



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

School Council

Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2021

In Attendance: Jessica Cook, Principal; Lisa Zannelli, Parent; Paula DeLosh 7:42 am., Parent; James Marshall, Community Representative; Catia Melo, Student; John Bagni, Faculty; Kerry O'Brien, Faculty Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary

Absent: Paul Troisi, Community Representative; Danielle Santiago, Parent Representative; Michael Parent, Student

Call to Order – Welcome

Ms. Cook motioned to call the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

Motion made by Jess Cook, seconded by Lisa Zannelli to accept the Minutes of December 10, 2020. With a roll call vote, Ms. Zannelli, Ms. DeLosh, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Bagni, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Cook, and Catia Melo voted yes. Motion carried 7-0.

Old Business:

Ms. Cook spoke about what was discussed at the last meeting including the concern for next year running school under COVID and how to look ahead. Ms. Cook hoped everyone had an opportunity to look over the School Improvement Plan and the student handbook and asked if there were any areas people wanted to focus. Ms. Cook also expressed her gratitude to the School Council for recommending the school to purchase additional radios for the Crisis Team.

There was a discussion about online academics. Catia commented that it's still a struggle and not the most ideal situation.

New Business:

Ms. Cook discussed the COVID-19 Hybrid model and the Asynchronous Wednesday for academics. The break is a relief and the office hour give teachers time to interact with students one on one. Ms. Cook also discussed the failures. Students with quarter 1 failures were given the opportunity to recover any failure less than a grade of 50. Three dozen students took advantage of the grade recovery option and failures were down by 68 for quarter 2. Year to date failures are not terribly off from a regular school year. Two dozen students are at risk of not being eligible for summer school or promotion. We are planning to follow the handbook and continue to provide support. Vocational shops are business as usual. Shop closings have lessened. The in person students have been moved from the gym to classrooms with a support faculty member. Ms. O'Brien commented utilizing aides as a student contact person has been positive. She also mentioned the technology issue with laptops.

There was a brief discussion regarding MCAS. Ms. Cook explained there were no official dates on the DOE website and once administration was informed it would be shared with staff. Laptops for students was also mentioned and Mr. Bagni noted the 1-1 device issue was supported a year ago and thought they were really close after attending meetings etc. There was unanimous support for 1-1 devices at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School.

Ms. Cook spoke about the Tiered Focused Monitoring System (formerly called the CPR). There will be a self-assessment phase and an on-site verification phase where they will come in to observe and interview staff to make sure we are in compliance. Ms. Cook said as we go through the self-assessment it will be shared with the school council.

Ms. Cook noted the Admin Team is working on a targeted professional development multi-year plan for next year and will invite staff to be on committees.

There was discussion regarding student losses during the pandemic and how to work on it. This will be done school wide, inviting staff and their reaction to what has happened during COVID. Ms. Zannelli mentioned the frustration with slow computers and the mental health piece, kids being stuck in isolation with no interaction in school. Ms. O'Brien thanked Ms. Zannelli for validating that issue and spoke about recovering joy about school and a celebration of coming together again. Catia also spoke about not being in school in so long due to her co-op and it will be very hard to come back. Mr. Bagni also noted the seniors have missed out on a lot and would hope to have them come in the last couple of weeks. He also mentioned graduation and hoping for a better experience bringing the kids together. Ms. Cook told everyone the class advisors have a number of ideas for seniors.

Ms. Cook went over the Program of Studies, that will be submitted to the School Committee for approval.

Adjournment:

Ms. Cook motioned to adjourn. Mr. Bagni 2nd the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Zannelli, Ms. DeLosh, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Bagni, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Cook, and Catia Melo voted yes. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:41.