

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**  
2 **Education and Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes: Monday, August 1, 2011**  
3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center

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5 RGB member present: Jim Boutin, Rickey Harrington, Kevin Goodhue, Jon Peaslee and Fran  
6 Kinney; CDC represented by Bob Montgomery, Bob Mazur, Mike Lawler and Bruce Lee-Clark.  
7 Others present: Terry Morse and Sean Marie Oller.  
8 Recorder: Sandra Redding

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10 Jim Boutin welcomed everyone and shared that he had just signed warrants that had items  
11 concerning the new adult composites program. He would like the group to look at the space and  
12 rooms being used for this evening course that may become a daytime offering sometime. This  
13 program has been made possible by two grants totaling near \$125,000. There is a lot of  
14 equipment coming in for this program.

15 There will be three main courses offered: Intro to Composites, Career Readiness and Tool-n-U.  
16 The courses will begin in stages in September, then January, and finally, in April. Enrollment for  
17 these classes will be through Department of Labor, temp agencies and established companies.  
18 All will be grant funded for one year, then it is hoped established companies will be willing to  
19 sponsor employees to build a strong workforce. Could this program be expanded to include  
20 younger students and the answer is, yes, we hope to incorporate this with the other design,  
21 fabrication and engineering classes already running. This will probably not happen for another  
22 year. There is no cost to the public yet and we should be able to charge tuition eventually. The  
23 RGB Education committee will look at ways to sustain this program if it shows a strong following.  
24 At present, we have an instructor, Brad Andrews, who is training in Utah. He will be helping to  
25 establish a lab in a space of around 100 square feet for a start.  
26 Sean Marie Oller asked if there would be any noise factors to consider. At present, only the noise  
27 of a compressor is expected.

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29 The group went on to a discussion on distance learning. Bruce Lee-Clark stated that in his  
30 NEASC evaluation, it was recommended that he provide Pre-Law to an expanded audience. The  
31 company, WEBEX, will help us to establish an internet based program that can be accessed from  
32 around the globe, as well as the next town. The program was demonstrated at an RGB Strategic  
33 Planning meeting recently. Bruce Lee-Clark will provide a demo for the full board soon. The  
34 dilemma will be how to get the word out about the program. Schools do not have an incentive to  
35 enroll students in distance learning classes. At this time, school schedules, school calendars and  
36 length of classes make it very difficult to arrange synchronized programs, so that is why the  
37 distance learning, web based classes would be beneficial. This year, there are more than 80  
38 offerings on the WEBEX system. One third of the students using this system log on at their  
39 leisure. This system will give the CDC great exposure. We will have consultants available by  
40 polycom at the August board meeting. We will be able to verify the number of students involved  
41 in this learning experience. Also, transcripts and grades will be given as usual. Tech center  
42 should be pro-active in getting this program up and running. The question was asked if we can  
43 support the needs for distance learning and the answer was yes.  
44 The board will get a full briefing on the possibilities of distance learning.

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46 The Ag program was next on the agenda. There are no new developments at this time. Bob  
47 Montgomery thanked Bruce Lee-Clark for sharing space with his program last year. It was noted  
48 that these two programs sharing the same space was not the very advantageous for either group.  
49 We plan on avoiding that in the future. Also noted was that a short block should never take  
50 precedence over a full program.

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52 The group decided to tour the building at 10:50 AM. They returned to the meeting at 11:55 AM.  
53 The decision was made to pursue the request for the use of C229 with MAU. We would like to  
54 have the room as soon as possible. A discussion with MAU concerning the Graphic Arts program  
55 is something the committee would like to pursue. There may be a way to save MAU a great deal  
56 of money and create an interesting set-up between Barb Gorbaty and Barb Ackerman. We need

1 to be sensitive to Tech Ed regs that state that there should be no duplication of classes in  
2 sending schools and tech centers. The full board would need to be involved in such  
3 considerations.  
4  
5 Concerning the greenhouse, plans need to be ready material organized and a presentation  
6 prepared before any further developments can take place. It would be good to take a look at  
7 other programs to see what might be done. There are multiple plans and options available in  
8 energy/green technologies areas. Terry Morse suggested that he and other advisory members  
9 would be happy to assist in any way to get a successful program up and running. The Advisory  
10 committee could meet with the education committee to discuss the possibilities and plan out what  
11 the future might hold.  
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