

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: March 16, 2009**

3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center
4

5 Members Present: Gloria Alexander; Justin Corcoran; Claude DeLucia; Kevin Goodhue;
6 Rickey Harrington; Larry Johnson; Leon Johnson; Fran Kinney; Frank Lamb; Ed
7 Letourneau; Jon Peaslee.
8

9 Staff and Others Present: Dr Frank Barone, Director; George Carpenter, SVSU Interim
10 Superintendent; Bruce Lee-Clark, Instructor; Greg Lewis, Business Manager; Dan Lucy,
11 MAUHS Councilor; Bob Montgomery, Assistant Director; Sandra Redding, Office Manager.
12

13 Videotaping: CAT-TV
14

15 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger
16

17
18 Carpenter called the meeting to order at 6:30pm by welcoming all the board members
19 especially the two new members Larry Johnson and Jon Peaslee. The board then
20 introduced themselves around the table.
21

22 **Public Comment:**

23 John MacDonald, current Dean of Students, spoke of his work with special needs students.
24 MacDonald reported that CDC has 60 special needs and 113 academically disadvantaged
25 students; two-thirds of the student population has an identified weakness. Last semester he
26 worked with 80 of these students helping them with math, essay writing, etc. MacDonald
27 expressed his concern that even though the law requires only one 'special needs' employee,
28 will one be enough to meet the needs of the student population?
29

30 Carpenter noted that administration would have to address the question to the board. He
31 asked MacDonald to provide Director Barone with a written statement. MacDonald noted
32 the decision has already been made by the board to cut his position. Dan Lucy, MAUHS
33 Councilor, spoke on behalf of MacDonald, noting the he has great experience and is well
34 respected.
35

36 **Agenda Changes:** There were none.
37

38 **Board Reorganization**

39 **▪ Chairperson**

40 Peaslee moved and Letourneau seconded a motion nominating Frank Lamb for
41 Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Leon Johnson moved and Goodhue seconded
42 a motion to close the nominations. All were in favor of both motions.
43

44 **Peaslee moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to have the Clerk of the**
45 **Board cast one vote. Letourneau cast one vote for Lamb as Chair and the vote**
46 **carried to elect Lamb as Chair.**
47

48 **▪ Vice-Chair**

49 Lamb called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

1 Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded the motion of Harrington for Vice-Chair.

2

3 Alexander moved and Letourneau seconded a motion of DeLucia for Vice-Chair.

4

5 Kinney moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to close nominations. All were in
6 favor.

7

8 Leon Johnson called for a few words from both the nominees. Harrington expressed
9 that he gets along with most people here, he knows the workings of the CDC better
10 after serving a year on the board and that he offers a different perspective. DeLucia
11 spoke that he is into his second term on the board, appreciates people's confidence
12 in him, and he looks forward to working with the new Director.

13

14 **Paper ballots were distributed with Carpenter and Redding tallying the vote in**
15 **the room. The vote was DeLucia six (6) and Harrington five (5). DeLucia was**
16 **elected Vice Chairman.**

17

18 **▪ Secretary/ Clerk**

19 Lamb called for nominations for Secretary/ Clerk. Goodhue moved and Corcoran
20 seconded a motion to nominate Letourneau as Secretary. Kinney moved and
21 Peaslee seconded a motion to close nominations. All were in favor of both motions.

22

23 **Goodhue moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to have the Clerk of the**
24 **Board cast one vote. The motion carried. Letourneau will serve as Clerk.**

25

26 **▪ Meeting Day/ Date**

27 It was noted that an itinerary of 2009-2010 Regional Governing Board meetings and
28 locations was included in the packet. There was brief discussion regarding why the
29 board travels and Readsboro and Stamford being on a rotating year schedule.

30

31 Peaslee noted that both of these towns send their students to McCann in
32 Massachusetts. Lamb noted that even if that is the case, the towns are in our
33 district.

33

34 **Harrington moved and Kinney seconded a motion to accept the itinerary with**
35 **the October 19th meeting to be Stamford not Readsboro. All were in favor.**

36

37 **▪ Meeting Time**

38 **Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded the motion for RGB Meetings to begin at**
39 **6:30 PM. All were in favor.**

40

41 **▪ Paper of Record**

42 There was brief discussion as to alternative papers.

43

44 **Corcoran moved and DeLucia seconded a motion for the Bennington Banner**
45 **remaining Paper of Record. All were in favor.**

46

47 **▪ Authority to Sign Warrants**

48 **Kinney moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to authorize the Chair and Vice**
49 **Chair to sign warrants.**

1 Peaslee requested that the signer also print their name beside their signature.
2 There was brief discussion regarding the Clerk, who has historically also had the
3 authority to sign.
4

5 **Harrington moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to amend the initial**
6 **motion to include the Clerk also having the authority to sign Warrants. All**
7 **were in favor.**
8

9 **Vote was taken on the amended motion. All were in favor excepting Leon**
10 **Johnson, who voted Nay.**
11

- 12 ■ **Government Relations Network Representative** (Vermont School Board
13 Association)

14
15 Lamb has been doing this by default. He asked if anyone else was interested in the
16 job. Leon Johnson noted that the information was sent via email to all board
17 members by the School Board's communication team.
18

19 Consent Agenda

- 20 - Minutes of the February 10, 2009 RGB Meeting
- 21 - Minutes of the March 2, 2009 Annual Meeting
- 22 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 116 2/25/2009 in the amount of \$ 16,539.90
- 23 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1032 2/25/2009 in the amount of \$ 56,559.27
- 24 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 117 3/16/2009 in the amount of \$ 22,347.69
- 25 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1033 3/16/2009 in the amount of \$ 60,997.73
- 26 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 118 3/16/2009 in the amount of \$ 17,918.37
- 27 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1035 3/16/2009 in the amount of \$ 55,695.46
- 28 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1034 2/25/2009 in the amount of \$ 86,729.74
- 29 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1036 3/16/2009 in the amount of \$ 35,328.93
- 30 - Field Trips
 - 31 ■ FBLA April 1-3 Burlington VT
 - 32 ■ SkillsUSA April 8-9 Burlington VT
 - 33 ■ Human Services April 9-10 NYC
 - 34 ■ Pre-Law April 22-24 Washington DC
 - 35 ■ DECA April 27 – May 3 Anaheim CA
 - 36 ■ FBLA Nationals June 24 – 29 Anaheim CA

37
38 Leon Johnson questioned the DECA and FBLA Nationals field trips. On the DECA Field
39 Trip Request form, the cost was listed as \$13,000 for 9 students; on the FBLA Request, the
40 cost was \$600 for 8 students. Both are going to Anaheim CA. After brief discussion it was
41 noted that the FBLA Request was submitted on the old form, which separated out
42 transportation cost. The actual total for FBLA is \$10,600. The old forms will be discarded
43 so that there will be consistency in the future.
44

45 **Alexander moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**
46 **All were in favor excepting Peaslee who abstained.**
47

48 Policies for Warning:

49 Leon Johnson read the three (3) policies for warning. Each policy was read, discussed and

1 voted upon individually.

2
3 ♦ 5500C Student Privacy Rights

4 There was brief discussion about how student privacy is maintained when records are
5 sent out-of-state. Lee-Clark noted that the serve is 'secure'. There was also brief
6 discussion as to the survey referred to.

7
8 **Peaslee moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to Warn Policy # 5500C. All were in
9 favor.**

10
11 ♦ 6220C Animal Dissection

12 It was so noted that if a student had an objection, they would not sign up for the class.

13
14 **Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded a motion to Warn Policy # 6220C. All were in
15 favor.**

16
17 ♦ 7205C Board Member Conflict of Interest

18 Leon Johnson noted that previously there were concerns regarding the wording
19 'appearance of conflict'. The wording has since been cited and brought back to the
20 board.

21
22 **Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded a motion to Warn Policy # 7205C. All were in
23 favor.**

24
25 **Committee Reports**

26 Lamb noted the standing committees needed to be reorganized; there is a signup sheet that
27 Lamb would like tonight regarding where Board members would like to be assigned.
28 Finance committee had met and the board would discuss tonight in Executive Session.

29
30 There was discussion regarding the entire board being involved with committee meetings.
31 Lamb noted that committees only bring their recommendations to the board; the board itself
32 is responsible for any action taken. Lamb also noted that committee meetings are 'public
33 meetings' and any board member, as well as the public, may attend.

34
35 **Superintendent's Report:**

36 Carpenter invited the board to a supervisory-wide Board training on March 30th, 5PM, at the
37 CDC Conference Room. Brian O'Reagan will be the facilitator. Topics will include building
38 trust, roles and responsibilities and budget planning.

39
40 There was discussion regarding if the training would allow for specifics and also if the timely
41 topic of systemic failure could/ would be addressed.

42
43 **Chairman's Report:**

44 Lamb referred to the handout in the packet from the Vermont School Board regarding email.
45 Barone has communicated with Montpelier, who sent down a clarification. Barone reported
46 that he feels communication between the board and administration needs to be ongoing; the
47 more he is able to keep the board 'in the loop' the better. The 'caution' is that email to board
48 members is a 'public document.'

1 DeLucia inquired is it was possible to make Barone's emails searchable? It was suggested
2 that a board calendar be made available on the website or provided via email.

3
4 Lamb noted the following upcoming events:

- 5 → The Community Breakfast will be held Thursday, March 19th, 7AM.
- 6 → The RGB's Professional Development will be held Friday, March 20th, 12PM in the
7 Assembly Room. 'Tools for Schools' (marketing) will be the topic. CDC faculty and
8 board members are invited.

9
10 Lamb also asked that if board members had new ideas or thoughts that they either get them
11 to himself or Barone so they could be placed on the Agenda of upcoming meetings.

12
13 Harrington asked that this coming year the following be looked at:

- 14 → Criminal Background checks
- 15 → Meeting locations and other options
- 16 → The question as to if board office holders (ie chair, vice chair and clerk) retain their
17 positions until the reorganization meeting or do the positions expire on Election Day.
18 Lamb suggested administration contact the Secretary of State for clarification.

19
20 Leon Johnson added two items:

- 21 → The task of the board functioning as a group in terms as information and
22 communication.
- 23 → Suggested that at the end of each agenda item/ section, ask for Action Items. This
24 will allow for research, agenda planning and better follow up.

25
26 Harrington's and Leon Johnson's topics were discussed. Lamb stressed that agendas
27 prevent chaos, and that he has no problems with the suggestions as long as the agenda is
28 followed. Lamb requested Carpenter bring the background check information garnered
29 from the SVSU investigation forward so that RGB would be prepared to have their
30 discussion in May.

31
32 **Director's Report:**

33 Barone referred to his Director's Report and touched on the following:

- 34 → Item # 5 The DECA students did outstanding in Burlington. He requested the
35 board's permission to relay their compliments to the students and staff.

36
37 **Peaslee moved and Goodhue seconded the motion to relay compliments to the DECA
38 students and staff. All were in favor.**

- 39
40 → Item # 1. Focus this month and into the future is on recruitment and enrollment. A
41 large group is going to Arlington this week. The Burr & Burton visit will be in early
42 April. CDC was the first to have an Outreach Coordinator, others are following suit.
- 43 → Item # 2. Barone attended a meeting earlier this month in Burlington hosted by
44 Senator Leahy and Governor Douglas. The meeting concerned the stimulus
45 package and what it means to education. Barone hopes that when training to
46 displaced and unemployed workers gets fleshed out, tech centers stand ready to
47 serve. CDC and other tech centers should be a solution to our nation's economic
48 problem.
- 49 → Item # 3. Barone publicly thanked the citizens of Bennington County for their support

1 of the CDC and its budget. Barone also congratulated the two new and two
2 reelected board members. Barone also complimented the board on its
3 professionalism, its appreciation of the efforts of staff and its care for the best interest
4 of the students.

5 → Item # 4 Current enrollment data will be presented at the April meeting.

6
7 Lamb commented positively on Barone's comprehensive Director's Report and requested
8 Barone write a monthly newspaper column to be published in the Bennington Banner and
9 Manchester Journal.

10
11 **Leon Johnson moved and Alexander seconded a motion to have Barone write a**
12 **monthly newspaper column for the Banner and Manchester Journal. All were in**
13 **favor.**

14
15 Brief discussion followed with Peaslee voicing that if time doesn't permit, to not make the
16 article a priority above more important items.

17
18 **Executive Session:**

19 **At 7:35PM Peaslee moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to enter Executive**
20 **Session to discuss personnel and contracts. All were in favor.**

21
22 Barone and Montgomery joined the board in Executive Session.

23
24 **At 7:57PM Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded a motion to come out of Executive**
25 **Session. All were in favor.**

26
27 **Peaslee moved and Leon Johnson seconded the motion to accept the Director/**
28 **Superintendent's recommendation of pay adjustments for the three individuals. All**
29 **were in favor excepting Kinney and Larry Johnson who voted Nay.**

30
31 **At 7:58PM Kinney moved to adjourn. All were in favor.**

32
33 **Attachments:**

34 Proposed Meeting Dates, Times, Locations, Paper of Record
35 RGB February 10, 2009 Minutes
36 RGB March 2, 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes
37 Payroll Warrants #116, #1032; #117, #1033; # 18, #1035
38 Vendor Warrants #1034 & #1036
39 Treasurer's Revenue and Expenses Reports
40 Field Trips (6)
41 Policies for Warning
42 #5500C Student Privacy Rights
43 #6220C Animal Dissection
44 #7205C Board COI
45 Handout 1 (email)
46 Director Barone's Report
47