior Chefs/Culinary Arts is holding their Guest Chefs Culinary Dinner today (April 12, 2022).
- Art Club is working towards publishing the Viking Runestone (the Student and Staff Art and Writing Collaboration) in May 2022.
- 2022 yearbooks have been printed and are scheduled for delivery soon. Mr. Mendelsohn will coordinate their distribution in May 2022.

**Special Ed:**

**English, Math, Humanities (Spanish, Library, Arts):**

- At the beginning of April, the libraries 3D display case was updated with art created by Ms. Burkes 9th grade art class.
- Ms. Burke's in-person sculpture class for seniors that was once postponed due to remote academics, has now been added back this trimester.
- Mr. Mendelsohn, our Spanish teacher, prepared several of his students for the test that, if passed, awards students the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy.
- Last Friday, Ms. Skants-Hodgson, our librarian, gave a half day workshop to Criminal Justice students on effective search strategies. Monday, she worked with history teachers to create a "Boom Town" to simulate the Gold Rush, and she is now planning the next staff nonfiction book club meeting.

**Assigned Shops:**

Respectfully submitted,

Jayanna Daniels and Mandy Wright  
Student Representatives

# THE MASSACHUSETTS FFA 2022 BANQUET



We are extremely proud of our state and chapter. Our state has 100% membership with just under 2,500 members. Forty four students, administrators, board of trustee members, teachers, and advisors celebrated many accomplishments on St. Patrick's Day!



The state honored Mr. Joseph Bianca with the Honorary Baystate Degree. He received this award because of his dedication to not just the Smith FFA chapter but also the State FFA Foundation.

## Special Awards

- Excellence in Beef Award- Kaitlyn Hubbard



- Proficiency Equine Placement- Sarah Vanjura



- Star Award- Nellie Hankinson



- Bay State Degrees- Allie Devino, Nellie Hankinson, Suzanne Van Geel



## Leadership Development Events

- Chapter Exhibit - 3rd place
  - Sarah Vanjura and Grace Clendenin



- Agriscience Fair- 1st place
  - Allison Devino and Nellie Hankinson



- FFA Quiz Bowl Division 1 - 1st place team
  - 1st place individual- Hannah Janhunen



- 3rd place individual- Aryanna Medeiros
- Aidyn Nugent
- Ayla Mechachonis



- FFA Quiz Bowl Division 2- 1st place team
  - 1st place individual - Elizabeth Murdock



- 3rd place individual - Suzanne Van Geel
- Keegan Lennon
- Jarod Rousseau



- Demonstration Division 1- 2nd place
  - Kelltin Poswiatoski



- Employment Skills- 3rd place
  - Jayanna Daniels



- Secretary / Treasurer's Book- 1st place
  - Sarah Vanjura
- Team Demonstration Division 2- 1st place
  - Astrid Anderson and Anabeli Mazariegos-Perez



- Team Demonstration Division 3- 1st place
  - Benjamin Fields and Lilith Ripley



### Career Development Events

- Agricultural Mechanics- 3rd place team
  - Lucas Falvo
  - Luke Saunders

- Dane Radwich
- Brady McNamara
- Agricultural Sales
  - 1st place individual - Jaelyn Kluas



- Anthony O'Brien
- Chistopher Alexander
- Joseph Bonanna
- Forestry- 1st place team
  - 1st place individual - Lilith Ripley
  - 2nd place individual- Charles Florek
  - 3rd place individual- Marion Hamel
  - Olivia Jablonski
- Hardscaping- 2nd place tam
  - 3rd place individual- Lilith Ripley
  - Marion Hamel
  - Violet Geoffrion
  - Clark Filepas
- Safe Equipment Operation
  - 2nd place individual - Lilith Ripley
  - 3rd place individual - Lucas Falvo



Other awards

State photographer- Kaityln Hubbard

Courtesy Corp

Jonathan Loiko

Wyatt Evans

Oliver Watters-Kochapski

Other photos!

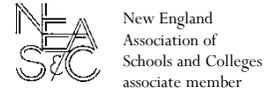






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Mr. Joseph C. Bianca  
Principal



[www.smithtec.org](http://www.smithtec.org)

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April 12, 2022

**Principal's Report  
April 2022 Board Meeting**

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

**Student Representative to the Board:**

Jayanna Daniels  
Mandy Wright

**Enrollment:**

531 students

**Admissions:**

**April 2022** = 274 applications (20% from Northampton)

**April 2021** = 272 applications

**SkillsUSA:**

SVAHS had 80 students from our shop programs participate in the Massachusetts District SkillsUSA Competition. Smith students earned 8 Gold Medals, 11 Silver Medals and 8 Bronze Medals!

**Gold - 8**

Mackenzie Carey Automotive Refinishing Tech  
Brian McCullough Automotive Service Tech  
Yisehak Touchette CNC Milling  
Cheyenne Huff Commercial Baking  
Madeline Lamke Graphic Image Sublimation  
Nicholas Jacob Plumbing  
Dennis Chudzik Power Equipment Tech  
Morgan Seymour Screen Printing

**Silver - 11**

Anthony Dudek Automotive Service Tech  
Trevor Hurd Cabinetmaking  
Ariel Ginsberg CNC Turning  
Kris Safford Cosmetology (Over 500)  
Jordan Dunham CJ

**Elliott Gomes Culinary Arts**

Hunter Menard Diesel Equipment Tech  
Nathan Biddulph Industrial Motor Control  
Race Drobiak Plumbing  
Dane Radwich Power Equipment Tech  
Trisha Paradee Screen Printing

**Bronze - 8**

Kristopher Thibedeau CNC Turning  
Myles Albitz Collision Repair Tech  
Yelayna Murdock Cosmetology - Over 500 Hrs  
Dakodah Maleshefski CJ \*  
Lucas Falvo Diesel Equipment Tech \*  
Pari Richotte-Benson Nurse Assisting  
Oliver Weeks Plumbing  
AdarraH Hunt Screen Printing

*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.*

**Personnel:**

Animal Science – posted due to resignation

Automotive – posted due to retirement

English – posted due to retirement

PE – posted due to instructor transfer to Health Teacher

Hired Electrical Instructor – John Whyte

**Graduation Prep:**

Senior Salutes

Tickets

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bianca  
Principal