

PLEASE POST - NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AD HOC NAMING OF THE SCHOOL SUBCOMMITTEE

Essex Technical High School
565 Maple Street
Hathorne, Massachusetts 01937
Media Center (Upper Level)

Thursday, February 8, 2018
6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. *Call to Order*
2. *Approval of Meeting Minutes*
The Ad Hoc Naming of the School Subcommittee will consider approval for the meeting minutes of November 15, 2017.
3. *Public Comment**
4. *Discussion of the Name of Essex Technical High School Building with Potential Recommendation(s)*
5. *Communications*
 - a. Email received from Michael Searles, Office of Representative Theodore C. Speliotis (dated January 11, 2018)
 - b. Email received from Victor Paduchak, Deputy Legislative Director, Office of Senator Bruce Tarr (dated January 23, 2018)
6. *Adjourn*

The listing of matters includes those reasonably anticipated by the Chair in accordance with M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 18-25, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

***Public Participation at School Committee Meetings (File: BEDH)**

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representative will be invited to address the Committee.
2. Public Comment shall be for a period of 20 minutes and shall generally follow the opening of the meeting. The Committee reserves the right to rearrange its agenda to accommodate scheduled presenters.
3. Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themselves by name and address and shall speak for no longer than 3 minutes. No citizen may speak more than once without permission of the Chair. All citizens shall speak to the full Committee through the Chair and shall not address individual members or administrators.
4. Individuals may address topics on the agenda, items specified for public comment, or items within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee. The Chair shall rule out of order any individual who fails to honor the guidelines or who addresses a matter inappropriate for public comment.
5. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chair may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
6. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting.
7. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.
8. Written comments longer than 3 minutes may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting for the Committee members' review and consideration at an appropriate time.
9. The Chair shall have discretion to allow public comment during discussion of items appearing on the meeting agenda.

ESSEX NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ad Hoc Naming Of The School Subcommittee

November 15, 2017

6:00pm

Tentative Minutes

Members Present:

Tom St. Pierre, Chair

Gary Hathaway

Melissa Teixeira

Gene Demsey

James O'Brien

Francis DiLuna

Jeff Delaney

Bruce Perkins

Members Absent:

Michelle Amato

Others Present: Students from Essex Tech, Brad Morgan, Principal, Essex Tech staff, Paul Leighton , Salem News.

1. *Call to Order*

The Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting was called to order @ 6:00pm by Mr. St. Pierre Ms Teixeira announced there is a quorum.

2. *Approval of Meeting Minutes*

A motion to approve the October 19 minutes was made by Mr. Strout.

Seconded by: Mr. Hathaway. There was no discussion of the minutes. The motion was passed.

Mr. Perkins abstained

3. *Public Comment*

Amy Andrews: a senior. Does not support the school name without agriculture in it.

All sports teams are commended for their accomplishments, but not the agriculture student's accomplishments. Technical students are given the upper hand over agriculture students. Believes the Agriculture name should be part of the school to preserve the history of the school.

Ms Teixeira: asked that the student speeches be submitted to the superintendent for the record.

Caroline DeGrappo: Senior. One third of students belong to an agriculture program. Technical definition and perception are two different things. Adding Agriculture to the name of the school allows the public to identify who we are. Without the Agriculture program other students would be attending their own high schools or technical schools. Great impact on local and state agriculture. Favors including agriculture in the name of our school.

Kathy Kindler: employed as the registrar at Essex Tech for eleven years. A name change will have a negative effect on the Essex Tech Community. We have been building community under the name of Essex Tech for four years. Transcripts are done for thousands of graduates from four possible schools. Renaming the school would increase this process to a fifth school.

Jonathan Eberhardt: Junior in vet science. There will be a great cost to change the name concerning uniforms, busses....Is this what is best for the students? Could the money be spent on a better learning environment and resources. We can equally represent both the tech and aggy without changing the name.

Jessica Bukhovka: Junior in Design Communications.

Why would we change our name four years later? We are going to spend a lot of money to change the name on letterhead, school, uniforms... Where is this money going to come from?

Citizens will have to pay and this will cause controversy over something that is not broken. We should spend the money on advisory board ideas, recognition, FFA programs and Co-Op Programs. Who gets to vote on this decision? Hopes the name is to remain as Essex Technical High School. We should encourage learning and unity. Don't fix something that isn't broken.

Dylan Jenkins: Junior in Human Resource Management. Essex Tech is defined by team identity and may reject the new name and continue to use Essex Tech. A shop name was changed, but it is still called by the old name. The same reaction will come from students if the name is changed from Essex Tech. Essex Tech is referred to as a "farm School" without the name agriculture in it. What difference will it make to add agriculture to the name? **need report**

Brian Curley: Junior Landscape Interpretive shop. There is a strong will to have the name changed.

It can be a gradual process to defer the costs. We can keep some of the "Essex Tech" qualities and still change the actual name. Agriculture is vital to our community. There were three agriculture schools before our merger now there are just two left. We should use Agriculture. as a title of pride that we are still promoting a unique and diverse field such as agriculture.

Jillian Miles: After three years attending this school there is still clear division between the two schools. Some traditional shops think they are more important than other shops. We need to incorporate both or get rid of both. Bringing back agriculture into our name would bring back the unique history of the aggy. The business of agriculture is being forgotten. Adding agriculture to our name would be a huge statement. Agriculture is what makes our school so unique. Saying there is too much cost is where attrition comes in. Use up what we have and add the new name gradually. Bring back agriculture and make our school unique again. **need report" will email to BL

Svetlana Reed: Junior in vet science. We all come from different districts out of district students come here to join our agriculture shops. Changing the name will divide the students once again. Essex and Tech were gathered from all three schools that were merged. What school will alumni say they were a part of? This will confuse the public and cause controversy. Who decides if we will change the name. Will students appreciate the name change or vote against it? Putting a label on our school will not cause any unification of our shops.

Kernan Lampert: Junior in Electrical. No written report. Have been going to Essex tech for 3 years and would like to graduate from the school he has gone to for three years. Kids usually call us a "farm school" Many people have branded themselves as going to Essex Tech. I love that people know I go to Essex Tech and a name change would cause the identity to fade.

Matthew Cunha: Senior in IT. Class of 2018 vice president. Adding agriculture to our name would be a benefit and best for our representation in our community. Agriculture is such a unique

aspect to have in our school. Kids can learn all of these agricultural related things in our school. Agriculture represents one third of our school and one third of our school does not share the name. When people walk into the school they should be able to read agriculture in the name. There is a lot that goes into this school not just the cliché. We have people herding cattle and doing landscape they deserve to have a share in the name.

Emily Brown: Senior in Staple Horticulture program. No written notes. Spoke to the term "Farm School" and it used in a derogatory way. Introducing agriculture into the name will represent us in a better light.

Mr. St. Pierre thanked the public for their comments and apologized that the school committee is in this position. The name change was not taken lightly.

Ms. Teixeira spoke to the public and appreciated them coming forward to speak. There are only three committee members left of the seventeen that changed the name in 2012. It was never intended to leave agriculture out of the name. The word "Technical" also means technical and agriculture programs. It was a new and modern word that meant both. Explained the intent behind naming the school. Reminded the speakers that their words were very important to the sub committee.

4. Discussion

Review and discussion of requested documents from Mr. DiLuna as a citizen. Dr. Lupini explained how the request for documents was made and the time line.

Ms. Teixeira said the documents help make the decision going forward by looking to the past in past minutes. In 2012 it was felt that students were not involved in the naming process. Pointed out in new business on March 12th subcommittee assignments, Athletic Director's were both collaborating, both Principals Morgan and Versalone met with students. April 26th old business said principals met with class officers and students chose two names.

Mr. O'Brien stated that Hawthorne was not chosen for the name because it was unclear. It wasn't not chosen for the aggy piece.

Ms Teixeira wanted to reiterate that the students were involved back in 2012 when the name was chosen. This conversation is what brought the students of the two schools together. Essex was there for Essex County. Hawthorne came with some disagreement because it is not pronounced properly. Ms. Teixeira did some research into Hawthorne in history and he was involved with the witch trials and did not want the controversy. There is a clear representation that the students were very involved with the naming of the school. It was important to the administration because students are very important to the school.

Mr. DiLuna stated that he does not think all of the requested documents were presented. Asked for communication between superintendent and attorneys prior to the naming of the school. Has not seen the legal advice that was told to the School Committee. Would like to be able to look at the law firm that gave wrong advice. Would like the opinion of the attorneys at the time. The legal opinion that was given in 2017, what was the request?

Ms Teixeira reminded that we are going on history not on the minutes. I have the agendas from 2012. None of the 2012 agendas mention any legal opinion. In 2017 we received an opinion in writing. That did not happen in 2012. She mentioned the names of other attorneys involved. We never received a legal opinion from them. It does not exist and never happened. The superintendent said the legal counsel said it was the School Committee's right to change the name. We assumed

that the name was in the language. It was never an issue like it is now. It was never challenged the way it is being challenged now.

Dr. Lupini reminded our effort was to focus on history and provide documentation on the name of the school. We can find more hours to find more documentation on the name change. What was provided at this point is the context of history.

Mr. DiLuna stated that typically in a meeting there is documentation or handouts. It is important to know what is being said to teachers, students and school committees.

Ms Teixeira reported that back in 2012 we had a name sub committee; and a member of the agriculture department was on the subcommittee. There was never minutes taken at those subcommittee meetings. This is unfortunate.

Discussion between Mr. DiLuna, Ms. Teixeira and Dr. Lupini about subcommittee and deliberation on the name change and what was documented. Gave history of the behavior of the subcommittee during these meetings.

Mr. StPierre stated this was one piece of a lot of things going on, barns, budget, construction. We did not focus a lot of time or attention on the school name. We attended 2-3 meetings per week. The name change never got to the level of detail you are looking for.

Mr. O'Brien feels that hearsay is not valid all we can go on is in the minutes. All we have is the minutes and we have to interpret what we can from the minutes. Cannot rely on people's recollections.

Mr. StPierre asked what end does seeking more documentation and minutes get us to?

Mr. O'Brien reminded that there is a letter from Ted Speliotis three years ago regarding the name change.

Dr. Lupini spoke to why it took so long to address Ted Speliotis' letter.

Ms Teixeira added perspective to the letter sent September 20, 2015. We named the school June 17, 2012, three years go by, four years later after the school is opened, the letter came asking them to change the name. Two years later we are talking about the letter. Time goes by and things don't get addressed. She is not saying the name of the school is correct, but how do we go about changing the name? We have students that want both names. How do we proceed? She does not want it to be "you against us". This is a collective decision not just the school committee. Ted Speliotis threatened the school committee to change the name if they do not. These were not bad intentions. We need to find out if we did anything legally wrong. Does the school committee have the ability to change the name? Went on to talk about tuition paid by members and non-members. There is so much to take into consideration.

Mr. Hathaway reminded the Agriculture Department that the subcommittee voted on the name. There were two members from Agriculture Department on the subcommittee that voted for the name. What changed?

Mr. DiLuna felt the representation was inadequate. Those reps retired and others were reappointed. How did this happen? The statute is very, very clear.. It names the school and the district. It was misrepresented to you by legal counsel to your ability to rename the school. This is why I am looking for the documents. Recognized that Dr. Lupini was not here at the time. The law is clear, if we made a mistake we need to acknowledge our mistake and correct it.

Ms Teixeira questioned the law and who has the authority and there are two different laws that conflict with each other? Discussed the two acts and their interpretation. There is no proof that the law was broken.

Mr. DiLuna read the laws and described what his opinion and interpretation is of the law.

Mr. Hathaway asked why would the school committee have the authority to name the school or the school committee?

Dr. Lupini told what he believed the representative to say, is that: "we don't like the name either, we would be willing to work with you for a name as long as the name reflects agriculture". The meeting minutes reflect this conversation.

Mr. Delaney asked why do we have to spend the money to change or not change the name with legal opinion? We have had counsel come to the same conclusion twice.

Mr. O'Brien reminded that counsel talked about how to use capital letters and if they affect the meaning of the name. There was discussion about upper and lower case letters.

Mr. Delaney thinks the legislation should have spelled out their intent more clearly.

Mr. Hathaway said they wanted to make everyone happy.

Mr. St.Pierre considered that it was to big of task to capture all of the things that legislation could have anticipated.

5. Discussion of the name Where do we go from Here:

Ms. Teixeira talked about Ted Speliotis saying he could pose the question to legislation. In December at the finance meeting we are talking about signs for many of our buildings. Having the signs out there that name our school district. The signs will say the full name of the district school. There will be plans for two signs that say the full name of the district.

Mr. DiLuna suggested going to legislatures allowing them to rename the school and have them add agriculture to the district name. The statute is very clear.

Ms Teixeira does not want the school committee to give up the right to name the school. Accused Frank of dictating the name to the School Committee through legislature.

Mr. DiLuna stated that you cannot get a legal opinion from the legislature.

Dr. Lupini fears going to legislature and people who are opposed would claim it is an unfunded mandate and viewed that way by the auditor. Introduced other documentation that was asked to be provided. We are working on costs to change the name. Thanked Brad Morgan and Carissa Karakaedos. There are a ton of assumptions in here, just trying to get a number to change the name. Roughly, including banners, track, uniforms in the neighborhood of \$350,000, does not include signs, business card/stationary...

Mr. Delaney questioned implementation and cost effectiveness.

Dr. Lupini discussed the feeling of students not having the name of their school on their uniform. Students would prefer not to do this over time.

Mr. St.Pierre requested that a motion be made on “the full name of the district should be on an inexpensive sign potentially built by students, out front on a temporary basis”.

Mr. Hathaway made the motion
Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion

Mr. DiLuna felt this is contrary to what Dr. Lupini said. Why do something temporary?

Mr. St.Pierre state the name of the district is the name of the district and the full name of the district should be on the property.

Mr. DiLuna does not agree with temporary signs

Ms. Teixeira reminded that a sign was in the original building budget because we had hoped students would build it. The finance committee has already had this discussion and looking into the budget to find funds for the sign. The motion was made to recommend it to the full committee. The sign issue is not a new topic and has already been discussed at finance.

Mr. DiLuna and Mr. O'Brien opposed the motion.

This is a recommendation to go the full school committee.

Next meeting date and requests for things prior to the meeting.

Mr. St.Pierre feels that the same conversation will be had at the next meeting.

Mr. DiLuna suggested that the next meeting can involve the discussion of the language of the request of the legal opinion.

Next meeting is January 9, 2018 at 6pm. The meeting date was agreed on.

Ms. Teixeira made the motion that: the School Committee reach out to Representative, Ted Speliotis, to follow through with his offer to pose the general question to legislature of “ Does the school committee have the right to change the name?”

Mr. St. Pierre seconded the motion

Mr. DiLuna opposed the motion and Mr. O'Brien abstained.

The motion passed

5. *Adjourn*

Mr. St.Pierre made the motion to adjourn at 7:41 pm
Mr. Perkins seconded the motion.
All in favor

**All documents on file in Superintendent/Director's office.

Respectfully submitted by: The Recording Secretary



Candace Levesque <clevesque@essextech.net>

Fwd: School Name Inquiry

1 message

Bill Lupini <blupini@essextech.net>
To: Candace Levesque <clevesque@essextech.net>

Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 4:00 PM

William H. Lupini, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
562 Maple Street
Hathorne, Massachusetts 01937
(978) 304-4700 (x7102)
blupini@essextech.net

Please check out our district website at <http://www.essextech.net/district/>.

Follow me on Twitter at [@lupinibill_supt](https://twitter.com/lupinibill_supt).

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Searles, Michael (HOU)** <Michael.Searles@mahouse.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 11, 2018 at 2:53 PM
Subject: School Name Inquiry
To: "blupini@essextech.net" <blupini@essextech.net>

Good afternoon Dr. Lupini,

Per your conversation with Representative Speliotis, please see the findings from House Counsel below.

Feel free to contact me directly with any questions.

-Mike

Mike Searles

Office of Representative Theodore C. Speliotis

Committee on Bills in the Third Reading

State House Room 20

(p) 617-722-2410

michael.searles@state.ma.us

From: ----- (HOU)
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 2:02 PM

To: Searles, Michael (HOU)
Cc: Speliotis, Theodore - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: RE: RE: E.N.S.A.T.S. Inquiry

Hi Mr. Chairman,

It was nice to see you the other day.

At our meeting, you asked whether the law requires that Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District include the word agricultural in the name of its high school?

The short answer is yes. The Essex North Shore agricultural and technical school is a singular school entity consistently designated and named as such by the General Court in multiple specific special laws. See: § 1 of C. 130 of the Acts of 2010; Item 1102-2008 of § 2C of C. 304 of the Acts of 2008; and §§ 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14 and 17 of C. 463 of the Acts of 2004. These specific special laws designating the name of the school supersede any authority of the school district to name, or change the name, of the school including section 16 of chapter 71 of the General Laws. *Boston Teachers Union, Local 66, Am. Fed'n of Teachers (AFL-CIO) v. Sch. Comm. of Boston*, 370 Mass. 455, 472 (1976) (“[A]bsent a contrary legislative intent, the provisions of a special act relating to a subject normally will prevail over conflicting provisions of a subsequently enacted general law.”).

The name of the district and the name of the school are the same in the statute creating them: C.463 of 2004. Respectively they are called the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District and the Essex North Shore agricultural and technical school. So an argument that the district can rename the school by eliminating reference to the work agricultural while maintaining the name of the district is misplaced.

As you know, the school district is the result of a merger between the Essex agricultural and technical high school and the North Shore Regional Vocational School District. See §§ 6 and 14 of C. 463, The Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District is the successor agency (§14) and the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School is the result of this statutory merger and financing of state bond funds. See Item 1102-2008 of § 2C of C. 304 of the Acts of 2008. The result being the completion of this merger and the new unified high school building with this name set forth in the Massachusetts School Building Authority's scope of work in 2009: http://www.massschoolbuildings.org/sites/default/files/edit-contentfiles/About_Us/Board_Meetings/2009_Board/6_3_09/Essex-Aggie_6_3_09.pdf.

The General Court's intent to include the word “agricultural” in the name of the school has not varied. The consolidated school's founding statute in 2004, in §§ 4 and 5 of C. 463 specifically designates the new school as the Essex North Shore agricultural and technical school. It's the successor to the Essex agricultural and technical institute (designated as such in § 1 of C. 419 of the Acts of 1962). Prior to 1962 the General Court named this school the Essex County Agricultural School (C. 176 of the Acts of 1917).

Regardless of capitalization, the school's statutory name has, for more than 100 years, consistently included the word “agricultural”.

Bottom line, the District does not have the legal authority to unilaterally change the name of the School or the District with the approval of the General Court. Put another way, the General Court would have to enact legislation either changing the name of the School/District or authorizing the District to do so.

Happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thanks,

jk



Candace Levesque <clevesque@essextech.net>

Fwd: Call List - ENSATHS Chair Melissa Teixeira - School Name Inquiry- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School

1 message

Bill Lupini <blupini@essextech.net>
To: Candace Levesque <clevesque@essextech.net>

Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 4:00 PM

William H. Lupini, Ed.D.
Superintendent-Director
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
562 Maple Street
Hathorne, Massachusetts 01937
(978) 304-4700 (x7102)
blupini@essextech.net

Please check out our district website at <http://www.essextech.net/district/>.

Follow me on Twitter at @lupinibill_supt.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Melissa Teixeira** <mjtex@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 1:06 PM
Subject: Fwd: Call List - ENSATHS Chair Melissa Teixeira - School Name Inquiry- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School
To: blupini@essextech.net

FYI. These correspondence are to be part of the packet for our sub-committee meeting on February 8.

Melissa
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Paduchak, Victor (SEN)" <Victor.Paduchak@masenate.gov>
Date: January 23, 2018 at 10:47:01 AM EST
To: "mjtex@comcast.net" <mjtex@comcast.net>
Subject: FW: Call List - ENSATHS Chair Melissa Teixeira - School Name Inquiry- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School

Miss Teixeira,

Thank you for reaching out to us. The Senator asked me to contact you on his behalf with regard to your request for more information on the legal opinion below. This is the opinion of House Counsel, the body designated with advising the Massachusetts House on legal matters under their consideration. Usually when House Counsel issues a statement on a matter, the legislature takes it as an official authority. As it

currently stands, House Counsel has stated that in order to change the name, it has to be done through the legislature by amending the sections of the chapter that establishes the school.

In short, the ball is in the school committee's court. They need to decide whether they want to change the name, and to what, and then start that process with the legislature, or if they want to keep it as it is officially known.

Thank you again for reaching out to us, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions.

Best,

Victor Paduchak

Deputy Legislative Director

Office of Sen. Bruce Tarr

Senate Minority Leader

617-722-1600

From: Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 9:31 AM
To: Giangregorio, Rita (SEN); Paglia, Attilio (SEN)
Cc: Shah, Hiram (SEN); Paduchak, Victor (SEN)
Subject: Call List - ENSATHS Chair Melissa Teixeira - School Name Inquiry- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School

From: Melissa Teixeira [mailto:mjtex@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 3:20 PM
To: Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN); Giangregorio, Rita (SEN)
Cc: Melissa
Subject: School Name Inquiry- Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School

Hi Rita,

Could you please ask Senator Tarr to contact me via telephone regarding the email below. I have a few questions to ask him regarding process of an opinion.

The North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School Committee named our building Essex Tech a few years back prior to opening the new school. The Agricultural representatives on our school board are challenging the School Committee's authority to name the School building. We have a sub-committee working group to determine any potential action and recommendations for a change. Representative Speliotis is playing an active roll to persuade the Committee to eliminate the name Essex Tech. The opinion below was provided by Representative Speliotis.

The Sub-Committee meets again on February 8. I would like to address the legal opinion with the group and answer questions on what this opinion means, is it the opinion of the legislature as a whole or individual working within the legal department.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Melissa Teixeira

Chairwoman,

ENSATHS

(508)284-5555

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Searles, Michael (HOU)** <Michael.Searles@mahouse.gov>

Date: Thu, Jan 11, 2018 at 2:53 PM

Subject: School Name Inquiry

To: "blupini@essextech.net" <blupini@essextech.net>

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-Mike

Mike Searles

Office of Representative Theodore C. Speliotis

Committee on Bills in the Third Reading

State House Room 20

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michael.searles@state.ma.us

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The General Court's intent to include the word "agricultural" in the name of the school has not varied. The consolidated school's founding statute in 2004, in §§ 4 and 5 of C. 463 specifically designates the new school as the Essex North Shore agricultural and technical school. It's the successor to the Essex agricultural and technical institute (designated as such in § 1 of C. 419 of the Acts of 1962). Prior to 1962 the General Court named this school the Essex County Agricultural School (C. 176 of the Acts of 1917).

Regardless of capitalization, the school's statutory name has, for more than 100 years, consistently included the word "agricultural".

Bottom line, the District does not have the legal authority to unilaterally change the name of the School or the District with the approval of the General Court. Put another way, the General Court would have to enact legislation either changing the name of the School/District or authorizing the District to do so.

Happy to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thanks,

jk

When writing or responding, please remember that the Secretary of State's Office has determined that email is a public record