



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

Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2022

In Attendance: Jessica Cook, Principal; John Bagni, Faculty; Kerry O'Brien, Faculty; Paul Troisi, Community Representative; Rebecca Chaffee, parent; Debbie Barnes, Parent; Danielle Santiago, Parent; Alexa Strong, Student; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary; Rebecca Chaffee, Parent arrived at 2:37 p.m.

Absent: James Marshall, Community Representative; Michael Parent, Student

Dr. Bradford Jackson, Superintendent-Director was also in attendance

Call to Order:

Ms. Cook motioned to call the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Dr. Jackson explained he was in attendance to present to the members of the School Council an Open Meeting Law complaint that was filed. He has been advised by the school's attorney to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Dr. Jackson distributed a recommendation authorized by the school's attorney to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(2)(1) and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), specifically to discuss an Open Meeting Law Complaint received December 28, 2021, following which we will return to open session.

Motion was made by Alexa Strong to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(2)(1) and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), specifically to discuss an Open Meeting Law Complaint received December 28, 2021, following which we will return to open session.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Bagni.

With a roll call vote, Mr. Bagni, Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Troisi, Ms. Chaffee, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Cook, and Alexa Strong voted yes. All in favor. Motion to go into Executive Session carried 8-0.

Meeting returned to open session at 2:50 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Bagni, 2nd by Mr. Troisi to accept the Minutes of December 1, 2021. With a roll call vote, Mr. Bagni, Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Troisi, Ms. Chaffee, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Cook, Alexa Strong voted yes. All in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

Updates from the Principal:

Ms. Cook said her update was short to maximize time on the rest of the agenda. The only major update is that COVID contact tracing and testing is constant, like all other districts. She praised the nursing staff.

Old Business:

Student discipline – Ms. Cook spoke about her recommendation to hire an Assistant Principal in the coming school year to oversee discipline and to have the office of the Dean of Students to report to instead of directly to the Principal. Ms. Cook explained that her recommendation would now be considered during the budget process for FY23.

Ms. Cook distributed discipline data that had been requested. This data was collected from MA DESE “School and District Profiles” and it included suspension data from the sending towns and Shawsheen. All students were included as well as students with disabilities. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this report. Mr. Bagni felt this report should also compare with vocational school since it is different when students are in vocational shops all day. Ms. Chaffee questioned the disciplined students who received in-school suspension and if all of these were the same infraction.

Ms. O’Brien stated it is positive information and the fact that we have more in-school suspensions as opposed to out of school suspension is a good thing. These students have access to counselors and there is the education component. Students are doing their work. Mr. Troisi noted looking at the numbers, they are in line and the trends are within reason.

More discussion took place regarding phones, harassment, social media and bullying. Ms. Barnes stated suspension has a negative impact on students when applying to colleges.

Mr. Bagni noted teachers are not aware of the consequence when a student is disciplined and often a student returns to class and teachers don’t think there was any consequence or that they may not have been disciplined enough.

There were questions about putting detailed consequences in the student handbook. Ms. Cook is going to reach out to the school’s attorney regarding certain infractions and repetition of offenses.

New Business:

Homework Policy – There was a discussion on homework policy during shop week and breaks. Alexa feels the homework given makes it very stressful and it is hard to balance both shop and academics.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bagni motioned to adjourn. Mr. Troisi 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.