

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, October 20, 2008**

3 Readsboro Elementary School, Readsboro VT

4
5 Members Present: Gloria Alexander; Justin Corcoran; Kevin Goodhue; Leon Johnson;
6 Rickey Harrington; Frank Lamb, Chair; Ed Letourneau.

7
8 Members Absent: Claude DeLucia; Fran Kinney; Bob Kobelia; Rob Sperber.

9
10 Staff and Others Present: Police Chief Gauthier, Bennington Police Department; Ted
11 Hopkins, Readsboro resident & Select Board member; Greg Lewis, Business Manager; Bob
12 Montgomery, Interim Director; Sandy Redding, Office Manager; Bennington Police Officer
13 Tatro.

14
15 Video Taping: Billy Trask

16
17 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger

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19

Lamb called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and thanked the Readsboro Elementary
20 School for hosting this meeting.

21
22 **Public Comments**

23 Ted Hopkins introduced himself and noted that he was honored that a taped meeting from
24 Readsboro was being held – this was new for Readsboro.

25
26 Lamb explained that Readsboro is part of CDC's service district. CDC is starting to get out
27 and educate outlying towns that CDC is a regional school district that serves Bennington
28 County.

29
30 Hopkins noted that Readsboro has always been receptive to the CDC. Readsboro's primary
31 reason for not using the CDC is the issue of bussing over Woodford Mountain.

32
33 **Agenda**

34 **Corcoran moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to move School Security to the**
35 **first Agenda item. All were in favor.**

36
37 **Alexander moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to closet the Agenda as**
38 **amended. All were in favor.**

39
40 **School Security Action Item – Proposal**

41 Montgomery introduced Bennington Police Department (BPD) Chief Gauthier and Officer
42 Tatro and asked the Board to consider the proposal for increased security. Montgomery
43 explained that currently CDC lacks a presence of uniformed law enforcement officer on
44 campus. This situation arose this past July. Montgomery has met with the staff, faculty and
45 administration to define the their wants and needs. He also met with BPD for their input.
46 The proposal is to have BPD presence daily for a couple of hours here and there. The cost
47 would be \$6,000 for the year. Montgomery also noted that BPD has articulation
48 Agreements with Manchester as well as with the Vermont State Police.

1 Chief Gauthier spoke briefly of the benefits of having an officer on campus and noted that he
2 was here tonight to answer questions, not to tell the Board what to do.

3
4 Discussion followed with the following topics being addressed:

- 5 → There have been 15-20 arrests over the past several years.
- 6 → CDC had different security needs than MAU because of the Open-Door Policy.
- 7 → What the current security provides versus what an officer can provide and historically
8 what security has been in place on campus. Johnson expressed that if there is a
9 security issue, it should be fixed.
- 10 → The need for and benefits of having a part-time uniformed officer's presence.
- 11 → This change occurred without Montgomery being contacted nor consulted.
- 12 → CDC's assessment with MAU is 12%, which translates to 50 minutes per day.
- 13 → Cost and how the proposal would be paid for including the COPS Grant that may allow
14 for an SRO to be reestablished.
- 15 → If MAU should be paid for the contracted services they are not providing.

16
17 Montgomery summarized that the plan would cover about 100 hours between now and the
18 end of the semester at \$25 - \$27/ hr and be reevaluated in January. There would be no
19 "set" schedule; rather the hours would be varied and therefore not predictable by students.
20 The plan would supplement what is in place now.

21
22 **Harrington moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to hire the Bennington Police
23 Department for 100 hours to start. All were in favor except Johnson who voted nay.**

24
25 **Corcoran moved and Letourneau seconded a motion to pay for the officer out of the
26 savings from the Administrator line. All were in favor except Johnson who voted nay.**

27
28 Additional discussion regarding Montgomery not being informed or involved in MAU's
29 decision to change security followed.

30
31 **Goodhue moved and Corcoran seconded a motion that we meet with MAU and the
32 powers that be to discuss this issue, our Director's issues and other issues
33 discussed at Finance. All were in favor.**

34
35 **Consent Agenda**

- 36 - Minutes of the September 3, 2008 Facilities Committee Meeting
- 37 - Minutes of the September 15, 2008 RGB Meeting
- 38 - Minutes of the October 7, 2008 Outreach Committee Meeting
- 39 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant(s)
 - 40 ▪ # 106 9/29/2008 in the amount of \$ 16,477.58
 - 41 ▪ # 1012 9/29/2008 in the amount of \$ 60,312.31
 - 42 ▪ # 107 10/9/2008 in the amount of \$ 16,541.88
 - 43 ▪ # 1014 10/9/2008 in the amount of \$ 49,655.53
- 44 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant
 - 45 ▪ # 1011 9/18/2008 in the amount of \$ 6,800.00
 - 46 ▪ # 1013 9/29/2008 in the amount of \$ 34,069.72
 - 47 ▪ # 1015 10/20/2008 in the amount of \$ 54,443.42
- 48 - Treasurer's Report
- 49 - Field Trip DECA Nashville TN 11/6 thru 11/9

1 **Harrington moved and Alexander seconded a motion to accept the Consent Agenda.**
2 **All were in favor.**

3
4 **Business Office Action Item – Credit Card Limit Increase**

5 Lewis presented the need for an increase. The card is used primarily for airline tickets and it
6 is unreasonable to ask teachers to put the charges on their accounts and then receive
7 reimbursement.

8
9 **Harrington moved and Johnson seconded a motion to raise the credit card limit from**
10 **\$7,500 to \$10,000. All were in favor except Johnson who voted nay.**

11
12 **Committee Reports**

13
14 Policy

15 Johnson reported that the committee would be meeting Monday at 4:00 PM

16
17 Outreach

18 Corcoran reported that the committee met October 7. Jessica is working on creating
19 "Viewbooks" that will be placed at the sending schools. In essence, these books are binders
20 that present a more in-depth view of CDC than the program of Studies. Corcoran also
21 reported that the Open House went well, Jessica is working with WEQX regarding ads, there
22 is an easier to change the ad on the Banner's website and a second set of commercials for
23 Comcast is being worked on. The committee is also looking at a subtitle for CDC to
24 enhance recognition.

25
26 **Alexander moved and Corcoran seconded a motion that the Board send a Letter of**
27 **Thanks to the faculty for their working with Jessica Hill to increase the number of**
28 **students. All were in favor.**

29
30 Finance

31 Lamb turned to Lewis to present the Unifund Proposal. Lewis went through the proposal
32 and answered questions regarding why the switch was needed, cost and where the money
33 would come from. The program will be fully implemented by July 1, 2009 (next fiscal year).

34
35 **Alexander moved and Letourneau seconded a motion for CDC to purchase and**
36 **implement the Unifund software. All were in favor except Johnson who voted nay.**

37
38 **Harrington moved and Corcoran seconded for a future report as to whether the**
39 **system is working better in house (or not). All were in favor.**

40
41 Director Search

42 Goodhue reported that of the 25 applicants, the committee has narrowed the field to 10.
43 Their next meeting will be held next Tuesday. The applicant's people and leadership skills
44 will be important in the final selection.

45
46 **Superintendent's Report George Carpenter was not in attendance.**

1 **Director's Report**

2 Montgomery noted that:

- 3 → Building Trades and Forestry were collaborating on a project with MAU to install a wind
4 tower on the Middle School Campus. Central Vermont Solar & Wind and Jim Marsden
5 are also involved. The tower will be assembled on site tomorrow. There is grant
6 opportunity for a larger turbine in the future.
- 7 → The Medical Professions, Human Services and Cosmetology Programs all have
8 students participating in coop work experience.
- 9 → Law Enforcement is very grateful for the cruiser. They have participated in night traffic
10 stops and spike strip training.
- 11 → BCIC's Peter Odierna and Dan Maneely from Vt. Composites visited with Montgomery
12 and Lamb at the CDC to discuss local industries' need for employees. They are
13 basically seeking to provide a bigger pool of qualified workers. From this discussion
14 arose talk of CDC possibly providing technical diplomas. Odierna and Maneely would
15 be willing to come before the full Board in November.
- 16 → The Burr & Burton visit was very positive. They are in the process of working on their
17 scheduling, which is now rotating blocks. The future looks good for Burr & Burton and
18 CDC to work together in cooperating for the benefit of their students.

19
20 **Chairman's Report**

21 Lamb thanked Sandy Redding for her suggestion that Board members go out and visit other
22 district School Board meetings. The idea is to go to them rather than making them come to
23 us. Montgomery and Lamb will begin implementing Redding's idea at the upcoming
24 Readsboro School Board meeting in November. Any other Board members who would like
25 to attend are welcome to do so.

26 .
27 **At 8:04PM Corcoran moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in**
28 **favor.**

29
30 **Attachments:**

- 31 ▪ Facilities Committee Minutes of September 3, 2008
32 ▪ RGB Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2008
33 ▪ Outreach Committee Minutes of October 7, 2008
34 ▪ Payroll Warrants: 9/29/2008 #s 106/ 1012
35 10/9/2008 #s 107/ 1014
36 ▪ Vendor Warrants: 9/18/2008 # 1011
37 9/29/2008 # 1013
38 10/15/2008 # 1015
39 ▪ Treasurer's Statement of Cash Flow, Operating Accounts & Balances, Revenue &
40 Expenses (8/1 – 8/31, 2008)
41 ▪ Field Trip – DECA – November 6 – 9
42 ▪ Action Item from Business Office – Increase in Credit Card Limit
43 ▪ PowerPoint Attachment - Unifund
44 ▪ Action Item – Proposal for School Security
45 ▪ FYI – Fisk Reed Love PC
46 ▪ RGB Suggestions, Committee Work 2008-2009
47 ▪ Minutes of the 10/14 Finance Committee Meeting (FYI – no action taken)