

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

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday August 14, 2008**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the Smith Hall Conference Room with the following members in attendance: Chairman Edwards, Trustees Winthrop, Bennett, and Cahill.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Mr. Winthrop	-	Present
Mr. Basile	-	Absent
Mr. Bennett	-	Present
Mr. Evangelidis	-	Absent
Mr. Cahill	-	Present
Mr. Edwards	-	Present

III. Approval of Minutes

Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of June 5, 2008: on a motion by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Winthrop, it was moved that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 5, 2008.

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

Four trustees voting "Yes" two Absent, the motion passes.

IV. Financial Report

a. Financial Report for June of FY08

Mr. Murtagh submitted the financial report through the end of June of FY08.

b. Financial Report for July of FY09

Mr. Murtagh submitted the financial report through the end of July of FY09 which is the first report to be compiled using the recently implemented Unifund financial software management system.

c. Internal Audit Report

Mr. Murtagh submitted and discussed with the Board an Internal Audit report that he recently completed. Mr. Bennett complimented Mr. Murtagh on the detail of the audit and commented that he was impressed with the report.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Proposed Essex/North Shore Merger Update

Mr. Bennett reported that it has been a busy and productive summer with regards to the merger project. On July 18, representatives from MSBA and DCAM visited the campus for the purpose of evaluating the cost saving potential of utilizing existing buildings in the design of the merged school project. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in the near future to further explore this option. In August, the Governor signed a Bond Bill that included up to \$60M for the new merged school project. Also, the MSBA Board of Directors voted unanimously to move the project forward to the Feasibility phase. Although there is still much work to be done, the recent actions taken by the Governor and MSBA are very positive steps forward in the process.

b. Student Handbook Changes

Mr. Bourgeois submitted and discussed with the Board additional changes to the Student Handbook regarding updated standards for promotion and graduation as well as the addition of a section entitled Parent Access to Student Information from Home.

On a motion by Mr. Winthrop, seconded by Mr. Cahill, it was moved to accept the Student Handbook changes with regards to the updated standards for promotion and graduation.

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

Four trustees voting "Yes" two Absent, the motion passes.

On a motion by Mr. Winthrop, seconded by Mr. Cahill, it was moved to accept the Student Handbook changes with regards to the addition of a section entitled Parent Access to Student Information from Home and to also add it to the Board of Trustees' Policy Manual as follows:

**Parent Access to Student Information from Home**

*"Throughout the school year starting in the fall of 2008 parents will be able to become directly involved in their child's educational progress by using a Parental Internet Access Module (PIAM) over the Internet. PIAM provides a secure way for parents to monitor their child's progress by accessing a special school web site. Once registered and logged in, parents can view assignments, grades, attendance, discipline and scheduling information and also communicate with teachers and staff members. Access by parents/guardians of students over 18 years old will require the student's written consent.*

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

Four trustees voting "Yes" two Absent, the motion passes.

c. Evaluation of the Superintendent

Chairman Edwards reminded the Board that the evaluation of the Superintendent have a deadline of August 31, 2008. The Board had some discussion regarding the new process.

VI. New Business

a. Estimated FY09 Budget Revenue

Mr. Bourgeois presented the Board with an updated FY09 Budget Summary that included the most recent DOR projected revenue estimates.

b. New School Website

Mr. Ron Vercellone, Director of Community Relations, provided the Board with a presentation on the school's new website that included a demonstration of the Homepage and many of the navigation and menu links.

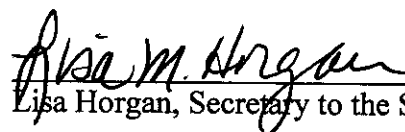
c. Other

Mr. Bennett reminded the Chair to include the Board's Reorganization and the Board's Attorney as agenda items for next month's meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: September 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

  
 Lisa Horgan, Secretary to the Superintendent