



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Presented by the School Council
May 2020

2020-2021

Shawsheen Valley Technical High School
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Shawsheen Valley Technical High School admits students and makes available to them its advantages, privileges, and course of study without regard to race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other status or condition protected by law.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| John Bagni | Faculty |
| Diane Cedorchuk | Principal's Assistant |
| Jessica Cook | Principal |
| Paula DeLosh | Parent |
| Taryn Gillis | Parent |
| James Marshall | Community Representative |
| Catia Melo | Student |
| Kerry O'Brien | Faculty |
| Alison Pereira | Student |
| Danielle Santiago | Parent |
| Paul Troisi | Community Representative |



At Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, it is our mission to provide a positive learning experience in a safe educational environment that encourages all students to reach their full potential, emphasizes the value of a strong work ethic, and prepares them for adult life in a competitive world.

OBJECTIVES

1. Remote Learning Initiatives, Innovation & Integration of Digital Tools

The Council recognizes that the school will need to do significant preparation over the summer to be ready for changes to the school structure based on COVID-19 precautions and that this will more than likely require students to engage in some level of remote learning during the school year. The Council strongly recommends that the school commit time, resources, and professional development for staff to ensure students, families, and staff are prepared to engage in meaningful remote learning experiences that can be accessed by all students. This should include a continuation of the efforts taken to support innovation & incorporation of digital tools, including the adoption of consistent platforms (e.g. selecting a Learning Management System).

2. Mobile Devices for Staff & Students

The Council recommends the purchase and allocation of additional mobile devices for staff & students to ensure students receive instruction that prepares them for 21st century work environments, supports them to be successful on the online MCAS exams, and will be essential for use in the fall return to school under COVID-19 related restrictions.

3. Social-Emotional Learning & Mental Health Needs

The Council recognizes the important of social-emotional learning and support for students' mental health needs in typical times, and recommends that the school heighten the emphasis on these needs in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact it has had on students, and the ways it will continue to affect students in the 2020-2021 school year. The Council strongly recommends that the school commit time, resources, and professional development for staff to achieve this end.

4. School Safety: Crisis Team, Crisis Manual, Radio System & Resources

The Council endorses the important work the Crisis Team engaged in during the first half of this year to review, revise, and update the district's Crisis Manual and strongly recommends that the school provide the resources required to ensure school safety and the ability to implement crisis procedures when required. Most notably, the Council is concerned about the lack of working radios to ensure all essential staff are able to respond to crisis situations and strongly recommends the purchase of an up-to-date system with an adequate number of devices to allocate to the appropriate staff.

5. ALICE Training

The Council has enthusiastically endorsed the adoption of ALICE procedures at Shawsheen over the past couple of years. The Council urges the school to invest in the resources needed to fully implement these procedures, such as blockade devices for all classrooms and shops.

6. Cell Phone Policy

The Council started, but was unable to finish, a serious discussion about revamping the district's cell phone policy in response to feedback from various stakeholders and relevant research that students are distracted from learning and experiencing increased stressors by constantly being in the presence of their cell phones, and that this can be a hindrance for students when they need to adhere to expectations for cell phone use in the workplace. The Council plans to make the review of this policy a priority for the 2020-2021 school year.

7. Expanding Concurrent Enrollment, Exploring Early College Designation & Increasing Access to the PSAT/SAT

The Council has supported the addition of concurrent enrollment courses over the past couple of years and recommends that the school expand access to concurrent enrollment options in the junior year (in addition to the senior year) and explore the possibility of Early College Designation so that students in grades 9 & 10 will be able to earn college credits based on their Exploratory and early Vocational/Technical course experiences. Since a minimum PSAT/SAT score is required to access concurrent enrollment courses, the Council also recommends expanding access to the PSAT for all students during their sophomore and junior years along with providing intervention programs to support students trying to improve their scores. These efforts will help students in the long-run by reducing the need for remediation courses at the college-level and allowing students to bypass pre-requisite courses upon enrollment in various 2-year and 4-year institutions.

8. Diversion Program

The Council has supported the development and implementation of the diversion program over the last couple of years and recommends the continuation and expansion of this program.

9. Homework & Grading Policies

The Council recognizes the importance of providing students with consistent expectations. The council recommends that the school develop specific parameters for homework & grading policies to inform the development of classroom management plans.