

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District
District Policy Subcommittee

Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School
565 Maple Street
Hathorne, Massachusetts 01937
Maple Street Bistro Conference Room (Main Level)

Thursday, December 13, 2018

5:30 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Attendance: A. Liteplo, M. Strout, G. Demsey, E. Armstrong, E. Johnson,

Also in attendance: G. Hathaway, J. O'Brien, H. Riccio, S. Donnelly, S. Goldstein, M. Gwilliam

1. Call to Order

Ms. Liteplo called the meeting to order at: 5:30pm

2. Review and Possible Recommendation of the Following Policies

a. Admission Policy (File: JF)

Ms. Liteplo introduced the following policies and led the group in discussion. She began with the admissions policy.

Ms. Goldstein from Guidance reviewed the admissions policy with the group (which is part of this packet). There are currently no policy changes to share with the group. She reviewed attendance and policies on admission.

Mr. Demsey: Asked if there are inequities based on trimester compared to semester or quarters.

Mr. Strout: asked what is good or not good in the admissions policy.

Ms. Goldstein: said the only issue is attendance. The changes are still waiting for approval from DESE therefore the current attendance policies that were previously approved by DESE are still in effect.

Ms. Johnson: asked how many homeschool applicants there are that would affect the attendance policy.

Ms. Goldstein: reviewed how the homeschooled student application is used.

Mr. Hathaway: reviewed a past practice of the admission policy. He provided retrospect of a past request that the policy be changed. He proposed the committee come up with a way to give leeway to the admissions policy for students with different aptitudes other than academics.

Dr. Riccio: addressed Mr. Hathaway's concern and the steps ENSATS has taken in regard to this issue. She reviewed why vocational schools use a blind admission process and why the formula works for students of all intellect. She reviewed the steps being taken in order to offer more vocational programs to sending communities that are in need. They have also been doing research to be sure students are choosing the proper vocation to meet their needs. Sometimes the wrong vocation is chosen. This is why informed decisions about vocation choice is important. The interview process is worth forty percent of the scoring rubric. Questions such as "Why do you want to attend a vocational school?" or "What is your chosen

vocational program?” Then guidance will help guide their career paths based on their admissions interview. She reviewed some students who are being accepted late based on the waiting list.

Mr. O’Brien: spoke of a parent who told him about a student who came to ENSATS with low grades and excelled at ENSATS and also went on to college.

The group discussed the shortage of trade persons in the community.

Ms. Liteplo: asked if the demand for trade persons was increasing their starting salaries.

Mr. Strout: stated that trade persons are aging out.

Dr. Riccio: commented on how society dictates that “all” students need to go to college rather than focus on a trade as their career pathway.

The discussion continued around students who could benefit from a vocational education, but cannot get in based on academics.

Dr. Riccio: discussed how many of the trades being offered at ENSATS require a college degree after to work professionally in their chosen trade.

Mr. Strout: spoke about community colleges changing their focus to vocations.

*There was no recommendation on this policy.

b. Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students

Ms. Liteplo: brought up the second policy which is a Transgender policy in draft.

Ms. Goldstein: reviewed the drafted policy (that is part of this packet) which has gone to the ENSATS attorney for review. This policy has been drafted in support of the students and civil rights policies.

Ms. Liteplo: asked about students changing their name legally.

Ms. Goldstein: advised that students after the ninth grade do not legally have to change their name in the state of Massachusetts. She advised how ENSATS supports children who change their name with documentation. They can change their name and gender at will after grade nine.

Ms. Liteplo: recommended that draft be accepted as written.

Mr. Hathaway: seconded the recommendation. The recommendation passed.

c. Educational Stability Programming

Ms. Liteplo: introduced the educational stability programming policy

Ms. Goldstein: reviewed the policy (which is part of this packet). She discussed some of the recent reasons why students may need assistance with transportation, clothing, uniforms depending on homelessness or other extenuating family dynamics. This has been read and approved by the attorney.

Ms. Liteplo: asked about residency requirements under family, community collaboration. She asked what the residency requirements are.

Ms. Goldstein: advised that the stability programming does not require proof of residency. The last community of the student’s permanent residence will be billed.

Mr. Hathaway: asked about a student receiving transitional assistance applying to ENSATS and how their application is processed.

Ms. Johnson: asked if many of the student receiving transitional assistance graduate from ENSATS.

Ms. Goldstein: advised that all students on the transitional assistance list will be receiving benefits from the Hawk Holiday Hope fundraiser.

Ms. Liteplo: asked for a recommendation to accept the Educational Stability programming draft as written.

Mr. Hathaway seconded the motion for recommendation. The motion passed.

3. Review and Possible Recommendation for the School Emergency Operations Plan

Ms. Donnelly reviewed the School Emergency Operations Plan (which is part of this packet). She reviewed the “STARS” website that is available to administrators for emergency operations guidance. She reviewed the changes that were made to the document based on names, addresses, populations....The bullying policy has been added to page 24. The policy has been reviewed by the Danvers police. Once approved it will be given to the appropriate staff. It will also be available electronically. A copy of it will be in every classroom and office at ENSATS.

Mr. Strout: gave his approval.

Dr. Riccio: discussed the emergency box on campus that has everything needed in case of an emergency.

Ms. Johnson: asked about the training of staff in response to emergencies.

Ms. Donnelly: reviewed some of the trainings that have already taken place.

There was discussion among the group on various emergency procedures, alerts, and instructions throughout the building.

Mr. O'Brien: asked about barricading the doors.

Ms. Donnelly: reviewed what the students have been taught if an intruder is on campus.

Ms. Liteplo: made the motion to accept and recommend the policy as written.

Mr. Strout seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. Discussion Items That Were Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairperson (M.G.L., Chapter 30A – Section 18-25)

5. Adjourn

Ms. Liteplo made the motion to adjourn at: 6:20 pm.

Mr. Demsey seconded the motion. All in Favor.

The meeting adjourned at: 6:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by the Recording Secretary

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.