



ESSEX NORTH SHORE

AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

School Council Meeting

January 9, 2020

Attendees: Shannon Donnelly, Jennifer Skane, Lisa Berube, Nancy Santana, Tara Caldwell, Maura Stone, Sunny Marcus, Gabryel Diniz, Erin Nestor

Call to Order 7:56

Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2019

- Ms. Stone motion – Ms. Santana 2nd
- Minutes approved

Admissions Update - Ms. Skane

- ENSATS is slightly down in applications as of this time
 - Last year 1396, now 1295
- Currently there is a 67% increase in applicants from Lynnfield Middle Schools
- We have done some work with the admissions questions regarding possible gender and socioeconomic bias. Another thing they discussed was that the questions would be chosen from a rotating pool of questions, not just the same 5 questions every year.
- The state has recommended to some outside schools that they mirror our policy and we have some meetings set up to help other communities.
- Interviews will start within the next two weeks
- More administrators will participate in the interviews this cycle
- Some student interviews will be taped and then used for calibration by the team moving forward

Budget Update

- Ms. Donnelly handed out the budget timeline
- She mentioned that requests came into directors in Nov., they were reviewed and cut before thanksgiving, and final requests went to business office in December
- Final requests were 13% over last years budget, which is not acceptable
- There were some positions that were added that may be removed once the numbers come in for placement.
- There may be some added academic teacher positions due to enrollment
- Final budget will be presented to Finance Subcommittee in a couple weeks
- Dr. Riccio will present final budget in February with final approval in the spring
- Ms. Santana asked what kind of approval the towns have? Ms. Donnelly said that the School Committee represents each town who each have a vote.
- Ms. Donnelly added that hopefully we can increase incoming revenue from rentals etc.
- Ms. Stone asked if we were intending on adding staff because we will be increasing enrollment? Ms. Donnelly answered that because the class sizes on the lower classes are larger than upper they may need to add staff moving forward



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Cooperative Education Update

- Ms. Berube mentioned that there are 135 participating in paid co-op and 7 in unpaid internships
- There is a higher participation due to economy, motivation and career placement assistant also helps
- Juniors can go out for working as early as January 29 – few dozen ready to go
- Five programs do not have anyone out DVC, Equine, Env. Tech, Sust. Hort., Landscape
- There are more graphic students placed this year – Three now with two possible in the near future
- Nine biotech students that are out as well – low number typically because of age and experience level
- Ms. Stone asked why there were no placements in the programs that had none? Lisa answered that there are a number of reasons, including insurance on the employer side
- Ms. Berube added that there are some possible equine placements in the works
- Ms. Donnelly asked Ms. Berube to come back at the end of the year with an update on Juniors.

Hawk Holiday Hope

- Event took place on December 13
- Collected 1500+ gifts
- Serviced 175 children
- Most gifts were donated by students
- Miss Caldwell mentioned that her class collected cash/checks, then students formed groups and chose items using Amazon Prime, which she felt was a good way to do it
- Mr. Diniz added that instead of Amazon, they had students actually go out and shop for the kid
- Miss Marcus mentioned that she was on co-op but through FFA they got together and purchased necessities for the child by going out shopping as well
- Ms. Donnelly added that faculty also took children which allowed us to take more names from DCF.
- This year they added the drama performance as an option to attend for the day of HHH, which was very well attended. Miss Marcus and Miss Caldwell said that there should be more communication regarding that option.
- Miss Marcus added that some students were sneaking to the Hockey game when they should have been elsewhere. Also students think that it's a free for all and they could come and go as they please. Miss Caldwell added that some of the hockey players' friends thought that it was ok to go even if they were supposed to be somewhere else.
- Ms. Stone added that there was some lag time and that students were meandering in the halls a lot.
- Ms. Donnelly added that logistics will continue to be worked on



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Round Table

- Ms. Skane mentioned that there will be more involvement with Freshmen making their CTE choices.
- Ms. Santana asked how parents find out about Co-Op placements? Ms. Berube answered that there will be a list posted on the website for referral. Most shops have connections in their field, which will also continue. Ms. Berube also mentioned that they try to put it more on the students than the parents. Miss Caldwell added that some parents also have connections that they offer to the teacher etc. Ms. Donnelly added that if there are some lacking connections, they can request some guidance from the career counselor and the co-op counselor as well. Ms. Skane added that the career enhancement class will also plant the seed and encourage more involvement as well. Ms. Berube also mentioned that they added the online career board called CCN. Ms. Stone also mentioned that there should be an additional tab/link to bring families to the co-op page on our website.
- Miss Caldwell said that the career enhancement class is great. She mentioned that the kids that are out on co-op are missing out on it early in the year. Lisa answered that this will probably be the only year that this happens, due to this being a new program. She added that teachers can also request Ms. DiSarcina to help those particular kids with those items.
- Miss Caldwell mentioned that for her shop week, junior week that 2nd lunch is extremely crowded. Mr. Diniz added that there was talk about reopening the D/E Cafeteria. Ms. Donnelly responded that they have hired one of two café workers and food service will be open in all cafeterias shortly.
- Ms. Stone mentioned that students were complaining about the way sandwiches were made. Shannon added that there is a suggestion box in the main cafeteria that students can always add their requests or comments etc. She added that there is now a new group called the Foodies group that will get together to come up with better lunch options.
- Ms. Stone added that that freshmen are stressed out about CTE selection. She said that some students are worried that the more popular programs shouldn't be their 1st choice. Ms. Skane mentioned that this is not a good strategy, as the admissions policy is decided based on their first choice. She added that 96% of students are placed in their 1st choice. So students who try to strategize by putting their 1st choice in their 2nd slot removes them from consideration from that 1st choice. Transferable skills are also recommended. Mr. Diniz added that many schools allow longer time in exploratory. This might give kids more exposure to each program. Ms. Donnelly added that it gets tricky with the number of programs and the amount of time that you have within the schedule. Ms. Skane added that there has been talk of clustering programs for exploratory. Ms. Stone asked for suggestions for her to calm the students? Miss Caldwell answered that she reached out to the teacher and asked for extra help and the teacher allowed her to do that. It increased



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her grade and allowed for placement in that program. Miss Caldwell added that students should always put their first choice first.

- Miss Marcus mentioned that a lot of kids are struggling with portfolio, particularly the academic pieces. Teachers are also not very well informed as to what the requirements are. Ms. Skane answered that there is a subcommittee dealing with that. Miss Marcus then offered that if they flipped career enrichment with theory, it might help. Ms. Stone asked if the portfolio could be digital vs. hard copy? Ms. Donnelly answered that they have talked about it and gone back and forth.
- Mr. Diniz asked to add a class that would apply to “adulthood”. To deal with tax returns etc. Ms. Donnelly answered that they have discussed the option of a financial literacy class. Also, there is the “Credit for Life” Fair which is great. Miss Caldwell agreed that those subjects are very important.

Adjournment

- Ms. Santana motioned to adjourn - Mr. Diniz seconded the motion
- Meeting adjourned 9:16am