



Minutes from **MSAA Vocational Administrators'** meeting through Zoom by Karen Guenette on April 1, 2021, from 10 - 11 a.m.

***In attendance:*** Karen Guenette (Bristol-Plymouth), Kathy Duff (Newton), Chris Laganas (Whittier Tech), Eric Duda (Pathfinder), Tom Browne (Monty Tech), Anthony Steele (BVT), Shannon Snow (Keefe Tech), Billy Terranova (CCT), Ron Driskoll (Norfolk-Aggie), and Jessica Cook (Shawsheen)

The meeting began at 10 a.m. Discussion points included the following:

- Senior awards/scholarship night was discussed regarding the planning, soliciting, organizing, and coordinating the event for seniors. Some schools offer an additional stipend for this position, while others stated this responsibility falls under the Guidance Director and counselors. Another school is a full-time clerical person for ½ of the time is spent on this role all year long. Another school has formed a committee with 2 co-chairs that coordinate the evening with the executive assistant to the Supt. Another school offered that a clerical person is responsible for the organization of the event, but this year, it is being combined with the graduation ceremony to have just one event. Some schools holding all events outside under tents in the event the weather doesn't cooperate. Discussion about running all planned events by the local board of health offices.
- A discussion about CORI and fingerprinting for promoting teen online programs through clubs and school-sponsored events, should go through this process, i.e. anxiety/depression/addiction webinars, presentations, family partnership and YMCA offerings, etc. especially if there is no school advisor present with these outside agencies.
- Discussion about MA State Lottery Commission for Raffle/Bazar Tax Return Form and filing for a Raffle/Bazar permit with local government. Most agreed to stay away from raffles because they are tricky and need a town/city permit, fall under auditing, and have to pay taxes. This include silent auctions, 50/50 raffles at a game, etc. Parents don't always have this information and help to raise funds for student activities. Discuss with business managers for how entries are worded. All agreed to try to stay away from having raffles or using school logos, name, etc.
- Teachers/students who are COVID vaccinated. Are schools asking for this information to keep on file or for tracking purposes in the event of an exposure and don't have to quarantine? A few schools have sent out voluntary surveys to staff. One school had 80% return rate and the survey asked if vaccinated & date, plan to vaccinate & date, unsure if will vaccinate, or do not plan to vaccinate. As of this meeting, this school had 87% of teachers complete their 2<sup>nd</sup> shot and 96% had completed their 1<sup>st</sup> shot, as well as currently having 7 students on quarantine and these teachers do not have to quarantine even if a direct exposure. All agreed that most of us are not there and the greatest increase now is trying to track the staff and students of who has and

hasn't been vaccinated, but this is not a condition of employment so it's tricky to ask for this information. Some schools are just asking individually when teachers are out for this to let the office know for coverage purposes in the event that they are ill from the vaccine and are keeping track of staff in this way. It was noted that vaccines are not a requirement or a condition of employment, only an encouraged, but individual decision.

- Discussion about outsourcing or hiring to support more SEL for students with ESSR money. All agreed that this is short-term funding that isn't sustainable for more than one year for a new hire, but OK to hire consultants on a temporary basis.
- Data analysis software recommendations were discussed. A few schools are using IXL for math that is aligned to the state standards, have optional lessons for individual attention students need; saves time and the work is done for you so departments can just look and analyze the data that is already compiled. No other suggestions were offered, but others were interested in learning. BVT offered the academic coordinator's information (Eddie Evans at [eevans@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:eevans@valleytech.k12.ma.us)) as a good resource for others to reach out to.
- Discussion about the My Access Writing software program or the Lexia Learning reading software programs. Some schools used Collins Writing or Marzano's Writing Strategies implemented with success. Another school offered Study Sync that is working effectively but the cost is \$15/per student and ELA teachers launched this schoolwide. Further discussion about looking at data that is specific to incoming students from their sending districts to identify gaps and looking at why some districts have better results in content areas than others. All agreed that this identification to view high and low areas is helpful in meeting individual or whole group needs where there are deficiencies in learning across groups of students.
- A few schools used the Wilson Reading Program and some have a separate program and an F/T teacher for their students; other schools have a ½ ELA and ½ Reading teacher or an F/T Title I teacher with additional teaching assistants. One school is using Lexia Learning's reading program, but after a DESE audit also has to tweak their school's DCAP for this program.
- Discussion about senior event planning for proms and graduation and what to do for students who are only attending remotely and not in a hybrid or in-person for any of their learning. There were mixed feelings and opinions about this and how to accommodate individual needs. Another school is having senior week outside and researching about off-site places like a large farm to hold these events. Another school has booked the Warren Conference Center and only 2 guest tickets will be given for an outside, in-person graduation, which is the focal point without other celebrations. The graduation rehearsal will only be the day before and all have to look at where there are upticks in COVID around the Commonwealth. Another school is using the Air Force Academy grid that worked for them last year as well with 6 seats per family on their field and still need to figure out parking and whether a prom or not. Another school has purchased large tents, which are harder to purchase or rent, but the past venue still isn't large enough for graduates and guests so a tent is the best that can be done.
- At this meeting, it was noted that the state is up to 3.8% overall in positive COVID cases, which is up from the 1.4% from when the decision was made by DESE to re-open elementary and middle schools.

- Discussion continued about teachers who have been working remotely at home. Some schools will be asking teachers to come back if moving to more in-person learning. One school district has allowed teachers to bring their children to school if they are stuck for daycare or child's school is closed or remote only learning rather than not having teachers show up for kids.
- Discussion about MCAS testing and Superintendents' advocacy to not want to test students this year has been countered by the Commissioner about the federal funding that is tied to the state test. Arguments on both sides, but this is not going away this year or any future years because the state can't afford to not receive this money.
- All agreed that we would meet as needed after receiving more information from DESE in order to plan for the end of this school year.

