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

Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2022

In Attendance: Jessica Cook, Principal; John Bagni, Faculty; Paul Troisi, Community Representative; Debbie Barnes, Parent; Danielle Santiago, Parent; Alexa Strong, Student; Michael Parent, Student; Diane Cedorchuk, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Rebecca Chaffee, parent; James Marshall, Community Representative; Kerry O'Brien, Faculty

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Troisi, 2nd by Mr. Bagni to accept the Minutes of January 4, 2022. With a roll call vote, Mr. Bagni, Mr. Troisi, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Cook, Alexa Strong and Michael Parent voted yes. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Barnes asked if she could comment on the contents of the minutes. It was decided that the vote would take place today and executive session would be added to the next agenda for Ms. Barnes comment to be added.

Motion made by Mr. Bagni, 2nd by Mr. Troisi to accept the Executive Session Minutes from January 5, 2022. With a roll call vote, Mr. Bagni, Mr. Troisi, Ms. Barnes, Ms. Santiago, Ms. Cook, Alexa Strong and Michael Parent votes yes. All in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Updates from the Principal:

Ms. Cook explained the voluntary at home rapid test program for students and staff. Test and stay will no longer exist. The transmission rate is very low for close contacts. Ms. Cook applauded the nursing staff.

Ms. Cook reported quarter 2 reports were published and 466 students made honor roll and 169 student high honors. She also noted there are 200 seniors on co-op.

Old Business:

Ms. Cook moved to new business which includes student discipline and student mental health & wellness in the School Improvement Plan.

New Business:

Ms. Cook distributed a draft of the 2022-2023 School Improvement Plan. The first item Supporting All Learners: Ms. Cook explained the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) is being revised by a committee and will be completed by the end of the school year. All the bulleted items will be worked on next year.

The Master Schedule/Student Pathways/Course Offerings: Ms. Cook spoke about a new master schedule being needed to ensure all students are provided access to a progression of course offerings that support the postsecondary paths. The current 8 period 40-minute academic schedule is not working and has posed problems. It will be a multiyear process to develop a proposal for a new master schedule that addresses the concerns presented by the current master schedule and that is designed around the diverse needs of Shawsheen students.

Ms. Cook also discussed an addition to the 2022-2023 Program of Students that would identify and explain school specific articulation agreements. This gives students the opportunity to start a little ahead in college.

Ms. Cook opened discussion up to the group for questions. Alexa Strong commented that an honors Anatomy & Physiology course would be helpful for students in health services. Students don't want to drop to CP course levels. Mr. Troisi noted he felt the AP course is 50-75% of collegiate level courses.

There was discussion on co-taught classes. Having 2 licensed educators in the classroom is beneficial. They are teaching to everyone with focused support given to students on an IEP. It is working well and a plan to expand on co-taught classes is expected.

There was discussion about Spanish offerings and revamping the current schedule to allow students to take Spanish.

Student Culture & Student Discipline: The addition of an Assistant Principal was discussed. Ms. Cook explained the position is not only to oversee discipline but also to work with staff. This position would work with other members of the administration to strengthen teachers' skills in proactively managing student behavior.

Homework Policy: Ms. Cook noted she took the homework concerns back to the Directors. It was agreed that homework should be consistent. A review of homework practices and norms will be put into place.

Parent/Family Engagement: Ms. Cook discussed the proposal for parent/teacher night in September as a "Meet & Greet". There was discussion on in-person or remote and most feel in-person parent/teacher nights need to return.

Integration of Digital Tools: Ms. Cook went through the bullets and said support will continue in all areas.

Remote Access to Meetings for School Council Members – Discussion and Vote: There was discussion on meetings and having the option to call in remotely to collaborate and be a part of a meeting no matter where you are. A motion was made by Mr. Troisi to table a vote, 2nd by Mr. Bagni. All in favor. It was decided to add this to the next meeting agenda.

Future Agenda Items:

- Remote Access to Meetings for School Council Members and Vote

Adjournment:

Mr. Bagni motioned to adjourn. Mr. Troisi 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.