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

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

In Attendance: Jessica Cook, Principal; John Bagni, Faculty; Kerry O'Brien, Faculty; Deborah Barnes, Parent; James Kenney, Parent; Melissa Bates, Parent; Brendan Driscoll, Community Representative; Kari Sullivan Davis, Community Representative; Alyssa Costantiello, Student; Michael Parent, Student; Alexa Strong, Student; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary.

Absent: None

Also in attendance was Superintendent-Director, Mr. Tony MacIntosh and Mr. Kevin Caruso, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs.

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Cook asked for a motion to accept the minutes of January 18, 2023. There was a discussion from Ms. Barnes to amend the minutes to reflect an omission in the November minutes regarding the hiring of students over the summer as a future agenda item. Ms. Cook noted this discussion would reflect in this month's minutes, however because the November minutes have been approved, they could not be amended. Mr. Kenny requested the minutes be amended to reflect he was not present at the time of the vote because he arrived late.

Ms. Cook motioned to accept the minutes of January 18, 2023, as amended. Kerry O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-2 with Mr. Kenny and Ms. Bates abstaining.

Updates from the Principal:

Ms. Cook gave an update of events. PSAT 10 was just administered, and approximately 132 sophomores took the test. There was an MCAS workshop over February vacation that students took advantage of to prepare for the MCAS. The first MCAS test will be administered on March 28 and 29. Students will be competing in SKILS USA on March 16. Freshmen students will receive their permanent shop placement this month.

Ms. Cook also spoke about a guest speaker, Tony Hoffman, scheduled to come in and speak to the students regarding mental health and substance abuse. He will also be speaking to parents and families during the Substance Use Awareness Night on March 13, 2023.

Old Business:

New dates which everyone agreed to for the next School Council Meetings. April 6, 2023 and May 10, 2023.

New Business:

Superintendent-Director, Mr. Tony MacIntosh gave an update on the School Council's role in policy recommendations/changes. Superintendent-Director Mr. Tony MacIntosh talked about Shawsheen being a single school district and the School Council is an advisory group to make recommendations to the Principal. The School Council should be focusing on the following:

1. Adopting education goals
2. Identifying the education needs of students.
3. Reviewing the school budget
4. School improvement plan
5. Student handbook

Superintendent-Director, Mr. Tony MacIntosh also noted school policies are handled through his office. The School Committee meets regularly to assist in adoption of school policies, and they have the final authority to accept school policies.

Update from Assistant Principal:

Mr. Kevin Caruso introduced himself and presented a PowerPoint on his responsibilities. There were some questions on hall monitoring the bathrooms and vape detectors. It was explained hall monitors have been assigned to check the bathrooms and the vape detectors are in the budget for next year. There was some discussion on the student handbook. Ms. Cook explained the attorney is in the process of looking at any changes regarding the 37 ¾ law. Ms. Cook told the group they will not get to see the full version of the student handbook; however, they will receive a list of all changes at the April meeting.

Vote on the 2023-2024 School Improvement Plan:

Ms. Cook went through the School Improvement Plan. It was decided to change 1-4 to read Increase resources and staffing for student mental health/guidance needs.

Ms. O'Brien motioned to accept the amended School Improvement Plan. Ms. Bates seconded the motion. All in favor. Vote passes unanimously.

Future Agenda Items:

Student handbook
Discipline
Student Update

Adjournment:

Mr. Bagni motioned to adjourn. Mr. Driscoll 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58pm.