

REPORT OF THE SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Continuing Excellence — Staying Current with Careers and Technology

As emphasis throughout the Commonwealth increasingly focuses on preparation for the academic, social and economic futures of our students, state and nation, vocational technical education and preparation shines bright. The South Shore Regional School District continues to provide quality career and future educational opportunities for the young adults in the area, specifically the communities in the eight-town district. Key to meeting the school's and job market's expectations is the need to stay current with technical career trends and opportunities. Updating of equipment and instruction in every career field being offered is one of the institution's major commitments.

South Shore continues to respond to the increasing need to combine solid core academic instruction with relevant reference to and coordination with the diverse collection of career pathways available to students. The 2007-2008 school year has witnessed once again maximum enrollment at the school's Hanover campus, with a significant "waiting list" of candidates. Providing for the school's primary career preparation mission has never been more important, as graduates leave high school with marketable and expandable skills. South Shore, however, has also excelled in meeting state and national academic standards and expectations, including those prescribed under MCAS, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, No Child Left Behind and the need for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP).

Like many area communities, South Shore has applied to participate in the Commonwealth's School Building Assistance program, targeting critical infrastructure improvements and energy conservation. A new roof in the next few years is imperative, while the district has already begun to address a first of three likely stages of window replacement at the forty-five (45) year old facility. South Shore Vocational Technical High School is the oldest of the state's twenty-six regional vocational technical schools.

The previous reference to MCAS and accountability expectations deserves a bit more commentary. While career program graduates continue to excel in the technical arena as documented by state and national performances and very successful job placement, academic results continue to shine as well. The Class of 2007 witnessed 100% success in achieving the mandated competency determination levels, with the Class of 2008 impressively following suit. First results on the soon to be required for graduation Science portion of MCAS were positive when compared to other vocational school students. Expanded instruction in both Science and Social Studies at South Shore has been initiated, with focus on the state standards in those content areas.

Extracurricular activities and athletics continue to be broadened whenever possible to meet student interest. Newer programs like Volleyball, Golf and Robotics are not only drawing participation but also realizing success. Other, more established teams and activities are thriving as well, headlined by the school's Drama and Peer Leadership programs.

On the technical front, the targeting of a comprehensive pre-engineering program that could encompass components of several existing programs has drawn favorable state and workplace attention. The nation-wide demand for college level engineering students is near crisis level, and opportunities are plentiful. South Shore is exploring ways of potentially con-

solidating some instructional areas, while expanding others in meeting this set of high level career paths for our students.

Currently 118 students of the total enrollment of 592 are from Abington. June 2007 celebrated the graduation of Scott Anderson, Nemuel Depaula, Alexia Guiliani, Angela Langley, Mary Loring, Patricia Marquardt, Corey McKinnon, Rachel Perakslis, Patrick Scolaro, Krystyna Umbro, Nicholas Wood, Tiffany Woods and Brittini Wyman from Abington.

Important contributions continue to be made by South Shore's Parents Association, the Vocational Advisory Committees, School Council and the Continuing Education Program, which in addition to providing a wide range of career and self-improvement opportunities helps support the total school program.

All at South Shore would like to thank the eight member towns for the support demonstrated to the school over the years. Many in the community have made frequent mention of a positive changed perspective of the local vocational school in recent years. We appreciate it. Our goal is to teach, prepare and provide for life-long career and learning opportunities for our students and to be partners with parents and all members of the district communities. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to help do that by offering the best learning environment possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Lenwood Thompson
*Town Representative
South Shore Regional
School District Committee*