



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

Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2022

In Attendance: Jessica Cook, Principal; John Bagni, Faculty; Deborah Barnes, Parent; Melissa Bates, Parent; James Kenney, Parent; Brendan Driscoll, Community Representative; Alexa Strong, Student; Michael Parent, Student; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Kerry O'Brien, Faculty; Kari Sullivan Davis, Community Representative; Gianna Papa, Student

Call to Order:

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

Open Meeting Laws Guide and Educational Materials:

The open meeting law guide was passed out along with the Certificate of Receipt of Open Meeting Law Materials for all School Council Members to complete and sign.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Driscoll to accept the minutes of October 5, 2022. Ms. Barnes questioned a statement in the minutes, and it was decided to strike the sentence. Motion made by Mr. Driscoll to accept the amended minutes. Mr. Bagni seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Ms. Bates, Mr. Kenney, Ms. Barnes, Alexa Strong, Michael Parent, Mr. Driscoll, Mr. Bagni and Ms. Cook all voted in favor. Motion passes with a unanimous vote.

Approval & Release of School Council Executive Session Minutes:

Minutes from executive session minutes from January 5, 2022, and March 9, 2022, have been approved and the matter was closed. Mr. Bagni made a motion to release the minutes from January 5, 2022, and March 9, 2022. Mr. Kenney seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, Michael Parent, Alexa Strong, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Bates, Ms. Cook, Mr. Kenney and Mr. Bagni all voted in favor. Mr. Driscoll abstained. Motion passes.

Old Business:

Update: Progress on 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan Initiatives.

Ms. Cook reviewed the progress of the current school improvement plan and the DCAP. There are 16 staff groups that will meet on professional days throughout the year. The groups are made up of different disciplines with a mix of academic and vocational teachers. One group is made up of all the counseling staff which is facilitated by the Guidance Director and Support Services Director.

The administrative team met regarding the master schedule and will structure a group to work on this. An update will be available later.

Parent/Teacher conferences will be in person this year. Signups are online to prevent parents waiting in line.

New Business:

Student Recognition: Ms. Cook noted student recognition could go into next year's school improvement plan. There was a discussion focusing on a senior spotlight which would include National Honor Society, feedback on Co-op accomplishments, and credentials. There was also mention of more visibility in the school such as photos of students of the month posted in the hallways.

Substance Use Concerns & Family Outreach:

There was a discussion about the increase in THC Vapes and the safety concern it imposes on the shops with students operating equipment and machinery. The Crisis Team and Ms. Caira are working on having Hope's Trailor set up in the cafeteria along with a resource table available to parents. Discussion on K9 units coming in as a deterrent, vaping devices and the BARP program will be looked at.

There was discussion around following up on the capital budget request for vape alarms and research into which alarms are the better ones, so that they can be installed as soon as possible.

Mental Health, Social Emotional Learning & School Climate:

School climate was discussed, and everyone feels students are behind socially and academically due to being a product of Covid. Ms. Cook would like to put a new school climate survey on next year's School Improvement Plan. There was discussion around how we can teach students to respond to bullying by providing teaching/coping skills.

Ms. Barnes requested that the School Council be made aware of the updates to the School Committee policies that are also in the Student Handbook, so that those may be updated appropriately and in accordance with the MASCS/School Committee collaboration

Postsecondary Enrollment Data:

Due to time constraints this item was tabled.

Future Agenda Items:

Ms. Barnes requested to discuss Mr. Caruso's input on the changes he would like to make to the student handbook.

Ms. Barnes requested to have Mr. Caruso attend a future meeting (preferable January) to present his ideas/changes to the student handbook so the school council is on the same page when making updates.

Invite Mr. Albert and Mr. Carlson to attend a meeting in the future to talk about mental health.

Adjournment:

Mr. Bagni made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Kenney 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.