



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

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2024

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; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Brendan Driscoll, Community Representative; Alyssa Costantiello, Student.

Call to Order:

Ms. Cook called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Cook asked for a motion to accept the minutes of December 7, 2023. Mr. Gardner motioned to accept the minutes of December 7, 2023. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, motioned carried unanimously.

Updates from the Principal:

Ms. Cook gave an update on the following:

- Focus on recruitment with close to 500 applicants.
- Project Explore has started for 7th grade students with 13 vocational programs running.
- MCAS ELA extra help is being offered for students who haven't met the English requirement.
- SKILLS USA will be held on March 14.
- PSAT 10 will be given on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. All 10th grade students are eligible to take the PSAT 10 with no charge to students.
- Professional Day for staff was held January 2, 2024. Speakers from the Autism Project came in to help support staff. The afternoon schedule included staff going to vocational shops to experience and build appreciation for vocational shops.

Mr. Gardner gave the following student updates:

- Freshman will complete Exploratory 9 this week.
- Winter sports have started, and we are hoping for a good season from our Rams.
- Open House was a good turnout. Next Open House is in January 17.
- A group of shops worked together to create an exhibit for the Stone Zoo.
- Project Explore has started.
- Shawsheen Skills USA was featured on Channel 5 Eye Opener and recognized as the largest student run organization in the state.

- The senior class is doing well with 68% of the class on co-op.
- Burlington Middle School 8th graders toured the school in December. Burlington Cable Access and Hanscom Base Middle School will tour this month.
- Q2 is closing at the end of this month.

Ms. Reardon asked about Project Explore and how it was advertised. Ms. Cook explained the direct mailing that is sent to all grade 7 students from the sending towns.

There was a brief discussion on ELL students. Sending districts need to help to identify these students who have been accepted to Shawsheen.

Old Business:

Attendance Policy. Ms. Cook distributed a handout of Proposed Changes to SVTHS Attendance Policy January 2024. Ms. Cook asked everyone to take 5 minutes to read through the proposal and open it up for discussion.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the elimination of excused vs unexcused absences. Discussion was around a better policy which is fair and logical with supports for students.

Ms. Cook will discuss these concerns with the Administrative Team and send something out before the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bagni motioned to adjourn. Mr. Parent seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.