

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Education and Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes: Monday, September 17, 2012**  
3 Conference Room, Career Development Center  
4

5 RGB members present: Jim Boutin, Rickey Harrington, Heidi Pickering and Frank Lamb, Chair;  
6 CDC represented by Supt./Dir. Jim Culkeen; Advisory Committee member Shelly Stiles  
7 Recorder Sandra Redding  
8

9 Meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM. The Ag program was the first topic of discussion. A  
10 letter from Advisory Committee member Penny Burgess was referenced as the committee began  
11 a review of how things were progressing for the re-development of an ag/hort program. Supt.  
12 Culkeen reported that there is no news from the Veteran's Home as to their interest in providing  
13 space for the program to be established there. Of course, the Vet's Home has many other  
14 problems to solve at this time, so our need for outdoor/greenhouse space on their grounds is not  
15 a high priority for them. We could discuss a leasing situation with them in the future, but all is  
16 dependent on what we really want for a program. That is the first issue to tackle. The discussion  
17 leaned toward what programs we truly need at this time. If we can only find funding for one or  
18 two programs due to shrinking state/national funding for such endeavors, we need to think very  
19 carefully about where we are heading and what programs will truly benefit our area and student  
20 population. Ms. Stiles spoke of the movement that is fast taking place in the local area of farm to  
21 table programs. There is a great need to educate people as to the availability and preparation of  
22 healthy food in this area. It looks to be the right time to research grants and other means of  
23 funding for these back to the land style programs. What are the goals we could reach for and  
24 what access can we find for our students and especially here at the CDC? How will the state be  
25 able to assist in funding and what type of ag program do we need for this particular area of  
26 Vermont? There needs to be a curriculum driven program that relates to the specific needs of our  
27 area and population. UVM could be very helpful in our research. Every tech center that has an  
28 ag type program is geared towards a specific goal and the goals are very different for each one  
29 as well. We would need to find where we fit in.  
30

31 Perhaps, it would be wise to start out with a short block or two to see if there is any real interest in  
32 this type of program. We could create a spinoff from Forestry to find out if there is any real  
33 interest and then, move forward to create a full program. There is still a need to identify what  
34 programs are really hot right now and will be of serious use to our population as opposed to what  
35 we see as the needs for the future.  
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37 There was mention of several people still very interested in being involved in the ag program as  
38 far as advisors go, Penny Burgess, Terry Morse, Shelly Stiles and Bob Wilcox. The first job is to  
39 find the area of focus and branch out from there.  
40

41 The discussion turned to other programs that need some attention. Programs must meet rigor,  
42 relation and relevance to stay as high performing and in demand programs. All programs will be  
43 fine tuned on a scheduled basis by administration. We must look at the needs of the area and  
44 student population to continue to stay competitive in today's environment.  
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46 The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM. The next meeting will be October 9 at 4 PM.  
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