



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

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024

In Attendance: Jessica Cook, Principal; 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: John Bagni, Faculty; Brendan Driscoll, Community Representative; Alyssa Costantiello, Student.

Call to Order:

Ms. Cook called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Cook asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 11, 2024. Mr. Gardner motioned to accept the minutes of January 11, 2024. Ms. Reardon seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, motioned carried unanimously. Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Baron were not in attendance for the vote.

Updates from the Principal:

Ms. Cook gave an update on the following:

- MAVA meeting being held on March 14 so the next School Council Meeting will need to be changed. An email will be sent with proposed dates.
- Grade 12 student, Sarah Johansen has been selected to represent Massachusetts as a 2024 US CTE Presidential Scholar Nominee.
- MCAS Bootcamp will take place over February and April vacations.
- SkillsUSA will be held March 14 for the District Level. State competition will be held in April and National competition will be held in June.
- As of February 1, 2024, the class of 2028 has 495 applications. Interviews are almost done.

Mr. Gardner gave the following student updates:

- Freshman will complete Exploratory 11 this week.
- Winter sports have started. Teams and coaches have been working hard and it has been a good season so far.
- Citizenship Awards were given to selected students from all grades on two different nights.
- Project Explore is in progress.

- The senior class is doing well on CO-OP with 70% of the class working, earning over \$1,155,207 since last April.
- MCAS camps will be held for sophomores to prepare them for the Spring MCAS exams.
- 8th grade students from Hanscom in Bedford visited Shawsheen for a tour.
- Quarter 3 has begun, and we are halfway through the school year.

Ms. Cook distributed the school attendance draft for discussion. Ms. O'Brien brought up 3-7 Dismissals and questioned prom appointments. Discussion was also brought up regarding unexcused tardies and absences and after school participation in extracurricular activities. It was determined to edit the bullet to include unexcused tardies will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities. It was also discussed to include "upon Principals discretion" in the tardy and dismissal bullet.

There was more discussion on attendance and what interventions are in place. Ms. Cook explained there is a weekly attendance meeting where excused and unexcused absences are looked at and interventions are put in place. There is also SST meetings where concerns for students are discussed.

There was more discussion on dismissals and students missing periods 7 and 8. Ms. Bates noted a rotating schedule would work and if the schedule could be adjusted rather than the attendance policy. Ms. Cook explained a new schedule is being worked on.

Ms. O'Brien suggested not to vote on the attendance policy draft.

Ms. Reardon asked if the absence data could be shared.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gardner motioned to adjourn. Ms. Bates seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 3:22pm.