

1 Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)
2 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 5 PM
3 RGB members present-Jim Boutin, Francis Kinney, Ed Letourneau and Rickey Harrington
4 CDC represented by Supt./Dir. James Culkeen, Stephanie Mulligan, Business Manager.
5 Also present Wendy Klein and Kathy Slade, CDC instructors.
6

7 Recorder: Sandra Redding

8 The first order of business was to elect a chair. Kevin Goodhue was nominated and
9 elected by the committee members. Although Kevin could not be present this evening, the
10 meeting progressed as scheduled.

11 The group discussed the \$80,000 shortfall in the budget and how this should be
12 addressed. The superintendent passed out a worksheet which showed the progress of the
13 budget to the point it has reached at this time. Several methods of reduction discussed:

- 14 • Spending less for material purchases which could adversely affect the quality of
15 programs
- 16 • Realize that trim down amounts could cause an increase in tuition next year
- 17 • Spend down this year to take the stress off next year's budget; would like to
18 replace camera system in school store to configure with the rest of our
19 surveillance system
- 20 • Backhoe for forestry-can it wait?; no savings by pre-buying
- 21 • Computer upgrades in classrooms-lease vs. purchase

22
23 What about contingency fund? Should not spend down too far in case of emergencies.
24 Jim Marsden came to the superintendent recently to discuss removal of underground
25 tanks outside and near the auto shop. Cannot be done now as it was not budgeted for in
26 this budget; could cost upwards of \$8000.
27

28 Discussion ensued as to the cost of salaries and are there any recommendations to cut or
29 change positions at this time? The superintendent feels it is too soon to make those
30 decisions right now as more time is needed to anticipate enrollment and other options.
31 There are no recommendations to decrease staff at this time. May 15th is the deadline to
32 inform staff if need be. The superintendent does not take these decisions lightly, but until
33 there is a better picture in May, he suggests the committee table the discussion.
34 The state has changed how it will fund some positions, so that does affect the bottom line
35 at the CDC. There are decreases in the amount of salary assistance from the state, so that
36 is troubling. There is also, a decrease in the number of students attending our local high
37 schools. It would be wise to have further discussion with other areas such as Searsburg,
38 Readsboro and Hoosick Falls to investigate if there are potential students to attend the
39 CDC. Unfortunately, there are many problems in bringing these students here, including
40 distance, finances and encroachment of class time by our neighboring sending school.
41 New math classes may take away from our short block numbers. Scheduling is going on
42 while changes are happening.
43

44 Health care costs are lower than budgeted for, increasing only 4.5%.

45
46 Spectator comments:

47 Consider apprenticeship trades in hands on, labor intensive skills; this is not a negative.
48 Sometimes, only one or two young people are actually interested.
49 Remember student at Grace Christian as a great source for potential students; problem is
50 many do not live in this state.
51

52 FYI-Legislative Breakfast is April 7th, 7:45 AM at Central Office.
53

54 Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM