

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

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Teixeira, Gloucester, Chairwoman
T. St. Pierre, Salem, Vice Chair
M. Amato, Boxford, Secretary
W. Marquis, Danvers
J. Sabella, Manchester
A. Liteplo, Middleton
J. Liacos, Peabody (Arrived 7:35 p.m.)
B. Perkins, Rockport
W. Jackson, Swampscott

MEMBERS ABSENT: L. Siewko-Story, Department of Agriculture
M. Patterson, Department of Agriculture
D. Blake, Beverly
G. R. Harvey, Essex
D. Ketcham, Hamilton
E. Johnson, Nahant
W. Nichols, Wenham
Department of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Lupini, Interim Superintendent
B. Morgan, Principal
M. Znamierowski, Business Manager
C. Worth, District Treasurer
C. Levesque, Recording Secretary
J. Skane, Associate Principal (Academy A)
H. Marchant, Student Representative
A. Marquis, Student Representative

1. *Call to Order*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The recording secretary called the roll. The Chairwoman reported that the Committee does not have a quorum and no action will be taken on items that require a vote.

2. *Student Representatives Report*

Ms. Marchant reported that 100 students will compete in the March 10, 2016 Skills/USA District competition.

Skills/USA has a "Cash Calendar" fundraiser and just happens to have brought some with her if Committee members would purchase one.

Ms. Marchant reported that forty-four (44) students and their parents attended North Shore Community College's Early College orientation. They were welcomed by President Gentile, toured the facility and registered for their classes.

Ms. Marquis reported that National FFA Week began on February 22nd and will end on February 26th. The activities include a pizza and karaoke night at Prince Pizzeria, a visit to the Twin Oaks Nursing Home with a variety of small animals, A Taste of Essex County multiple farmers will bring their main products to share with our school, a hypnotist and wrapping up the students will wear their blue and gold and earn spirit points for their class.

Ms. Teixeira stated that Agenda Item 5 would be taken out of order to receive a presentation from Mrs. Jennifer Skane, Associate Principal, Animal and Plan Science, Academy A.

5. *Principal's Report*

Mrs. Skane reported that Academy A consist of five Career and Technical Education (CTE) areas, Veterinary Technology, Equine Science, Companion Animals, Natural Resources Management and Greenhouse Management/Floriculture.

Mrs. Skane reported the placement of this year's freshman for these CTE programs. Veterinary Tech was the second most requested program and there is a wait list for this program. Selection for Natural Resource was a little low this year but there is a 300% increase compared to the 2014-15 school year. There was a challenge with ninth grade placement for the Greenhouse Management/Floriculture program. Mrs. Skane stated that they are working with the instructors and reaching trends that are sustainable and viable programs. Companion Animals and Equine Science continue to attract student placement.

Mrs. Skane introduced Mr. Kevin Bell, Cooperative Coordinator for Academy A.

Mr. Bell reported that Co-op placement of students increased 31% for the above CTE programs. Information regarding criteria and benchmarks for student's eligibility to participate in the Co-op program are available on district's website.

3. *Communications*

No action taken on items as there isn't a quorum.

Dr. Lupini stated that he is scheduled to meet with Mr. Francis DiLuna, newly appointed Department of Agricultural Representative. The Commissioner of Agriculture is committed to reappointing the representatives with expired terms. Dr. Lupini also has reached out to the Town Moderators that do not currently have representation.

4. *Superintendent's Report*

Applications Process for 2016-2017

Dr .Lupini reported over 1,000 students from 58 difference communities have applied for enrollment at Essex Technical high School in the 2016-17 school year.

Municipal Budget Sessions

Dr. Lupini reported that he is holding FY2017 budget review session for municipal officials from the member's communities on Monday, February 22nd and Wednesday, February 24th.

Mr. Marquis stated that he received favorable feedback from Danvers following Dr. Lupini's budget sessions.

Peabody High School Vocational Programs

Dr. Lupini met with Maria, Ferri, Vocational Director with the Peabody Public Schools to discuss the status of vocational programs offered at Peabody High School. Peabody started a Medical Assisting program in the 2015-2016 (which was approved by Dan O'Connell on January 28, 2014).

MSPA Grant

The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agricultural (MSPA) recently awarded our school district a \$10.5k grant to support the installation and co-location of the STEM Solar Lab. Thanks to MSPA for their support and to Maryellen Rancourt for securing these funds.

School Calendar

The Administration plans to present a 2016-2017 school year calendar to the School Committee for approval at the April meeting.

Website

Dr. Lupini thanked Joe Marino and Nancy Dashcund for their work on improving the District website.

Ms. Amato stated she appreciates their efforts and finds that the website contains a wealth of information.

6. *FY2017 Preliminary Budget Review*

Dr. Lupini reported moving forward some administrative roles have been modified or eliminated. The plan is to review administrative functions, overlaps, gaps and look at other vocational schools administrative staff.

Ms. Teixeira asked if this could affect the evaluation process and was told it would be minimal.

Mr. Liacos stated that he compared Peabody High School's current administrative staff and of the 16 administrators 8 also teach or receive a stipend for their administrative functions. He stated that this district has 200-300 less students attending Peabody High.

Dr. Lupini stated that the district will look at roles and responsibilities to ensure we are adequately staffed. Mr. Liacos responded that he hopes this is looked at as it appears top heavy. Dr. Lupini replied that a commitment has been made to restructure.

Mr. Perkins stated while he respects Mr. Liacos' view there is a difference between comprehensive high schools, Special Education and technology requirements.

Ms. Amato stated that Mr. Liacos may want to better align comparison with Level 1 vocational schools and not comprehensive high schools.

Discussion followed as to further reductions to the overall FY2017 budget.

Ms. Amato stated that she attended the Finance Subcommittee meetings and found the process to be collaborative. Mr. Marquis agreed that there were lengthy discussions regarding the development of the proposed budget. Mr. St. Pierre stated that appreciated the process for developing this budget.

Mr. Perkins added that upon further review of the FY2017 budget there could be additional reductions when the Budget is presented at the March School Committee meeting.

Mr. Liacos stated that he did not expect further reductions with this Committee.

7. *Old Business*

There was no Old Business to report.

8. *New Business*

Mr. Sabella thanked Ms. Sullivan, CTE Director and Ms. Cloutman, Culinary Arts as he has been working with them both on various projects.

Mr. Sabella donated an antique, copper pump to the plumbing students at Essex Tech. The pump, crafted in the early 20th century was originally used for diving, providing air to working repairing marine equipment. Mr. Sabella's father, a plumber and team pipe fitter, found it was useful for clearing clogged piping and drains in the mid-20th century.

Mr. Sabella stated that he would support a recommendation for Ms. Cloutman to represent Essex Tech as "Chef for the Day" at Endicott College's Wylie Inn.

Dr. Lupini stated that they are focusing on two areas. First is to place Co-Op students in the district communities and focus on non-profit outside projects for students with different skill levels. This would challenge the competencies the student's learn while giving back to the communities.

9. *Discussion Items That Were Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairperson, in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 180-25*

Ms. Amato stated that she was disappointed with the tone of a recent article in the Salem news, which questioned appointed vs. elected members to a Committee. Ms. Amato stated that she regularly attends subcommittee meetings and is as committed and capable as an elected member. Ms. Amato takes exception to the comments expressed by those interviewed and disappointed as this was a missed opportunity to speak positively regarding the member's commitment to the communities they serve.

10. *Warrant*

There was no action taken on the February 23, 2016 Warrant as there wasn't a quorum.

11. *Adjourn*

Ms. Teixeira, Chairwoman, declared the meeting adjourned.

The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School Committee adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

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