SHAWSHEEN VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee April 23, 2024

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Chair Fiore at 7:01 p.m. with Superintendent-Director McIntosh and the following members present: Ms. Asbedian, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Huberty, Ms. Lawson, Mrs. Meuse and Messrs. Fusco, Hutchins, Moffat, and O'Donnell. Also in attendance were Ms. Jenna Lesko, Business Manager and Ms. Sarah Johansen, Student Representative.

Mr. Fiore began by welcoming the new school committee members: Stacey Huberty from Burlington and Robert Hutchins from Tewksbury.

The meeting then began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Meuse, to open the Public Hearing on School Choice at 7:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McIntosh presented the reasons that Shawsheen Tech should not be a Choice school for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Mr. Fusco, to close the Public Hearing at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL CHOICE 2024-2025

Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Ms. Lawson, to accept Mr. McIntosh's recommendation that Shawsheen Valley Technical High School will not be a receiving district for the 2024/2025 school year for the following reasons:

- Choice would eliminate occupational/technical preferences for District students;
- Enrollment projections for the 2024/2025 school year indicate a full complement of students will be enrolling from the District;
- Maximum payment under school choice is less than the District towns pay to send a student to Shawsheen Tech.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Johansen reported the Traveling Rams trip to Italy was a huge success with dozens of students returning from the trip held over April vacation. The SkillsUSA State competition will be held this weekend at Blackstone. Freshmen are now in their permanent shops and the Drama Club will be presenting "Footloose" on May 2nd and 3rd. The Culture Fair will be held in the cafeteria on

May 4th. There are currently 236 students out on co-op.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Updates

Mr. David Norkiewicz, Director of Vocational Programs, was on the Agenda next, but will give his update when he arrives from his commitment to the Accepted Students Open House.

Ms. Katie McGinness, Librarian, presented a PowerPoint highlighting the initiatives and changes she is making in the library to encourage students to read, and to make reading fun. She is hoping to make the library more welcoming so that students will want to come during their free time.

Consent Agenda Approvals

Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the following payments for legal invoices, as presented:

Howard Greenspan	04/01/2024	$1,815.00
Nuttall, MacAvoy	04/02/2024	648.00

Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to approve the Minutes of March 26, 2024 as written.

Motions carried unanimously.

Business Manager Report

Ms. Lesko shared the Corrective Action Report received from the Child Nutrition Program of the Department of Ed which is done every other year. The report highlights the areas of our school lunch program that may need to be updated. Mr. Moffatt requested that she update the budget spending at the next meeting.

Update

Mr. Norkiewicz, Director of Vocational Programs, arrived at the meeting for his update on freshmen placements. He was pleased to report that only 5 freshman students did not receive one of their top three choices for placement and they are working to see if they can accommodate some of these requests as other students potentially change shops. Mr. Norkiewicz also talked about the benefits of AI for the shops in helping to produce curriculum as well as testing models for students.

Mr. Fiore took a moment to present a letter from the School Committee to Ms. Danica Johnston, Director of Academic Programs, commending her for receiving the Outstanding Leadership Award at the Education 2.0 Conference in Las Vegas in March.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McIntosh began his presentation by updating the group on the enrollment numbers, which showed that one freshman student left bringing that number to 311 freshmen, or 1281 total students. There are currently 236 seniors out on co-op working for 213 different employers. Juniors begin going out on co-op at the start of the fourth quarter and he will update those numbers at the next meeting. The Co-op Coordinator, Brian Smith, has been piloting a new software program that will track student attendance, hours worked and all of the components of the co-op program and is very pleased with the results.

Mr. McIntosh also updated the Committee on staffing changes, hoping to finalize a contract with a Drafting candidate and they are still interviewing Cosmetology and Culinary candidates. The School Nurse position has been posted and we are making progress in filling positions due to retirements.

Ms. Asbedian left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

In the absence of Ms. Asbedian, **Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee**, Mr. McIntosh reported that the Subcommittee met this evening to go through the School Improvement Plan for 2024-2025 as submitted by Ms. Jessica Cook, Principal and the School Council. The Subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the plan and to bring it forward to the full Committee for a vote. Mr. McIntosh also presented a draft of a new master schedule to the group. He reported that after meeting with the School's Scheduling Committee, there are some members of that group that would like to have more time to work on a six-period day so there will be no vote on his proposal this evening.

Old Business

Mr. Fusco and Mrs. Meuse both attended the National School Boards Association (NSBA) Conference held in New Orleans and updated the Committee on some of the sessions that they attended.

New Business

VOTE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Mr. Fusco, to approve June 20, 2024, as the last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW	Motion made by Mrs. Gillis, seconded by Mrs. Meuse, that the District Treasurer is hereby authorized, under the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 16(g), as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of

District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and to issue a note or notes thereof, payable within one year, and to review any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO SPEND	Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, that the Superintendent-Director be given authorization to spend District funds up to the FY2025 approved budget amounts set by the School Committee, and be further authorized to purchase any materials in this fiscal year's budget that have been previously approved by the Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
VOTE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Ms. Lawson, to approve the School Improvement Plan submitted by Ms. Jessica Cook, Principal, and the School Council. Motion carried unanimously.
MASTER SCHEDULE REVISION	The Master Schedule Revision has been tabled until agreement of the scheduling committee on the proposed master schedule.

Future Agenda Items

1. Budget Line Item Update
2. Town Meeting Update

Executive Session

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, which if discussed in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the public body. With a roll call vote, Chairman Fiore, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Huberty, Ms. Lawson, Mrs. Meuse and Messrs. Fusco, Hutchins, Moffatt and O'Donnell voted yes. Motion carried unanimously. The Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. stating they would return to public session for a potential vote on non-union contracts and adjournment.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:53 p.m.

NON-UNION CONTRACTS	Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Meuse, to ratify the FY24 contracts of the Business Manager and the Director of Support Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Meuse, seconded by Mr. Fusco, to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Faiola
Recording Secretary

Gwen Lawson
Secretary