

ESSEX AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
562 Maple St. Hathorne, Massachusetts 01937-0362

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday January 14, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Smith Hall Conference Room with the following members in attendance: Vice Chairman Bennett, Trustees Winthrop, Basile, Patterson, and Evangelidis.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Attendance:	Mr. Winthrop	-	Present (Arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
	Mr. Basile	-	Present
	Dr. Patterson	-	Present
	Mr. Bennett	-	Present
	Mr. Evangelidis	-	Present
	Mr. Cahill	-	Absent
	Mr. Edwards	-	Absent

II. Approval of Minutes

Regular Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2009: on a motion by Dr. Patterson seconded by Mr. Basile, it was moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2009.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Winthrop	-	Absent
	Mr. Basile	-	Yes
	Dr. Patterson	-	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	-	Yes
	Mr. Evangelidis	-	Abstain
	Mr. Cahill	-	Absent
	Mr. Edwards	-	Absent

Three trustees voting "Yes", three "Absent" and one "Abstain" the motion passes.

Vice Chairman Bennett asked the Board if any member objected to taking the agenda out of order to accommodate students and teachers present to share their FFA experiences with the Board. The following item was taken out of order:

- V. *New Business*
 - a. *FFA National Conference*

III. Financial Reports

a. Business Manager

Expenditure Report

Mr. Malonson presented, reviewed, and answered questions for the Board regarding the report.

b. Treasurer's Report

i. Fund Balance Report

Mr. Murtagh briefly reviewed both reports with the Board.

ii. Draft RFP for Banking Services

Mr. Murtagh presented the RFP for Banking Services and informed the Board it had been sent out to seven banks and will appear in the Central Register.

iii. Certificates of Deposit

Mr. Murtagh presented a plan to invest some reserve funds in short-term (3 months or less) certificates that will yield a higher rate of interest than current investments.

IV. Unfinished Business

Proposed Essex/North Shore Merger

Mr. Bennett updated the Board on the status of the senate bill that will allow for the immediate formation of the new district school committee in order to enable the bonding process for the local share of the project to move forward in a timely manner.

V. New Business

a. FFA National Conference

Ms. Abdella, the FFA Advisor, Ms. Corson, the Horse Judging CDE Advisor, and FFA student members Jessica Segal and Melissa Bowers discussed the success that the Horse Judging CDE Team had competing at the FFA National Conference in Indianapolis. For the first time in Essex Aggie history the team won Silver Medal recognition through persistence, dedication, and teamwork.

b. Principal's Retirement Announcement

Mr. Bourgeois recognized Principal Gene Demsey with regards to his recent retirement announcement and for the many contributions that he has made to Essex Aggie during his 31-year career.

On a motion by Mr. Winthrop, seconded by Mr. Basile, it was moved that the Board express their greatest appreciation to Mr. Demsey for his 31 years of dedicated service to the school.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Winthrop	-	Yes
	Mr. Basile	-	Yes
	Dr. Patterson	-	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	-	Yes
	Mr. Evangelidis	-	Yes
	Mr. Cahill	-	Absent
	Mr. Edwards	-	Absent

Five trustees voting “Yes” and two “Absent” the motion passes.

c. Race To The Top (RTTT) MOU

Mr. Bourgeois distributed a communication from Mr. Pellegrino, the Hathorne Teachers Union President, to the Board indicating the teacher’s union support of the state’s Race To The Top (RTTT) federal grant initiative and MOU. Mr. Bourgeois, Mrs. White and Mr. Pellegrino jointly attended the RTTT Summit in Worcester recently that was hosted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Bourgeois noted that this initiative is focused on the next phase of Education Reform and aligns with many of the student achievement improvement initiatives that have been adopted and embraced by Essex Aggie teachers and administrators. By entering into this MOU, it is hoped that additional resources will be made available to staff with the understanding that there is an option to discontinue involvement if teachers, administrators, and DESE staff cannot reach mutual agreement with regards to the implementation of the grant.

On a motion by Mr. Basile, seconded by Mr. Winthrop, it was moved that the Board support the signing of the RTTT MOU by Chairman Edwards to participate in the RTTT grant initiative.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Winthrop	-	Yes
	Mr. Basile	-	Yes
	Dr. Patterson	-	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	-	Yes
	Mr. Evangelidis	-	No
	Mr. Cahill	-	Absent
	Mr. Edwards	-	Absent

Four trustees voting “Yes” one “No” and two “Absent” the motion passes.

d. Regional Transportation “9C” Cut Restoration

Mr. Bourgeois informed the Board that the Governor has moved to restore his previous \$18 M in “9C” cuts to the state’s regional transportation reimbursement account. He recommended that the Board take no action with regards to the revised budget that is in place and that the budget situation will be closely monitored as the year progresses and recommendations will be developed and proposed to deal with any budget excesses or deficiencies at the appropriate time.

e. Superintendent's Goals

Mr. Bourgeois proposed performance goals and indicators for inclusion in the FY10 evaluation process. After some discussion, he agreed that the indicators needed to be adjusted in order to better specify the measurable outcome. He will rework the indicators and present them to the Board at the regular March meeting.

f. Job Description – Technology Manager

Mr. Bourgeois distributed to the Board a draft updated job description for the Technology Manager position as well as the current job description for their review and consideration.

On a motion by Mr. Winthrop, seconded by Mr. Basile, it was moved that the Board table this item until next month's meeting.

Roll Call Vote:	Mr. Winthrop	-	Yes
	Mr. Basile	-	Yes
	Dr. Patterson	-	Yes
	Mr. Bennett	-	Yes
	Mr. Evangelidis	-	Yes
	Mr. Cahill	-	Absent
	Mr. Edwards	-	Absent

Five trustees voting "Yes" and two "Absent" the motion passes.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: February 11, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Lisa Horgan, Secretary to the Superintendent

List of meeting handouts:

- Agenda
- Minutes from December 10, 2009 Meeting
- Business Manager's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Draft RFP for Banking Services
- Memo from Mr. Bourgeois regarding Principal's Retirement Announcement with copies of the communication from Principal Gene Demsey announcing his intention to retire and the Superintendent's response
- Memo from Mr. Bourgeois regarding the Federal Race To The Top (RTTT) Initiative along with the MOU and accompanying DESE information
- Draft job description for Technology Manager
- Articles from Salem News and Peabody/Lynnfield Weekly News