

## **STOW**

### **Annual Report to the Towns**

#### **Minuteman High School**

**Dr. Edward A. Bouquillon, Superintendent-Director**  
**2019-20 School Year**

#### **A Historical Year for Minuteman**

The 2019-20 school year will be remembered as a historic one for Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School along with the entire nation. The school year began with the opening of a spacious and modern new school building on its Lexington campus in September 2019, one year ahead of schedule and on-budget. Simultaneously, Minuteman continues to experience a sharp increase in student enrollment from member district towns, including Stow.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020, resulting in the statewide closure of schools, Minuteman immediately embarked upon a remote learning plan to keep students engaged under difficult circumstances – offering numerous technological and educational supports. Feedback from parents and guardians was overwhelmingly positive due to teachers' and staff members' availability to help students at any time.

As Minuteman looks toward the fall of 2020, the district is in the process of finalizing a re-opening plan that is in accordance with the state guidance that was issued in late June. Due to the hands-on nature of career technical education, Minuteman anticipates holding teaching and learning part-time in-school, and part-time out of school through remote learning to decrease the number of individuals inside the building. A final plan will soon be released to students, families, and communities.

#### **Class of 2020 Drive-Thru Graduation**

The decision to leave schools closed through June was particularly difficult for seniors at Minuteman and all high schools across the country. With a strong desire to celebrate and honor the Class of 2020 for all their accomplishments and perseverance, Minuteman opted to hold a “drive-through” graduation on its campus on June 5. ([Click here for video.](#)) The unique set-up – students and families watched the ceremony on a livestream on their smartphones, and students drove one by one to the front of the building to receive diplomas – received considerable news coverage (Boston Globe, PBS News Hour, NBC10 Boston, WBZ-TV, Wicked Local) and was hailed by students and parents as a creative way to safely hold an in-person send-off.

#### **Class of 2020 Achievements**

Minuteman High School's Class of 2020 graduates were accepted to more than 70 colleges and universities, including Champlain College, Lesley University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Massachusetts, University of Southern Maine, Keene State College, Stonehill College, Savannah College of Art and Design, and more. Numerous students are planning to enter careers in their respective trades, working in the fields of electrical, automotive, plant science, and among others, while some are entering the military. Nearly all students who sought certifications in their respective fields received them prior to graduation, which includes various certifications from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in hazardous materials removal, biotechnology, plant science, and health care.

### **Outstanding Students from Stow**

The following students from Stow graduated in the Class of 2020:

- **John O'Keefe, a Biotechnology major.** In the spring, Minuteman nominated John for the Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Award from the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA), which represents numerous vocational-technical high schools in Massachusetts. O'Keefe was also honored with the Adams Scholarship and President's Education Award for Outstanding Excellence. O'Keefe played quarterback on the football team was a member of the basketball team all four years. He served as co-captain of the Math Team and a Peer Leader. He will attend St. Michael's College.
- **Allison Sanzio, a Culinary Arts major.** Sanzio received the Adams Scholarship and President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Allison is one of four students who formed the non-profit organization, "Kangaroo Kuddles." The students knit blankets and other items to help keep premature babies warm and have donated about 1,000 knitted items to local hospitals since last year. Allison plans to enter the workforce.
- **Louvan Monte, a Design and Visual Communications major.** Monte will attend Champlain College to major in creative media.
- **Jude Porter, a Design and Visual Communications major.** Porter received the Digital Federal Credit Union Award, Lillis Memorial Award, and President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence. He will attend Lesley University to major in photography.
- **Graham Sullivan, a Design and Visual Communications major.** Sullivan received the Adams Scholarship, Digital Federal Credit Union Award, President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, and the Trzeppacz Graphic Arts Award. He will attend Champlain College to major in creative media.
- **Brenna Seith, an Environmental Science major.** Seith received the Adams Scholarship, Minuteman Drama Club Award, Minuteman Parents Association Leadership Award, and the President's Education Award for Outstanding Achievement. Seith will attend New College of Florida to major in environmental studies and psychology.

- **Hailey Kornfeind, a Health Assisting major.** Kornfeind received the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. She will attend Mount Wachusett Community College to major in nursing.
- **Eric Harmon, a Metal Fabrication major.** He will be entering the workforce.
- **Emely Almonte, an Early Education major.** She will attend UMass Boston.

### **Grand Opening of the New Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School**

The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the new Minuteman High School took place on October 4, 2019, launching a new chapter in college and career academy-style learning for students in a state-of-the-art building.

The opening of the facility, on the Minuteman campus at 758 Marrett Road in Lexington, was the culmination of a momentous effort over a decade. The architecturally stunning and practical building is designed to foster collaboration, a safe and secure environment, and to serve as a showplace for exceptional technical and academic learning for decades to come.

"We have built a school that lets us dream big and be brave," Superintendent-Director Dr. Edward A. Bouquillon said during the ceremony. "We have built a school that unites the disciplines and promotes our commitment to deep integration of academics and high-quality career and technical education."

As an accredited member of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), Minuteman inspires all students to attain their full potential, accelerate their learning, and become purposeful citizens in the global community.

### **Increasing Enrollment**

As word spreads that Minuteman High School produces successful college and career results for students, and helps fill the statewide and national skills gap, the number of applications to attend Minuteman has increased tremendously in the past two years from students living in the district's member towns. The number of students attending Minuteman from member towns, including Stow, has increased from 337 in FY17 to 395 in FY20, and is projected to reach 502 for next school year in FY21. The number of students from Stow has increased from 16 in FY18 to 36 in FY20. As of June 16, 2020, an additional 21 students from Stow were in the application process to attend ninth grade in the fall of 2020. Stow has 17 eighth-grade students who have committed to attend Minuteman next year. The projected total Stow enrollment will be 44 students.

Minuteman Technical Institute, the 10-month-long evening program for adults seeking certifications in trades such as advanced manufacturing, automotive, electrical, and metal fabrication/welding, and others, experienced an enrollment increase from 25 to 42 students over the past year.

**About Minuteman:**

Minuteman is an award-winning regional career and technical high school and continuing education institution that integrates robust academic and technical learning. As an accredited member of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), Minuteman challenges all students to aspire to their full potential, accelerate their learning, and achieve success in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century global community. Located in Lexington in a new state-of-the-art facility, Minuteman's member towns for 2019-20 are Acton, Arlington, Belmont, Bolton, Concord, Dover, Lancaster, Lexington, Needham, and Stow.