



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

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2023

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

Absent: Kari Sullivan Davis, Community Representative; Debbie Barnes, Parent

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 March 8, 2023. Mr. Bagni motioned to accept the minutes of March 8, 2023. Mr. Driscoll seconded the motion. With a roll call vote, all in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Updates from the Principal:

Ms. Cook spoke about the Substance Awareness presentation with Tony Hoffman. He was the best speaker we have had, and students commented that he connected with them. There was also a Substance Awareness Night presentation for parents which featured "Hidden in Plain Sight" as well as a presentation from Tony Hoffman. Ms. Cook thanked the group for their support to help make this happen.

Ms. Cook explained to the group that the school had some hate-based graffiti written in one of the bathrooms and a message went out to all parents regarding this.

Ms. Cook mentioned the Genocide Grant and asked Ms. O'Brien to explain more about the curriculum. Ms. O'Brien explained the grant is to support teaching and learning related to the history of genocide. There will be a weeklong exhibit in the library, Courage to Remember, beginning April 24 through April 28 and on May 8th there will be a speaker to present the Journey in Holocaust.

Ms. Cook also gave an update on accepted students for next school year. The first round of acceptance letters has gone out and the second round will go out after April 15, 2023.

Old Business:

2023-2024 School Improvement Plan. The School Improvement Plan has been submitted to the School Committee for approval at their April meeting.

New Business:

Alexa Strong distributed a handout on Student Achievements 2023. She went through each achievement from SkillsUSA, NHS, and Athletics to Senior Activities. Alexa did feel the Drama club needed more recognition. She felt they do not advertise it enough.

Student Handbook – Ms. Cook asked the group if they wanted to discuss or provide recommendations or pose any changes to the student handbook.

There was a discussion on cell phones. The feedback was cell phone use is inconsistent from shop to shop and teacher to teacher. The group felt cell phones are distracting and is a safety issue. There was also the discussion on co-op complaints about cell phone use. It was determined there needs to be a school wide effort to not allow cell phone use during classroom times.

There was a brief discussion on student passes and the possibility of budgeting next for e-hall passes. Ms. Cook said for the upcoming year they would like to have colored lanyards for different areas of the building. There was also discussion on the number of tardies students are allowed before they receive detention. As a group the School Council will review policies on attendance, tardies and dismissals.

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Ms. Bates motioned for the topic of overall school environment to be added to the agenda for the May School Council meeting. Mr. Kenny seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Future Agenda Items:

Overall school environment

Adjournment:

Alyssa Costantiello motioned to adjourn. Ms. Bates seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.