

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: May 18, 2009**

3 Burr & Burton Academy, Manchester VT

4
5 Members Present: Gloria Alexander; Claude DeLucia; Kevin Goodhue; Rickey Harrington;
6 Larry Johnson; Leon Johnson; Fran Kinney; Frank Lamb; Ed Letourneau; Jon Peaslee.

7
8 Members Absent: Justin Corcoran

9
10 Staff and Others Present: Dr Frank Barone, Director; George Carpenter, SVSU Interim
11 Superintendent; Joe Hoffman, Manchester School Board; Bruce Lee-Clark, Instructor; Greg
12 Lewis, Business Manager; Bob Montgomery, Assistant Director; Sandra Redding, Office
13 Manager.

14
15 Videotaping: Billy Trask

16
17 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger

18
19
20 At 6:35pm Lamb called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked Burr &
21 Burton Academy for hosting this travel meeting.

22
23 **Public Comments**

24 Lee-Clark reported that his students have researched and drafted a public ordinance for
25 Smoke Free Parks, which would prohibit the use of tobacco products in Town parks.
26 Tobacco Free Community Partners of Bennington presented the ordinance to the
27 Bennington Select Board this evening. The students received plaques from Tobacco Free
28 Community Partners this morning in recognition of their community service and work toward
29 the betterment of our town.

30
31 Leon Johnson noted this was great and hoped that it was reported in the Banner. Lee-Clark
32 noted that it was published on the CDC page.

33
34 **Agenda Changes**

35 **Peaslee moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to accept the Agenda as written. All**
36 **were in favor.**

37
38 **Consent Agenda**

- 39 - Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Finance Committee Meeting
40 - Minutes of the April 20, 2009 RGB Meeting
41 - Minutes of the May 5, 2009 Outreach Committee Meeting
42 - Minutes of the May 12, 2009 Education Committee Meeting
43 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 121 4/28/2009 in the amount of \$ 14,634.43
44 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1041 4/28/2009 in the amount of \$ 60,290.63
45 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 122 5/18/2009 in the amount of \$ 13,616.26
46 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1043 5/18/2009 in the amount of \$ 58,454.51
47
48 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1042 4/28/2009 in the amount of \$ 95,952.75
49 Includes voided check #9852 (Warrant #1038 3/27/09) in the amount of \$95.00

- 1 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1044 5/18/2009 in the amount of \$ 57,248.07
- 2 Includes voided check #9581 (Warrant #1028 1/20/09) in the amount of \$37.90
- 3 - Field Trip
- 4 ▪ National SkillsUSA Mon, June 22 thru Saturday, June 27 Kansas City MO

5
6 DeLucia requested the Minutes of the March 9th Finance Committee and the May 12th
7 Education Committee Meetings be pulled for further discussion.

8
9 **Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded a motion to accept the Consent Agenda minus**
10 **the March 9th and May 12th Minutes. All were in favor.**

11
12 March 9th Finance Committee Meeting

13 DeLucia noted in regards to the March 9th meeting; the legitimacy of the meeting had
14 been challenged. Barone reported that he has consulted with the Board of Education,
15 The Secretary of State's Office and Attorney Stitzel and the meeting was legitimate; the
16 Board's bylaws state the officers stay in place until the Organizational Meeting following
17 elections.

18
19 **Board consensus was to attach the Resolution to the Minutes.**

20
21 DeLucia noted that an answer to the question regarding funds in zero interest accounts
22 has yet to be answered. Barone will report back.

23
24 May 12, 2009 Education Committee Meeting

25 DeLucia noted on page 2, para 1, the Minutes should reflect the motion was to
26 recommend further investigation of a Welding Program to the Facilities and Education
27 committees, not to the full Board. The Minutes will be corrected.

28
29 **Kinney moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to accept the March 9 and May 12**
30 **Committee Meeting Minutes as corrected. All were in favor.**

31
32 Committee Reports:

33 → Education

34 Law Enforcement II

35 Goodhue reported on adding a Law Enforcement II internship to the Program. The
36 internship will start as a 3-4 week program involving 4-6 students at no cost to the CDC.
37 There was brief discussion regarding cost, local college offerings/ possible credit and
38 law enforcement instructors.

39
40 **Leon Johnson moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to offer Law Enforcement II**
41 **beginning next year. All were in favor.**

42
43 Zero Hour

44 Goodhue reported on the possibility of collaborating with MAU on a before school
45 program aimed at 'at-risk' (dropout) students. The class would be hands-on, involving
46 students manufacturing model train sets. Math and science skills would be highlighted.
47 Cost would be \$25k per year (including materials). Barone and Maguire will each work
48 to find grant monies to cover the first year costs. The class would be taught by two
49 CDC instructors and two MAU teachers (math and science).

1 Discussion followed regarding the charging tuition, credit (imbedded, reclamation, short
2 block, ie possible $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$), administration of the grant, the process and positives of
3 collaboration with MAU and its Board, exposing MAU students to the CDC, measuring
4 progress of the class, dropout prevention/ generating student enthusiasm and having
5 the class be available to all students in CDC's district.

6
7 **Leon Johnson moved and Peaslee seconded the motion to move forward on the Zero**
8 **Hour program. All were in favor.**

9
10 Welding

11 Goodhue reported the welding program would involve 8-10 students. CDC has the
12 equipment necessary (12 welders, some purchased in 1997 and still new in box), but
13 not the classroom space. The program would necessitate a roughly 20' x 30' building
14 being built on the north side of the CDC.

15
16 Brief discussion regarding prior use of an off-site lab, change in United McGill's policy,
17 lack of storage space, and the type of welders followed.

18
19 **Leon Johnson moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to research this and come**
20 **back with a plan. All were in favor.**

21
22 Culinary

23 Goodhue reported this program would be grant funded and would need an off-site
24 kitchen.

25
26 **Peaslee moved and Letourneau seconded a motion to pursue the idea further. All**
27 **were in favor.**

28
29 Junior ROTC

30 Barone reported the topic came up at the Legislative Breakfast as a way to attract
31 students at both ends. He views ROTC as a 'career choice'. Vermont is one of the
32 tougher states to introduce ROTC and it will be a long shot for CDC. The Department
33 of Defense (DOD) has a waiting list of approximately fourteen hundred schools; the only
34 way to gain ROTC is when an another school drops the program. The program would
35 include providing a classroom and storage; direct costs to CDC would be one-half of the
36 difference between active duty and retirement pay for each of the two instructors
37 (retired military personnel).

38
39 Leon Johnson noted that CDC didn't have to go full bore with ROTC; the Guards are in
40 Town for projects.

41
42 **Peaslee moved and Harrington seconded a motion to pursue the idea further. All**
43 **were in favor.**

44
45 Johnson asked for a timeline re the above approved ideas. Goodhue responded Law
46 Enforcement and Zero Hour would be right away.

47
48 → Outreach

49 At Leon Johnson's suggestion, Alexander highlighted the May 5th Meeting minutes by

1 commenting on the following topics for the audience:

- 2 ▪ Sending School mailings
- 3 ▪ New Programs
- 4 ▪ Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT)
- 5 ▪ Enrollment numbers for the next school year
- 6 ▪ Adult education
- 7 ▪ CDC Awards Night, June 4th

8
9 → Policy

10 Leon Johnson reported that next month three policies will be brought to the Board for
11 Warning: 5002C, Students Anti Harassment; 5003C, Bullying; and 6000C, Curriculum.
12 The next Policy Committee meeting will be August 18.

13 14 **Superintendent's Report:**

15 Carpenter reported that as of July 1, CDC would have its own Superintendent. Carpenter
16 met with the sub-committee appointed at the last meeting, Lamb and the Vermont School
17 Board regarding an Instrument to evaluate the new superintendent. This Instrument has
18 many 'Indicators'. A 'process' is needed whereas the Superintendent and Board meet and
19 identify priorities. Carpenter encourages a 'self evaluation' by the Superintendent by
20 December 1, followed by feedback by January 1, with a final meeting before March 30 and a
21 contract by April 1. The Instrument and Contract are tied together and the contract itself will
22 be discussed in Executive Session later this evening.

23
24 **Goodhue moved and Leon Johnson seconded a motion in favor of the**
25 **Superintendent Evaluation Instrument. All were in favor.**

26 27 **Chairman's Report:**

28 The following items were discussed and action, if appropriate, was taken:

29
30 1. **Charging non-participating schools a fee.**

31
32 There was brief discussion regarding the legality of such action. Barone had
33 forwarded (via email) the legal opinion that it is not legal at this point to charge a fee
34 to non-participating schools. All except Kinney received the email. Also discussed
35 was 'Representation without taxation'. Peaslee expressed that there is a need to
36 have the legislature take action to allow it. Letourneau noted that historically, certain
37 public cost have been shared by everyone.

38
39 **Peaslee moved and Leon Johnson seconded a motion to approve encouraging**
40 **legislature to change legislation and allow school districts to charge non-**
41 **participating schools. Letourneau and Peaslee voted in favor with the remaining**
42 **members voting Nay. The motion failed.**

43
44 2. **Travel to Board Meetings in other parts of the District**

45 Harrington brought up the topic as to why the Board travels on occasion to other
46 schools for their monthly Board meeting. Leon Johnson noted that when CDC
47 separated and becoming its own school 'district', it was important that all the towns in
48 the district feel they were important and part of the district. Letourneau noted it was
49 a matter of respect.

1 Discussion followed as to how to increase attendance at meetings, travel/ mileage
2 compensation and the possibly use of current technology (simulcast, possible 'call-in,
3 satellite) to reach all.
4

5 Lamb noted CDC is a public choice school; 'We ask the communities to send their
6 students to us. We have an obligation to extend the effort to come to their school.'
7

8 **Director's Report:**

9 Barone touched upon the items in his Director's Report of May 18, 2009:

- 10 Item # 1 Three data reports from the April meeting are now on the CDC
11 (www.svcfdc.org) website under 'Director's Reports':
 - 12 1. CDC tuition relative to other VT tech centers
 - 13 2. Total enrollment from sending schools
 - 14 3. Maximum recommended enrollments
- 15 Item # 2 Board Minutes are now up-to-date
- 16 Item # 3 The Awards Dinner will be held June 4 at the Bennington Elks Club
- 17 Item # 4 There are now 2 vehicles for staff and board use (4-5 people)
- 18 Item # 5 The Vermont Department of Education turned down the RFP for the
19 summer work program.
- 20 Item # 6 WiFi will be installed on campus over the summer. It will be highly
21 restricted.
- 22 Item # 7 Cosmetology II attended the International Beauty Show in NYC. Students
23 have also been involved with community projects and will attend the
24 Mayfest and Senior All-Night party.
- 25 Item # 8 Pre-law students had a successful trip to Washington DC.
- 26 Item # 9 On May 11, eight of Nicky Forest's Business Management students
27 collaborated with MAU's Jerry O'Connor's class on a recycling project
28 called 'Trash to Treasure'.
- 29 Item # 10 Human Services students attended the Children's Museum in Manhattan.
- 30 Item # 11 The marketing class had nine students attend the National DECA
31 Conference in Anaheim CA. There were 14,000 students in attendance
32 with another 3,000 advisors and chaperones.
- 33 Item # 12 Communication and Forensics students are partnering to build two
34 osteometric boards, which will allow them to precisely measure bones. On
35 May 21, Communication students will be going to NYC and visiting the
36 Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Sony Wonder Technology Lab.
37

38 Barone reported that his monthly report is available for all online.
39

40 Barone also reported that the background check issue is addressed with Administration
41 Policy 4080C. Leon Johnson noted that no action is needed but the Policy needs to be with
42 the other Administration Policies. Harrington expressed his thanks.
43

44 Barone read a letter written by a student who participated in BROCC's VITA program and
45 what a positive experience it was.
46

47 Harrington commented on the enrollment chart in this month's packet. He requested one
48 that also shows minimum enrollment. Montgomery noted that historically, minimum
49 enrollment has been 8 FTEs.

1 **Other:**

2 Leon Johnson spoke of the amount of CDC emails being sent to board members. Johnson
3 expressed that they should be kept to a minimum, with discussion at board meetings.
4 Barone noted there had been a lot, but they were updates in response to questions raised at
5 meetings. All had subsequently been discussed at meetings. Letourneau expressed that
6 they should be attached to the minutes as they were in response to publicly asked
7 questions. Barone noted the memo in this month's packet which request questions
8 requiring research be asked prior to the meetings to allow them to be answered in public at
9 the meeting. DeLucia expressed that email could well serve as an announcement of
10 upcoming events.

11
12 **Executive Session:**

13
14 **At 8:05 Letourneau moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to go into Executive**
15 **Session to discuss personnel and contract. All were in favor.**

16
17 **At 8:50 Leon Johnson moved and Goodhue to come out of Executive Session. All**
18 **were in favor.**

19
20 **Peaslee moved and Harrington seconded a motion to pay a \$2,500 fee for additional**
21 **services to Laurie Wright for the 2008-2009 school year. Kinney and Larry Johnson**
22 **voted nay, with the remaining members voting in favor. The motion carried.**

23
24 **Leon Johnson moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to direct administration to**
25 **rewrite the duties for Ms Wright's position. All were in favor.**

26
27 **Adjourn:**

28
29 **At 8:55 Goodhue moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in**
30 **favor.**

31
32 **Attachments:**

- 33 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2009
- 34 - RGB Meeting Minutes - April 20, 2009
- 35 - Outreach Committee Meeting Minutes - May 5, 2009
- 36 - Education Committee Meeting Minutes - May 12, 2009
- 37 - Payroll Warrants #121, #1041, #122, #1043
- 38 - Vendor Warrants # 1042, #1044
- 39 - Field Trips (1)
- 40 - Director's Report
- 41 - Barone Handouts (2)
- 42 - Revenue and Expenses Reports
- 43 - Superintendent Evaluation Instrument
- 44 - CDC course maximum
- 45 - Stipend request