

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
Superintendent's Report
Thursday, January 12, 2017

William H. Lupini, Superintendent-Director

North Shore Coalition

I will be meeting with the North Shore Coalition on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 in Salem. The North Shore Coalition is an organization of eighteen (18) cities and towns on the North Shore of metropolitan Boston, facilitated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The Coalition is a voluntary forum where municipal CEOs exchange information and create solutions to common problems, addressing issues unique to our cities and towns and those that would benefit from a regional perspective. Members of this group include Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynn, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Marblehead, Middleton, Nahant, Peabody, Rockport, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Topsfield, and Wenham.

The Coalition members are interested in discussing how the group can work together with our District.

Applications to Essex Technical High School

As of Friday, January 6, 2017, 971 eighth grade students from 58 different communities have applied for admission to the Essex Technical High School class of 2021. The deadline for completed applications is Friday, February 3, 2017.

Freshman Program Selection

Our freshman students have completed their program exploratory and have identified their top eight (8) choices. Assignments will be completed this week and placements will be finalized on Wednesday, January 18, 2017. Our goal is to provide as many students as possible with their first or second program area choices.

I will provide the School Committee with a report on freshman placements at our February meeting.

Relationship with Stockbridge School of Agriculture

We are pleased to announce the creation of a partnership with Stockbridge School of Agriculture that, once finalized, will allow students in our agriculture programs to earn University of Massachusetts Amherst credit for experiences in their Essex Technical High School courses, beginning in 2017-2018. Carissa Karakaedos will be working with Wes Autio from Stockbridge to align curriculum, with the goal of offering one (1) college level course in each of our eight (8) program areas for the coming school year.

In addition, we are also discussing partnering with Stockbridge and the Tree Care Industry Association to offer an Associate Degree Program in our District. We expect to continue these talks during the spring, with the goal of starting this program in 2017-2018.

Program Evaluation Process

Kathleen Holman and Carissa Karakaedos (our Vocational Coordinators) have been working to create a "draft" program evaluation process that can be piloted later this school year. Our goal is to create a set of criteria and a process that will ensure that our vocational, technical, and agricultural programs are preparing students for meaningful careers, that our students receive a quality educational experience, and that we are transparent with our communities and families regarding strengths and areas in need of improvement within each of the programs.

We expect to announce the program areas that will participate in the pilot on or before February 1, 2017. Our goal is full implementation of the program evaluation model in the 2017-2018 school year. We will provide the School Committee with a more comprehensive look at this process in the coming months.