

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
562 MAPLE STREET, HATHORNE, MA 01937-0346

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

MARCH 12, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: G.R. Harvey, Essex, Chairman  
M. Sweeney, Marblehead, Vice Chairman  
L. Siewko-Story, Department of Agriculture, Secretary  
D. Blake, Beverly  
W. Marquis, Danvers  
M. Teixeira, Gloucester  
D. Ketcham, Hamilton  
P. Anderson, Lynnfield  
J. Sabella, Manchester  
B. Perkins, Rockport  
T. St. Pierre, Salem  
W. Jackson, Swampscott  
W. Nichols, Wenham

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Patterson, Department of Agriculture  
M. Amato, Boxford  
Middleton  
Nahant  
L. Bonfanti, Peabody  
C. Robinson, Topsfield

OTHERS PRESENT: D. O'Connell, Superintendent-Director  
B. Morgan, Principal  
M. Znamierowski, Business Manager  
C. Worth, District Treasurer  
C. Levesque, Recording Secretary  
B. Griffin-Dunne, Peabody  
A. Liteplo, Middleton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. It was noted that a quorum was present.

2. Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2015 for Approval

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and VOTED to approve the Tentative Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2015 as presented. Abstentions: Dr. Story and Mr. Blake.

3. Student Representatives Report

There was no Student Representatives' Report.

4. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Znamierowski will report under the Finance & Property Sub-Committee.

5. Communications

Communications included in the packet were read and accepted.

Mr. O'Connell addressed the February 26, 2015 Salem News article regarding the Essex Aggie pension. It was reported that the Essex Retirement System (ERS) will seek special legislation and could consider legal action to force the district to be responsible for Essex Aggie retirees. Mr. O'Connell stated that the Public Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) denied the Essex Retirement System appeal months ago

and then the ERS appealed and asked PERAC to reconsider their decision. Mr. O'Connell and legal counsel, Attorney McGlynn, met with the Commissioner of PERAC to give the District's opinion on the retirement liability. The commissioner denied their appeal and advised that the ERS only recourse is legal or legislative action. Mr. O'Connell stated that he was contacted by the reporter who wrote the article but not all of his comments were included in the article.

Mr. Sabella stated that he has a positive relationship with Karen Andreas and suggested that Mr. O'Connell email Karen Andreas.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he has a positive and professional relationship with Karen Andreas and was already planning to reach out to her. He also stated that Ethan Foreman has been our school reporter who we also have a solid professional relationship with.

Mr. O'Connell added that on behalf of the district he reached out to Senator Lovely and Representative Speliotis to make them aware of the District's position in this matter.

Mr. Nichols asked if the district would receive the funds in return. Mrs. Znamierowski answered that the district would incur all of Essex Aggie's unfunded liabilities for retirees.

Ms. Teixeira noted that there is a line item of \$370,640.00 included in the FY16 budget to fund the liabilities for Essex Aggie retirees. Mr. O'Connell reported that this line item needs to be included if legal or legislative decision is that the district is responsible for Essex Aggie retirees.

Mr. Alden, Program Advisory Chairman, reported that he participated in the students portfolios. Mr. Alden was impressed that every student was appropriately dressed and was impressed with what the students have accomplished over 4 years.

Mr. Harvey introduced Mrs. Beverley Griffin Dunne from Peabody who is attending on behalf of Peabody's representative. Also, Mrs. Alexandra Liteplo will represent Middleton on the School Committee and Mr. Brian Ayles, Finance Director for the City of Beverly.

6. Superintendent-Director's Report – Mr. O'Connell  
Negotiations Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that negotiations with the bus drivers continue to move in a positive direction. Negotiations with representatives of AFT and the teachers are moving slowly but consistent.

Mr. O'Connell reported that representatives from GIC and the Health Trust are scheduled to give presentations to all employees regarding health insurance. Health care is a time sensitive issue.

Mr. O'Connell will contact Mr. Charlie Lyons, Superintendent of Shawsheen Tech, as an impartial expert. Mr. Lyons will discuss several areas of health insurance including a comparison of GIC vs. Independent plans, benefits and difficulties of self-indemnification/self funding.

Mr. O'Connell reported that through mediation AFSCME settled the charges that they filed with the Department of Labor. Mr. O'Connell agreed months ago to follow the AFSCME contract for support staff.

Healthcare Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that 69 employees are enrolled with GIC and 107 employees are enrolled in the Health Trust for health insurance. Mr. O'Connell is optimistic that he will have a recommendation for health care for the April meeting.

Mr. Marquis stated that he was not sure the district is large enough for the Health Trust to move toward self insurance. Mr. O'Connell stated that he believed it is because it is a consortium of other technical high schools.

### Sports Complex Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that struggles continue with DCAM, but hopes to have the issues resolved within the next month. In order for the DeVellis group to secure financing for the project they need a Land Lease Agreement.

### Facility & Construction Update

Mr. O'Connell reported that there is some improvement with issues involving the buildings across the street.

### MASC Charting the Course

The school will host MASC's "Charting the Course" on April 11, 2015. This is an orientation program for new and veteran school leaders. If members plan to attend please email Mrs. Levesque and she will register you for the training program.

### Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund

Mr. O'Connell reported that additional language was recently added to M.G.L. Ch. 71 §16C School Transportation that requires a vote of the School Committee to adopt.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously that Section 16c of chapter 71 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition is hereby amended by adding the following sentences – Regional school districts may establish a Regional School Transportation Reimbursement Fund. Reimbursement made by the Commonwealth pursuant to this section may be deposited into the fund and may carry forward for 1 fiscal year.

Mr. O'Connell reported that excess revenue can only be used for transportation expenditures. Surplus goes to the Transportation Reimbursement Fund rather than waiting for E&D to be certified.

## 7. Principal's Report

### Skills/USA District Competition

Mr. Morgan was notified of the students that placed or received medals at the Skills Competition held today at Greater Lowell. Mr. Morgan will have a list of winners at the April school committee meeting

### Scheduling Committee and Survey

Mr. Morgan reported that a Scheduling Committee is well represented by all areas of staff and administration. Some of the areas of curriculum that will be addressed are: College Prep courses; CTE Curriculum i.e. Related and Theory; Redesign grades 9 & 10 seminars.

Mr. O'Connell reported that the 3:3 student schedules were developed to meet the curriculum needs of Essex Aggie, Peabody and North Shore Tech.

Included in the survey schedule options are 5:5, 3:3 and 4:4. The Scheduling Committee will also get input from parents, faculty and student leaders.

Mr. Harvey asked if the academies are independent and could they have their own schedule. Mr. Morgan answered no and that this would have a huge impact to academic staffing.

The survey includes rationale and if rationale is not provided then that survey will not be included in the final product.

Mr. Morgan reported that administrators are looking at course electives and have established a CTE and Academic scheduling team. Members are Mr. Morgan, Principal; Ms. Sullivan, CTE Director, Ms. White, CIA Director; and Mrs. Kroesser, Pupil Personnel Services.

Mr. Jackson asked how the scheduling committee was picked. Mr. Morgan asked faculty if they would be interested and feels the committee is well represented by all four academies.

Principal's Focus Group

Mr. Morgan reported that a focus group was established to address the school's mission statement, core values and the vision for the school.

Mr. Morgan and three members from each academy will look at culture, mission statement, and core value and from these items a School Improvement Plan will be developed. The focus group will start to meet next week.

8. Old Business

There was no old business to report.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

**Finance & Property Sub-Committee.**

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Teixeira to adopt the Preliminary Operating and Maintenance FY16 Budget.

Mr. O'Connell stated that the budget includes a 1.7% reduction to \$25,419,923.00 and asks the committee to support his recommendation to transfer \$800,000 from E&D and \$443, 215.00 from the transportation assessment.

Mr. O'Connell explained that the communities' transportation assessments will come from bus company funds to be allocated to the districts cities/towns transportation assessments.

After discussion a motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded Ms. Teixeira to withdraw their motion to adopt the FY16 budget in the amount of \$25,419,392.00.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. St. Pierre and VOTED unanimously to appropriate \$624,335.00 from certified E&D to reduce the FY16 in-district community assessments and further vote to use \$443,215.00 of those funds to reduce the transportation assessment and \$181,120.00 of those funds to reduce the foundation budget assessment.

Mr. Marquis asked if the assessments would include the reductions. Mr. O'Connell answered yes.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Ms. Teixeira and VOTED unanimously to transfer \$175,665.00 from the unreserved fund balance to reduce FY16 assessments.

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Marquis to approve the FY16 Preliminary Budget in the amount of \$25,419,392.00 by Roll Call vote.

Mr. O'Connell reviewed the FY16 Preliminary Budget and answered questions from members regarding specific line items.

A Roll Call Vote was taken:

YES – Dr. Story, Mr. Blake, Mr. Marquis, Ms. Teixeira, Mr. Ketcham, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Sabella, Mr. Perkins, Mr. St. Pierre, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Nichols, Mrs. Sweeney, Mr. Harvey  
NO – 0

YES – 13           WEIGHTED – 23  
NO – 0            WEIGHTED – 0

Motion Carries Unanimously

There was no meeting or report by the **District Policy Sub-Committee.**

There was no meeting or report by the **Personnel Policy Sub-Committee.**

10. Old Business

Mr. St. Pierre asked for an update on repairing the Fish Barn. Mr. O'Connell stated that construction will start tomorrow.

Mrs. Znamierowski distributed copies of the FY16 Preliminary Assessments and she will email the assessments to cities/towns and school committee members.

Mr. Harvey reported on the iPad options available for school committee members to lease or own an iPad.

- Purchase iPad for \$699.00 (includes 2 year Apple Care) equals \$30.50 per month for a 2 year lease and can be paid online.
- Borrow can take it home with a signed loan agreement but you must provide your own case.

Mr. Harvey stated that school committee members may want to review and update their current biography. Mrs. Levesque will email the members their current biography to review.

Mr. Harvey stated that March 14<sup>th</sup> is Pi Day an unofficial holiday that celebrates the mathematical constant pi ( $\pi$ ). It is celebrated in countries that follow the month/day date format because the digits in 3/14 correspond with the first three digits of  $\pi$ .

11. Warrant

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney and VOTED unanimously to accept the warrant of March 12, 2015 and place it on file for audit.

12. Adjourn

A motion was made by Dr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Blake and VOTED unanimously to adjourn.

Mr. Harvey, Chairman, declared the meeting adjourned.

The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

*All reference documents and reports are filed in the Superintendent-Director's office.*

Meeting Handouts

- Revised FY16 Preliminary Budget
- FY16 Preliminary Assessments