



Minutes from MSAA Vocational Administrators' meeting through Zoom by Karen Guenette on Oct. 7, 2020, from 9 – 10 a.m.

In attendance: Kevin Farr & Peter Dewar (MAVA), Rich Kelly (MSAA), Mark Wood (Tantasqua), Karen Guenette (Bristol-Plymouth), Justin Kratz (McCann Tech), Kathy Duff (Newton), Mike Parker (Old Colony), Joe Bianca (Smith Aggie), William Terranova (CCT), Andrew Rebello (Diman), Kevin Braga, (Bristol-Aggie), Tom Browne (Monty Tech), Brian Spadafino (Franklin Tech), Chris Laganas (Whittier), Leslie Weckessler (Southeastern), Anthony Steele (BVT), Alan Gates (Dean), and Eric Duda/Carrie Auffrey (Pathfinder).

Meeting began at 9 a.m., and Mark opened the meeting and welcomed all vocational administrators. Discussion points include the following:

MCAS & CD discussion – MSAA to legislation, looking at optional MCAS tests – address the high school graduation requirements and issues from COVID year with DESE.

Discussion regarding tardy and dismissal times with remote learners – BVT – 5 min. remote timeframe, then tardy; McCann – more liberal, individual problems, focus on learning; OC – ½ class attendance, then present, also offer office hours in AM & PM with 30-minute classes; some schools shortened to 60 min. instead of 80 min. classes; can email-in to say present and working online if assignments are done; various options, but problems being reported to attendance person in schools

Discussion on anti-racism curriculum in schools; Tantasqua offered a ½ hour intro asking for volunteer group for PD offerings; B-P has had 2 PD offerings for all staff, but not sure how and where to roll out for students; Alan offered for the group to take a look at the “Palante” project that has been successful in Holyoke, and he is willing to share his resources for anyone interested in learning more about the program.

Discussion about teacher evaluation system – B-P extended all dates through MOA for 6 weeks, except for final formative/summative evals for staff; Tantasqua – start in mid-December with walkthroughs from 5 to 3 for NPTS and only 1 announced for PTS. CCT conducting non-evaluative walkthroughs without feedback until mid-November for both virtual and in-person and ask for invites from all remote teachers. McCann – using Modern Teacher Training with landing pages and no evaluation language with union yet, but will be a separate MOA. Dean – created a Master Virtual Schedule with Zoom links so you can access the whole school in real time. Visit classrooms remotely at will.

Open House discussion - Southeastern – PD day on Friday is “Open House” discussion but holding off until January – staff needs time to prepare; B-P still holding to Oct. 17th for all virtual with posting videos of shop tours on each shop link from website and open Zoom

links for chat only from 12 – 3 p.m. All teachers will report to the school to meet contractual obligation for this or use a sick/personal day. Pathfinder – video using a GoPro; McCann – video with kids narrating and a panel interview with them.

P/T conferences – Southeastern – planning phone conferences or Zoom calls (2x a year); freshmen night in the vocational programs and academic night to review expectations; Monty Tech – scheduled conferences; Pick-A-Time about \$700 for 1,400 students done in first quarter (Nov.) scheduled Zoom meetings; Smith – held an online Back-to-School Night to set expectations and same amount of people virtually; good feedback from parents; shared a Google doc with parents for sign-ups with Google links. Pathfinder video was great that was just shared with all of us through MAVA. McCann uses Calendly for P/T conferences.

Gifted/Talented Student Admission – Southeastern has two 12-year-olds as freshman students who came from private schooling; need a waiver, and know about the Sped one, but Lisa Sandler is looking into another one that is more unfamiliar to us; need guidance with these students; new territory and both at SERSD this year; CCT had a similar situation about 10 years ago and followed MGL; Billy shared his findings with the group and the application process; the student never was admitted and held a spot for ECC, but no DESE waiver, and student was left on the wait list, but was admitted as a 10th grader.

Discussion on Flu vaccine and Dec. deadline – Monty stated that Governor stated all health care workers need it; CCT – DPH said talk to local boards of health, but other than exemptions, no real answers to any posed questions; BVT – clinics held, but students don't get paperwork or paperwork is weak documentation and more like a receipt and not a certification; can't unenroll kids, so can't enforce the mandate. What is the school's obligation for this? Franklin has partnered with Walgreens and B-P with CVS to provide flu shot clinics at their schools for both staff and students.

Exploratory changes – Smith asked about the exploratory hours from 190 to 120; Kathy and Mark stated that no final DESE vote yet, but unofficially in writing that 120 hours for all schools whether vocational or comprehensive, per Lisa Sandler. DESE considered schools with various number of shops, but the 900 hours for all shops stayed. Example Newton North only has 6 shops as opposed to the regional-tech schools, and DESE took this into consideration when students don't have more shops to explore, so DESE said OK and agreed with the lesser number of hours and must have 5 or more shops to qualify for "exploratory." The new guidance of 120 hours will be forthcoming from DESE.

Newton-North is in the CPR review process with a draft due in November, but nothing from the state. Is anyone else in the same situation? McCann is slated for CPR in the spring, but just hearing now from DESE about the process.

MAVA – Peter Dewar – MAVA Leaderships I & II going forward, but no dates set yet for 2021. Jack is finishing II this month, and Kathy will finish I at the end of December; not taking any applications for I or II yet. VTEL prep class will be virtual statewide and registration is open; starting Oct. 31st and 2 others will follow. Next Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., meeting with the

Cosmetology Board for open comment on regulation changes and remote hours counting for shop and related; Lisa working with Dept. of Prof. Licenses on this. Teacher testing programs are coming after Jan. 2021; registration by Jan. 29th and testing for Feb. and March 2021 and there are still lots of questions about testing.

Members agreed to switch our meeting days to the first Friday of every month at 9 a.m. and Mark will work on getting out the specific dates to all members. We will continue to meet virtually through a Zoom platform.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.