

SHAWSHEEN VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting

April 27, 2021

M I N U T E S

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Meuse at 7:33 p.m. with Superintendent-Director Jackson and the following members present remotely: Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffat, O'Donnell and Peterson. Also present remotely were Ms. Melanie Hagman, Assistant Superintendent-Director/Business Manager, and Mohammadali Khalifa and Madison Fusco, Shawsheen's Student Representatives.

Chairwoman Meuse read into the record:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, S.18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational/Technical School District Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen or watch the meeting may do so by accessing the meeting link above. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Shawsheen website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Mrs. Meuse welcomed Ms. Cheryl Bartolone, Ms. Christine Kim and Mr. Charles Fiore as the new members of the Shawsheen School Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to open the Public Hearing on School Choice at 7:36 p.m. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffat, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously. After discussing the options under school choice,

SCHOOL CHOICE

Motion made by Ms. Asbedian, seconded by Mr. Peterson, that Shawsheen Valley Technical High School would not be a receiving district for the 2021/2022 school year for the following reasons:

- Choice would eliminate occupational/technical preferences for District students;
- Enrollment projections for the 2021/2022 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.

With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to close the Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to take the meeting out of order and move the re-organization to the next agenda item. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Meuse turned the meeting over to Superintendent Jackson for the re-organization.

REORGANIZATION

After accepting nominations for Chairman, Mrs. Meuse was nominated by Mr. Fusco and seconded by Mrs. Gillis, and Mr. Peterson was nominated by Mr. Moffatt and seconded by Ms. Kim. Candidates were given the opportunity to make statements and answer questions put forth by the Committee.

With a roll call vote, Ms. Asbedian, Mr. Fusco, Mrs. Gillis, Mrs. Meuse and Mr. O'Donnell voted for Mrs. Meuse; and Ms. Bartolone, Mr. Fiore, Ms. Kim, Mr. Moffatt and Mr. Peterson voted for Mr. Peterson. Motion ended in a 5-5 vote.

Motion made by Mrs. Gillis, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to table the matter of the re-organization until the next meeting to be held in May, 2021. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse voted no, and Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried 9-1.

Superintendent Jackson turned the meeting back over to Chairwoman Meuse.

Student Representative Report

Mr. Khalifa began the Student Report by updating the Committee on events that have taken place during the last month, as well as reminding the Committee that students will be returning for in-person learning on May 3. Ms. Fusco talked about the gymnasium dedication in honor of Coach Mark Donovan as well as the upcoming prom and senior-of-the-month awards.

Bills and payroll approved.

LEGAL BILLS

Motion made by Mrs. Gillis, seconded by Mr. Fusco, to approve the following payment for legal invoices, as presented:

Howard Greenspan	04/01/2021	\$2,060.00
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With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Ms. Asbedian, to approve the following payments for legal invoices, as presented:

Nuttall, MacAvoy	01/12/2021	\$602.00
Nuttall, MacAvoy	04/07/2021	\$627.00

With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, to accept the Minutes of March 23, 2021, as written. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Doreen Healy, from Billerica, commented on Shawsheen's admissions policy and whether the policy was being followed as written. She also talked about the Public Participation Policy and expressed her displeasure with this policy. She is also concerned about safety in the parking lot.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jackson continued the discussion of safety in the parking lot by informing the Committee that there will be a crossing guard in the afternoon at the Cook Street entrance when the students return full time on Monday. He is looking at more permanent solutions for the fall. Today, twenty-five young women participated in the Massachusetts Girls in Trades Conference and on Friday, April 30, sixty-one students will be participating in the SkillsUSA State Conference. Shawsheen will be opening to one hundred percent in-person learning on May 3rd. Dr. Jackson reported on the Town Meeting schedules upcoming for the five towns in the District.

Dr. Jackson discussed the Memorandum from the Massachusetts Board of Elementary & Secondary Education discussing Proposed Amendments to 603 CMR 4.03(6)(a), Career/Vocational Technical Education Admissions Regulations requiring a complete and thorough review of our current policy to insure compliance. The memo outlined changes to insure equitable access to students in protected classes. Dr. Jackson also previewed the "Social Emotional Wellness" Information Webpage, which will go live on Wednesday.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Fusco, as Chair of the **Facilities Subcommittee**, reported that the Subcommittee met on April 14 to discuss an email from the Massachusetts School Building Authority inviting districts to submit a letter of interest. The Subcommittee will meet again in June to continue discussions on the future of the building and possibly submitting a letter in the future.

New Business

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Motion made by Mrs. Gillis, seconded by Mr. Fusco, to approve the last day of school on June 14, 2021. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW Motion made by Mrs. Gillis, seconded by Mr. Fusco, 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, 2021, 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. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZATION TO SPEND Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mrs. Gillis, that the Superintendent-Director be given authorization to spend District funds up to the FY2022 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. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously, as amended.

Correspondence

A thank-you card from Ms. Marygrace Ferrari, Mathematics Instructor, for flowers that were sent upon the passing of her mother.

A thank-you card from Mr. Greg Bendel, Instructional Technologist, for flowers that were sent upon the birth of his daughter.

A thank you letter from Dr. Jackson to Ristuccia Arena for allowing Shawsheen and Fox 25 News to film a news segment on sled hockey equipment that was designed by our students for a local elementary student.

A letter from James Gillis, former School Committee Member, with his thoughts about Shawsheen upon his retirement.

Old Business / Future Agenda Items

The Committee and Administration identified the following items and requested that they be placed on a future agenda.

- SRO job description
- Civics Curriculum
- FY20 Financial Audit
- Subcommittee Assignments

Executive Session

Motion made by Mr. Fusco, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation which if discussed in open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the public body and to return to Public Session solely for the purpose of adjournment. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee entered into Executive Session at 9:42 p.m.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 10:25 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Moffatt, to adjourn at 10:26 p.m. With a roll call vote, Chairwoman Meuse, Ms. Asbedian, Ms. Bartolone, Mrs. Gillis, Ms. Kim and Messrs. Fiore, Fusco, Moffatt, O'Donnell and Peterson voted yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Faiola
Recording Secretary

Taryn Gillis
Secretary