



# ESSEX NORTH SHORE

AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

## **Natural & Environmental Sciences Spring 2021 Program Advisory Meeting 7 April 2021**

### Attendees:

David Duest. MWRA  
Mike Armstrong, MA DMF  
Rob Pelletier, Heritage Environmental Services  
Emma & Andrea Nicosia, student & parent representative  
Ryan O'Donnel, Ipswich River Watershed Association  
Joe Buttner, Salem State University  
Wayne Jalbert, Hancock Associates  
Carole McCauley, Trustees  
James Tringale, Weston & Sampson  
Charles Smith, Essex Heritage  
Lynn Fletcher, Salem State University  
Curtis Dragon, Earth Landscape

### Teachers - Staff:

Laura Gallant  
Paul Crofts  
Anthony Wilbur  
Don Ducharme

## **On Campus Learning Update**

Wilbur: Gives update of enrollment and COOP numbers  
Student Enrollment/Class of 2024  
21 Freshmen  
16 Sophomores  
24 Juniors (ET) / 14 Juniors (NR)  
19 Seniors, 2 on co-op (ET) / 11 Seniors, 5 on co-op (NR)

Jalbert: Gives update from school committee meeting. Expected complete full return by April 28, outdoor tents for lunch and maybe extra classroom space

Crofts: We've seen evidence of gaps in learning from remote work. Also regressions in emotional behavior.



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Wilbur introduces Emma Nicosia, our new student representative.

### **Curriculum Bias/Programmatic Review**

Our curriculum doesn't include many social examples. Curriculum assessment form has also been changed from a 20 page document to a 6-8.

Wilbur walks the PAC through the program assessment explaining why we gave ourselves certain ratings.

Staff credentials: Wilbur and Gallant don't have professional credentials. Wilbur has been trying to get waivers for 10 years. Gallant hasn't attempted yet. Both have Masters degrees in education and feel taking the VTE courses would be redundant with their hard earned degree work. Dr. Riccio is aware of Wilbur's situation.

Butner suggests we archive the program assessment to make sure we have updates and improvement claims for each year.

### **Portfolios**

May 6: Environmental Tech portfolio presentations

May 7: NR portfolio presentations

We need some volunteers to be present for the remote presentations.

→ Wayne Jalbert & Eric Baldwin volunteered to review on May 6

→ Lynn Fletcher & Brad Perron volunteered to review on May 7

\*Other advisors can help with reviews, if available. Please let us know if you are available to review portfolios.

### **Industry outlook**

Jalbert: design and environmental fields are still very robust and recruiting has not been damaged by the pandemic. Biden's new legislation and state legislations have made lots of jobs in the environmental sector.

Butner: Summer jobs announced in Jan. lots of jobs still hiring. Fisheries and marine science jobs/careers are stable.

McCauley: permanent and seasonal work are still hiring, internships have been affected because it is hard to hire remotely.



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Pelletier: The hazmat industry is still hiring but needs to be 18+. There is an increased need for hazmat employees.

### **Recommendations for Program**

Butner: Has there been any movement on high school students being able to take college courses? They could then argue they are in college if there is an internship that wants to take college applicants only.

Crofts: The college course work has been set back by the pandemic

Gallant: Do we still have articulations?

Crofts: Need to be revisited because some of the places we had agreements with don't exist anymore. Pandemic set back the clock on these things too. Articulations are agreements with colleges that prove our coursework aligned with theirs so that students can get college credit for the work they did in high school.

Wilbur: In the fall we lost teachers and space. We tried to hire teachers but candidates didn't meet our needs. We did get a TA to help with field work so that's been good. We did open the hiring pool again and it closed in March. This movement was because of the advisory committee's help in the fall.

Paul: We got some decisions on the shape of the new program. They originally wanted to split the program at Junior and Senior year. We didn't think that would be helpful for teacher work and student work. We would like three staff members plus an aid.

Tony: There will be CTE courses during academic week, and the new hire or one of us will have to do this work. 9th grade: technology and public speaking. 10th: financial literacy and civics. 11th: Applied Environmental Science & Management and 12th: Sustainability & Business. So now there will be related courses, theory courses, and pathway courses.

Vernal pool project: In Rockport, they want the vernal pool certified. Jalbert: would like his scientists involved if we move forward with certification through DEP. Paul will get the information to Jalbert. ET and NR are happy to get involved.

Fletcher: Why can't they just hire Clay Kern back into our program? He's qualified and you like him. Wouldn't it make sense to hire someone new for horticulture instead?.



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Crofts: It might help to have PAC on an interview panel. We can ask if having PAC on panel is an option. We like the idea.

Fletcher: How involved was faculty on the interview panel?

Wilbur: was involved because he wanted to be, but didn't have much say as far as who was interviewed. Gallant was not permitted to be involved.

### **New business:**

Jalbert: Career tree is a new advisory program. School paired with an outside consultant. Three career paths, entry level (non college), technical and professional. Trying to show each is a valid and well paid career path.

Crofts: This came from a CTE conference in Arizona. not clear how this will change how we teach the students.

Frameworks: Crofts: Environmental Science frameworks the whole thing is up for review. Paul was involved in the review process. The goal was to think of frameworks with careers in mind. So languages like civil engineering, renewable energy were added. Waste water, and hazmat largely left alone. Next part of the process is reviewed by non-specialists. Also thinking about the built environment and systems thinking.

Butner: Cat cove is being closed this July, so he will have a harder time providing services and help to the program.