

Vocational Education Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Boxborough Town Hall

PRESENT: Susan Bak, Hugh Fortmiller, Anne McNeece, Brigid Bieber, Gary Kushner

Additional Attendee: Vince Amoroso

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the January 20 meeting were accepted.
2. The admissions numbers received by Hugh from the Nashoba Superintendent were reviewed. Questions remain about all of their non-district student acceptances being categorized as school choice. If they are school choice do they participate in the same admissions process as district students? Do they pay a regular tuition or a school choice tuition? What is the difference between school choice and out-of-district?
3. Vince explained that our recommendation is not in the warrant because we are an ad-hoc committee and therefore our recommendation goes to the Selectmen. At the Special Town Meeting the VEAC will give its report, the Finance Committee will give its recommendations, and the Selectmen will give their recommendations.
4. At the informational meeting on 2/9 the VEAC will give a presentation and answer questions and share opinions.
5. A straw vote was taken and the committee will recommend 3-2 to stay with Minuteman.
6. Question raised: Can we have a "preferred school"? - Yes we can.
7. The slide presentation was reviewed. Financial slides will be brought up to date (if necessary) after 14 towns have voted on agreement and whether to withdraw.
8. Conclusions /Recommendations:
 - We feel that all 3 schools provide excellent technical programs and comparable academic programs
 - We find that each of the 3 schools provide these educational options at varying costs with Minuteman being the highest and Nashoba being the lowest.
 - The VEAC recommends (3-2) that Minuteman is the best educational option for Boxborough because of guaranteed acceptance for qualified students, and that this outweighs the higher cost.

9. The next meeting (if needed) will be February 17th at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Anne McNeece