

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
Superintendent's Report
Thursday, May 19, 2016

William H. Lupini, Superintendent-Director

Graduation 2016

Our faculty, administration, and senior class are looking forward to a very busy week from May 31st through June 3rd as graduation approaches.

First, graduation practice and the senior BBQ will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Senior awards night will be held that evening at 6:00 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Many members of the senior class will be recognized with scholarships and other awards for achievement, merit, and service.

The class will then take part in two days of senior trips on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 and Thursday, June 2, 2016. The group will go to High Meadow (Granby, Connecticut) on the 1st and to The Odyssey (Boston) on the 2nd.

The 2016 graduation ceremony will be held on Friday, June 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school stadium (weather permitting).

Our graduation speaker for 2016 is Chris Grant, a farmer, writer, speaker, and professional bingo player from Essex Massachusetts. Chris graduated from Essex Agricultural & Technical High School in 2008 and went on to earn an Associate Degree in Fruit and Vegetables Crops at The Stockbridge School of Agriculture in 2010 and a Bachelor's Degree in Plant, Soil, & Insect Sciences from The University of Massachusetts (Amherst) in 2012.

Chris started "Grant's Plants" in 2006 as his FFA supervised agricultural experience and has since turned it into his full-time career as Grant Family Farm in Essex, which grows vegetables, cut flowers, eggs, and poultry for farmers markets, restaurants, and food cooperatives across the North Shore.

In 2013 Chris released his first book *Fears of a Wantrepreneur*, chronicling his experiences as a young entrepreneur, his fears, and how to overcome all the obstacles that life throws at you with a little sense of humor.

Chris is a member of the Essex County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the Massachusetts Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, the Stockbridge School of Agriculture Board, and serves as Chairman of the Floriculture and Greenhouse Management Advisory Board at Essex Technical High School.

I hope that many of you will be able to join us for graduation as we celebrate the accomplishments of this terrific group of students.

Trowel Trade Competition

Essex Technical High School hosted the annual Massachusetts Trowel Trades Association competition on May 11th at our Masonry and Landscaping facilities. Over 150 students from six (6) schools competed: Greater Lowell Technical High School, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, Whittier Technical High School, Montachusett Technical High School, BayPath Regional Vocational Technical High School, and Essex Technical High School.

The annual event, organized this year by ETHS teachers David Collins, Tim Lavoie, and Tim Graham, was sponsored by local masonry and tile suppliers (including Spaulding Brick, Ideal Block, Genest Concrete Block, W.S. Simpson, M. O'Mahoney, Mortar Net USA LTD., and Medway Block). The sponsors donated over \$11,000 of materials for the event. In addition, Big Top Party Rentals provided a tent for the event and our Culinary Arts program provided lunch for the participants.

Masonry students in grades 10, 11, and 12 competed in brick and block wall building competitions, and grade 12 landscaping students competed in a Hardscaping contest requiring construction of a brick patio and stonewall. These timed competitions provides students from these school districts with a chance to prove their skills on a task requiring precision in measuring, planning, and executing. The projects designed for the event are typical of jobs performed by professional masons and landscapers.

Retired professionals judged the finished walls and patios. Awards were presented to teams of landscapers and individual masons in each grade level. More details can be found on our website.

Essex Sports

Our agreement with Essex Sports Center (LLC) requires that we provide their management with a proposal for usage of the facility for the coming year by July 1st of each year. We are currently developing our proposed facilities plan for ice hockey and other events to share with Brian DeVellis in early June.

We will also provide the Committee with a copy of this proposed plan, as well as the potential financial implications of our anticipated usage.

Outside Projects

My thanks to members of the "Outside Project Working Group," who have provided me with recommendations for creating a mechanism and establishing a process that: (1) ensures that projects are taken on that are grade and skill-level appropriate for our programs; (2) creates protocols to ensure that outside projects maintain maximum time-on-learning; (3) creates an awareness plan of our outside project protocols for member communities and nonprofits; and (4) ensures an appropriate and predictable pricing structure for this type of work.

We will consider the specific recommendations made through this report and provide the Committee with an Outside Project plan for discussion in June.

Members of this group included Kathleen Holman, Ron Vercellone, Dave Collins, John Eaton, Jim Gangi, Tim Graham, Scott Hatch, Andrew King, Steve Noble, and Chris Xerras.

Adult Education

Our FY2017 budget calls for a revised model of how we administer Adult Education in the District. While we are still developing our final proposals, it is clear that we will recommend that these responsibilities be included in the "Community Relations and Partnership" Coordinator position. A revised job description is currently being developed and we hope to post the anticipated position opening in the coming weeks.

In addition, we anticipate creating a small stipend for an individual who will be present during evening Adult Education courses. A complete set of recommendations (which conform to the FY2017 adopted budget) will be discussed with the appropriate Subcommittee(s) in the coming months.

Salary Increases (Proposal) for Individually Contracted Employees

Employees with individual contracts (including administrators) have not received any adjustment to their salaries for the 2015-2016 school year. I will be providing the appropriate Subcommittee (either Finance or Personnel) with recommendations for salary adjustments in early June.

Student Acceptances (Update)

Over 325 accepted 8th grade students participated in placement testing this past weekend. A makeup test is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th. We are continuing to utilize the wait list to fill our incoming freshman class of 360 students as previously accepted students decline admission.

Wakefield Movers

At the direction of and within parameters established by the Finance Subcommittee, we have attempted to settle the issue of claims associated with the move(s) to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical District facilities by Wakefield Movers. Unfortunately, these efforts have not been successful

to date. The administration recommends that the School Committee designate either an existing or temporary subcommittee to consider possible next steps.

Five-Year Equipment Plan (Update)

We are currently finalizing a recommended new and replacement equipment plan that will guide our capital expenditure recommendations for the next five years (and beyond). We expect to discuss the plan with the Finance Subcommittee at their June meeting.

Group Insurance Commission (GIC)

We have completed the open enrollment period for employees to register for health insurance through the GIC. We will provide the Finance Subcommittee with a District profile report (excluding new hires) at their June meeting.

Dental Insurance

Employees are currently involved in the open enrollment process for dental plans to be offered through MetLife. We expect to provide the Finance Subcommittee with a District profile report (excluding new hires) at their June meeting.