

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center

4  
5 Members Present: Justin Corcoran; Claude DeLucia; Kevin Goodhue; Fran Kinney; Frank  
6 Lamb, Chair; Ed Letourneau; Jon Peaslee; Rob Sperber.

7  
8 Members absent: Gloria Alexander; Leon Johnson; Bob Kobelia.

9  
10 Staff and Others Present: Zach Bull, Student Representative; Bruce Gabrus, CDC Instructor;  
11 Bruce Lee-Clark, CDC Instructor; Robert Montgomery, Assistant Director; Sean-Marie Oller,  
12 SVSU Board; Donna Oyama, Director; Sandra Redding, Office Manager; John Waller,  
13 Banner Reporter; James Weber, Student Rep candidate and Mick Smith, Plasan  
14 representative

15  
16 Videotaping for CATTV: Richard Fleming

17  
18 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger

19  
20  
21 Lamb opened the meeting at 6:30PM by welcoming all to the Regional Technical School  
22 Board Meeting. Lamb read through the Agenda, removed the Chairman's Report,  
23 Superintendent's Report and Executive Session and asked for any Other. DeLucia would  
24 like to add Radio and Act 62; Kinney would like to discuss Salary and Benefits in Other.  
25 Approval of the Director Search Committee will be added to the Consent Agenda.

26  
27 **Peaslee moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to accept the Agenda, All were in**  
28 **favor.**

29  
30 **Public Comments:** None

31  
32 **Consent Agenda:**

33 Lamb announced the following to be on the Director Search Committee:

34 RGB Members: Gloria Alexander, Justin Corcoran, Kevin Goodhue, Jon Peaslee.

35 CDC Staff: Bruce Lee-Clark, Nicky Forest, Bob Mazur.

36 Student Rep: James Weber

37 Oller requested a representative from MAU administration be included. Lamb thanked her  
38 for her suggestion.

39  
40 Minute corrections: The following corrections were made to the January 15, 2008 RGB  
41 Minutes:

42 Page 4 Line 38/39 Goodhue abstained and did not second the ESP Contract Vote

43 Page 4 Line 47 Peaslee voted Nay; not unanimous

44 Page 6 Line 9 Cold Hollow to replace Cole-Howe

45  
46 The Consent Agenda included:

- 47 - Approval of the RGB January 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes (as amended)  
48 - Approval of To Warn Annual Meeting Minutes January 28, 2008  
49 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 42 & 43 01/17/2008 in the amount of \$ 88,051.48

- 1 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 45 & 46 01/31/2008 in the amount of \$ 74,250.84
- 2 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 44 01/28/2008 in the amount of \$ 52,751.82
- 3 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 47 12/12/2008 in the amount of \$ 17,734.20
- 4 - Field Trips (3)
- 5 - Washington DC Pre-Law 03/18/08 – 03/21/08
- 6 - Boston MA Human Services 04/09/08 – 04/11/08
- 7 - Atlanta GA DECA 04/25/08 – 04/30/08
- 8 - Approval of the Director Search Committee

9  
 10 **Corcoran moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. All**  
 11 **were in favor.**

12  
 13 **RGB Student Representative Nomination:**

14 Oyama introduced nominee James Weber and gave a brief bio. Weber is a Business  
 15 Management student and is also a FBLA officer. He has attended two National FBLA  
 16 conferences, one of which Oyama also attended in Buffalo. Oyama then touched on the  
 17 high points of Weber's resume.

18  
 19 Weber addressed the Board; he noted that he is currently President of the Vermont FBLA  
 20 and is up for reelection in April. He is a junior firefighter in Shaftsbury and works at Four  
 21 Chimneys in Bennington. Weber hopes to make a positive contribution to the Board and  
 22 CDC.

23  
 24 **Goodhue moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to accept the nomination of James**  
 25 **Weber as a RGB Student Representative. All were in Favor.**

26  
 27 **Policy for Adoption:**

28 Lee-Clark stood in for Johnson regarding the following Policy for Adoption:

29  
 30 6190C Holiday Observance and Program Policy as Warned

31  
 32 **Corcoran moved and Letourneau seconded a motion to Adopt Policy the Warned**  
 33 **amended version of Policy # 6190C. Peaslee opposed, all else were in favor.**

34  
 35 **Change In Program Schedule:**

36 Letourneau returned to the discussed but not acted on at the December 17, 2007 RGB  
 37 Meeting, change in class time for four Programs (Auto, Building Trades, Design &  
 38 Fabrication, and Forestry). A motion had been made for classes to be 90 minutes for Year  
 39 One program students and 150 for Year Two program students. Letourneau noted that it  
 40 makes sense educationally for these programs, and the Education Committee had passed  
 41 their recommendation on to the Finance Committee.

42  
 43 Lamb asked if Letourneau would like action tonight. He noted that the Finance committee  
 44 had recommended not to approve because of the initial loss of FTEs. DeLucia noted that  
 45 there would be an FTE loss if enrollment did not change, however, by making the change  
 46 there was a possibility that enrollment would increase. Oyama noted that current year  
 47 enrollment was used for projection as to next year's enrollment. Based on that projection,  
 48 FTEs would drop; there would be more first year students (at less time, therefore less FTEs)  
 49 and fewer students in the second year.

1  
2 **Lamb moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to change the class times for Year One**  
3 **and Two for Four Programs. All except DeLucia, who voted yes, were opposed.**  
4

5 **Manufacturing Purchase – Lathe:**

6 Lamb reported that the Finance Committee recommends to the full board the purchase of  
7 the two new TL-1 Haas lathes for \$54,721, with the payment distribution so noted on Lewis's  
8 Bid Report. Goodhue inquired if the seven old lathes had been sold. Lamb responded that  
9 they have been. Kinney noted that Haas's winning bid was the same price as last year.

10  
11 **Goodhue moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to purchase the two Haas lathes for**  
12 **\$54,721. All were in favor.**

13  
14 **Childcare Lease:**

15 Lamb reported that the Finance Committee recommends the Childcare Lease to the full  
16 board. The only change the committee has made from the prior lease is to increase the  
17 annual rent incrementally from the current \$500 to \$1,000 over lease term for the next three  
18 years.

19  
20 Oller inquired as to why the lease amount is increasing: the childcare center helps CDC by  
21 providing a lab for Human Services. Oller does not feel this is right. Lamb replied that the  
22 owner of the childcare is now established, has said she can afford the increase and has  
23 agreed to the lease. Oyama noted that she has a call in to the attorney for approval. Lamb  
24 is ready to pass the lease along to MAU to sign off on. Letourneau noted that the amount  
25 was originally low to help the owner get started. DeLucia noted that the proposed rent is  
26 well below commercial sq/ft rates at 0.50/sq ft.

27  
28 **Peaslee moved and Letourneau seconded a motion to accept the Childcare Lease and**  
29 **pass it along to MAU. All were in favor.**  
30

31 **Resolution:**

32 Peaslee had five questions regarding the resolution:

- 33 1. When did CDC break off from MAU and how was the Article worded?

34 Letourneau responded that it was a Bennington countywide vote that appeared on  
35 the ballot in 2003. The question posed asked the voters if they should permit the  
36 CDC to separate from MAU. The Article was on twelve (12) Town ballots.  
37

- 38 2. Who made the decision to put the article before the voters?

39 Lee-Clark responded that it was a required vote. Before the Article was put to vote,  
40 the following had approved it:

41 MAU Board

42 Regional Advisory Board (CDC)

43 Work Force Investment Board (Bennington County)

44 Vermont School Board

45 Commissioner of Education  
46

- 47 3. What originated the action?

48 Lee-Clark noted that there had been a long series of discussion prior. The state had  
49 originated the idea in 1998/99 when it proposed a similar idea. Eventually the

1 Department of Education put out three funded pilot programs. At that point the then  
2 CDC Director was retiring and the faculty put together and approved a proposal, the  
3 State did not fund the proposal, however they approved it as a pilot. There were  
4 three unfunded pilots; CDC, Hannaford and North Country (?). CDC was the first  
5 tech center to ask for the Study Committee. The Study Committee, composed of all  
6 the above noted bodies, together made the proposal.

7  
8 Letourneau then read Article D from the MAU ballot:

9  
10 Shall the Voters of the Bennington School District vote to establish the Southwest Vermont  
11 Regional Technical School District as described in the Governor's Planning Committee  
12 report dated and approved by the State Board of Education on October 16, 2002.  
13

14 4. What was the reason for it (i.e. separation)?

15 Lee-Clark responded that there were two primary reasons for separation:

- 16 1) The people who receive the education (technical) are entitled to vote on the  
17 budget. The voters in the Northshire and Arlington areas were not included  
18 in voting on the CDC budget because they were not part of the MAU District.  
19 With CDC under MAU's control, their budget was only on MAU ballots - not  
20 all of the towns served by the "Regional (Bennington County) Technical  
21 Center".
- 22 2) There was a duplicative process in Vermont Statues; if there is a resident  
23 Technical Center within Union High School there has to be a Regional  
24 Advisory Board. In the case of local disagreement between two (i.e. MAU  
25 and CDC) that could not be worked out, it would have to go to the  
26 Commissioner. Separation enables a cleaner way to make decisions, you  
27 know exactly which Board to go to.  
28

29 5. What was the vote?

30 Letourneau responded that countywide, the vote was 4230 In favor and 1608  
31 Against. The vote carried in each of the twelve individual towns.  
32

33 Oller requested that the Resolution be read for the television audience. DeLucia then read  
34 the Resolution (as follows).  
35

36 Be it known that the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Regional  
37 Governing Board has not considered dissolving the Regional Governing Board and  
38 returning to Mount Anthony Union High School District Board governance.  
39

40 Be it known that the Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District Regional  
41 Governing Board has not requested an advisory vote on our behalf regarding Article D on  
42 the Mount Anthony Union School District ballot.  
43

44 Be it known that the Mount Anthony Union High School District advisory ballot known as  
45 Article D does not have any legal standing or effect on the Southwest Vermont Regional  
46 Technical School District governance structure.  
47

48 **Peaslee moved and Letourneau seconded a motion in favor of the resolution. All**  
49 **were opposed, except for DeLucia, who voted yes.**  
50  
51

1 **Committee Reports:**

2 **Outreach:**

3 Corcoran reported that there was a Community Breakfast held January 25 at the Arlington  
4 Inn. They received good feedback and will be following up.

5  
6 There is a Comcast commercial now airing on various networks. This will be followed shortly  
7 with another commercial. They can be viewed on Youtube, Schooltube and the CDC  
8 website.

9  
10 The CDC newsletter has gone out to MAU students with their report cards.

11  
12 Oller inquired when the CATTV program about the governance structure vote would air?  
13 Oyama read from the Community Update attachment (Meeting addendum) the dates: 2/18,  
14 2/19, 2/23, 2/25 and 2/26, all on Channel 16, the educational channel. Oller then thanked  
15 Oyama.

16  
17 **Education:**

18 Letourneau reported that the committee hasn't met yet this month. They will meet after  
19 vacation and will be discussing the thirteenth and fourteenth year here at CDC including  
20 VSAC and Pell grants. They will also be working in conjunction with two other independent  
21 technical centers about a technical diploma.

22  
23 **Finance:**

24 Lamb reported that the meeting held in Rutland with the two other regional tech centers was  
25 very productive. There will be another joint meeting in March. There is a lot of commonality  
26 among the three tech centers. One issue that they would like to work on is a technical  
27 diploma. It would be a diploma in conjunction with the standard high school diploma granted  
28 by the sending school/ high school. We (the three separate tech centers) would grant the  
29 diploma. There is a long way to go, but all excited about it.

30  
31 Montgomery commented that Carl from River Valley Tech Center has a distance-learning  
32 piece that he will elaborate on at the next meeting. Lamb agreed that this was an excellent  
33 piece. Lamb concurred that this would be CDC's future for outlying areas. Oyama noted  
34 that Adult Ed has three hundred classes online.

35  
36 Lamb asked Oller of the MAU Board has a tuition package? Both the CDC and MAU  
37 Boards need to work together to come up with a tuition package that can be taken to  
38 outlying areas to encourage students to come here. Oller updated what MAU is doing  
39 regarding MAU tuition: The MAU Board has been mailed a CD that has two different  
40 policies, an application and an agreement on it. On February 25<sup>th</sup> there will be discussion  
41 from 6-7PM and it will be an Agenda item on MAU meeting following discussion. The MAU  
42 Board will decide to either accept or not accept tuition students. In either case (policy) there  
43 can be an exception for a student attending CDC. From there it will have to be Warned and  
44 Adopted. An attorney will be present at the February 25 Meeting.

45  
46 **Director's Report:**

47 Oyama reported that:

- 1 → On Thursday, February 28, will be a Pizza Night Fundraiser at 5PM hosted by FBLA  
2 and SkillsUSA. At 6:30PM there will be an Open House at CDC with the public,  
3 students, and parents welcomed.
- 4 → The enrollment number for last semester was 456. Currently enrollment is at 449.  
5 The final enrollment count will be on March 15.
- 6 → The CDC teachers have had several Career Fairs for MAU students during lunches.  
7 MAU students have also been touring CDC classes.
- 8 → Currently, there are no definitive enrollment numbers for next year. In the spring,  
9 students apply, are interviewed and acceptance is decided. Final numbers are  
10 October 15. Determining teacher need in April for the following year can be a guess.  
11 Teacher contracts are offered in April based on the projected numbers.
- 12 → Oyama elaborated on the approved field trips: Pre-law is going to Washington DC to  
13 watch our government in action; Human Services will be visiting two art museums in  
14 Boston to learn about the educational aspect of museums, they will also be visiting  
15 two colleges; and Marketing DECA will be attending the competition in Atlanta, they  
16 usually go every year and win several awards.
- 17 → The CDC Community Update will be aired on Monday and Tuesday, 2/18 and 2/19  
18 and also on Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the following week, 2/23, 2/25/and  
19 2/26.
- 20 → Oyama directed the Boards attention to the two charts she created from the  
21 information she received yesterday. This information will be on the Community  
22 Update.
- 23 ▪ Chart one compares the fifteen Technical Centers, their 2009 tuition and  
24 enrollment. The red bars indicate the three independent tech centers. CDC is  
25 in the middle for tuition and has one of the largest enrollments.
  - 26 ▪ Chart two shows CDC's portion, by town, of the State Education Homestead tax  
27 rate. This chart shows what taxes residents of \$ 100,000, \$200,000 and  
28 \$300,000 homes are paying to CDC.
- 29 → March 3 is the date of the Annual Meeting at 5PM. Board members will be getting  
30 their packets in the mail.

## 31 32 **Other:**

### 33 **Salaries and benefits**

34 Kinney asked several questions regarding the Salaries and Benefits list he received last  
35 week from Oyama. Kinney's first question was in regards to "special population". Oyama  
36 responded that there are two special needs positions that help students with IEPs.  
37 Secondly, Kinney asked about Cosmetology. Oyama responded that the Instructor works  
38 over 240 minutes per day. Her assistant is paid by the grant. Thirdly, Kinney asked about  
39 enrollment numbers of surrounding area students, is it seven? Oyama replied that she  
40 thought it was ten; the number is in the Annual Report.

41  
42 Kinney also inquired as to CDC night courses; where does the money go? Oyama  
43 responded that it is a separate budget; local tuition pays nothing for it. Adult Ed money is  
44 raised by tuition and several grants. None of its money comes from CDC.

### 45 46 **WBTN**

47 DeLucia noted that according to an article in the Banner, WBTN is now available. He would  
48 like to see the station continue and feels that it would be an excellent program and lab for  
49 CDC.

1  
2 **DeLucia moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to have Oyama investigate to see if**  
3 **CDC can participate in that program. Vote was taken with Kinney abstaining and the**  
4 **rest of the Board voting Yes.**

5  
6 Montgomery asked for clarification as to where DeLucia would like to go with this. DeLucia  
7 noted that WBTN is available and a community resource. DeLucia responded he would like  
8 to CDC get involved with the operation; there were many learning opportunities for students.  
9 DeLucia cited the technical aspect, outreach to the district and student writing: "the whole  
10 nine yards".

11  
12 **Act 62**

13 DeLucia asked that administration check and see what impact if any would there be with our  
14 relationship with the daycare center and the building?

15  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17  
18 Letourneau noted that Adult Ed is very productive. They purchased the furnishings for the  
19 Conference Room.

20  
21 DeLucia noted that all the ballots are available online at the Town's website.

22  
23 **At 7:25 Peaslee moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to Adjourn. All were in favor.**  
24

25 **Attachments:**

- 26     ▪ RGB Minutes – January 15, 2008
- 27     ▪ Warn Annual Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2008
- 28     ▪ Payroll Warrants #42, #43, #45 & #46
- 29     ▪ Vendor Warrants # 45 & #47
- 30     ▪ Revenue and Expenses
- 31     ▪ Field Trips (3)
- 32     ▪ Policy for Adoption
- 33         6190C Holiday Observance and Program
- 34     ▪ Nomination for RGB Student Representation
- 35     ▪ Change in Program Schedule
- 36     ▪ Manufacturing Purchase – Lathe
- 37     ▪ Childcare Lease
- 38     ▪ Resolution
- 39     ▪ FY 2009 Tuition Costs (Oyama's two Charts)
- 40     ▪ Finance Committee Minutes – February 5, 2008
- 41     ▪ Outreach Committee Minutes – February 5, 2008
- 42     ▪ Memorandum (Community Update)