



SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL  
100 Cook Street, Billerica, MA 01821  
School Council

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2023

**In Attendance:** Jessica Cook, Principal; John Bagni, Faculty; Kerry O'Brien, Faculty; Tanya Baron, Faculty; Melissa Bates, Parent; Kristen Baker, Parent; Dina Castiglia, Parent; Carole Reardon Parent; Michael Parent, Community Representative; Dale Gardner, Student; Alyssa Costantiello, Student; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary.

**Absent:** None

**Call to Order:**

Ms. Cook called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Ms. Cook asked for a motion to accept the minutes of November 9, 2023. Ms. Reardon motioned to accept the minutes of November 9, 2023. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, motioned carried unanimously. Mr. Driscoll abstained. Mr. Bagni and Ms. Baker were not present for the vote.

**Updates from the Principal:**

Ms. Cook gave an update on the following:

- Dress code - Ms. Cook gave an update on the school committee's vote to replace the first bullet in the dress code.
- 86 seniors received the John and Abigail Scholarship for their MCAS scores.
- Burlington students will come in for a tour on December 15.
- To date there are 230 students on co-op.

Mr. Gardner gave the following student updates:

- Freshman will complete Exploratory 7 this week.
- The Freshman class have been meeting with Guidance to set up their Naviance Accounts.
- Shawsheen Road Show has completed visits to our 5 towns.
- Winter sports have started and are hoping for a good season from our Rams.
- Open House was a good turnout. Next Open House is in January.
- The annual Turkey Bowl took place on 11/15/23, the seniors beat the juniors 24-6.
- Winter clubs are starting, students are encouraged to get involved.
- Skills USA is hosting "Toys for Tots" donations.
- Student Council sold 300 wreaths for their Annual Wreath Fundraiser.
- The Orientation program participated in the Billerica Tree Festival with 2 trees.

- The Orientation Program hosted the Annual Fall Fair raising money for the Jimmy Fund and ALS.
- 65% of the senior class is on co-op earning over \$700,000 YTD.
- Shawsheen Orientation Leaders with help from NHS students have offered a tutoring program for freshman and is showing success.

#### **Old Business:**

Student Attendance Policy. Ms. Cook spoke about Shawsheen's attendance policy and would like to change the unexcused absences section (pages 19-21) in the student handbook. Ms. Cook noted the policy is outdated. The attendance policy focuses on daily attendance and not class attendance. With late arrivals and dismissals, students may miss more than 7 days of instruction in individual classes.

Attendance policies from surrounding regional vocational high schools were distributed for review. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Shawsheen's attendance policy. Ms. Cook will draft something for the school council members to review.

#### **New Business:**

District Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

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#### **Adjournment:**

Ms. Bates motioned to adjourn. Mr. Parent seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.