

SHAWSHEEN VALLEY REGIONAL VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy Subcommittee Meeting

Minutes

September 13, 2021

Subcommittee Chair Asbedian called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. with the following members present remotely: Ms. Kim and Mr. O'Donnell. Mr. Peterson was absent. Also in attendance was Dr. Bradford Jackson, Superintendent-Director.

Ms. Asbedian 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.

Motion made by Ms. Asbedian, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell to approve the Minutes of the Policy Subcommittee of March 16, 2021. With a roll call vote, Ms. Asbedian voted yes and Ms. Kim and Mr. O'Donnell abstained. Motion carried 1-0-2.

Ms. Asbedian asked Dr. Jackson for an overview of the draft admissions policy documents that were shared with the subcommittee.

Dr. Jackson began by stating that the DESE voted on June 22nd to adopt new regulations for CVTE school admissions. Shawsheen's current policy violates some of these changes and he has convened a group of administrators/stakeholders to update our policy to become compliant with the DESE. The DESE has eliminated the cut-score standard where a student must achieve a certain score in order to be eligible for acceptance. Student discipline records were previously assessed points for minor infractions which has now been eliminated to only include long-term suspensions that are in excess of ten days and those infractions covered by MGL Ch. 71, S.37H, 37H1/2 and 37H3/4 regarding student discipline. Students of color, special needs and ELL were disproportionately excluded from admissions from schools where there is a waiting list, with a half dozen schools being considered significant offenders, Shawsheen was not one of these schools.

Dr. Jackson shared the draft admissions policy with the subcommittee prior to the meeting, allowing time for questions/concerns from the group as he went through the draft. Edits were made to the document after discussion with the subcommittee.

The Subcommittee asked Dr. Jackson to review their request to increase the weight of grades by five points and to decrease the weight of the interview by five points. Dr. Jackson agreed to present the suggestion to the Administrative Team and report back to the Subcommittee at its next meeting.

The subcommittee went through a majority of the draft and will take up the selection process at its next meeting which will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Motion made by Ms. Kim, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell, to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Asbedian
Chair, Policy Subcommittee

Karen Faiola
Recording Secretary