

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: March 15, 2010**

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, Superintendent/ Director; Josh Greenlaw  
10 (student) & parents (left @ 7:10); Greg Lewis, Business Manager; Bob Montgomery,  
11 Assistant Director; Sandra Redding, Office Manager; Melody Troy, Sunderland Elementary  
12 School Principal (left @ 7:10).  
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14 Videotaping: CAT-TV  
15

16 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger  
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19 The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Superintendent Barone. Barone then called  
20 for nominations for Board Chair:  
21

22 Peaslee moved and Harrington seconded a motion nominating Frank Lamb for Chair.  
23

24 Leon Johnson moved and Harrington seconded a motion nominating Claude DeLucia for  
25 Chair.  
26

27 Kinney moved and Harrington seconded a motion to close nominations. All were in favor.  
28

29 Barone asked the nominees to say a few words:

- 30 • Lamb responded that his mission has been and will continue to be providing quality  
31 technical education for Bennington County in a fiscally responsible way. He hopes  
32 that he fulfilled his duties as chair as such in the past.
- 33 • DeLucia responded that he appreciates the nomination; the next three years will be  
34 interesting ones, especially now that we have the official designation of being V009.  
35 He looks forward to expanding to the full district.  
36

37 Barone directed the distribution of paper ballots. Redding handed out and collected the  
38 ballots with Lewis then tallying. **Barone announced the vote: Lamb 7 (seven) and**  
39 **DeLucia four (4). And so it was voted that Lamb will serve as Chair.** Barone then  
40 turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairman Lamb.  
41

42 **Board Reorganization**  
43

44 **▪ Vice-Chair**

45 Lamb called for nominations for Vice-Chair.  
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47 Peaslee moved and Alexander seconded the motion of Goodhue for Vice-Chair.  
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49 Larry Johnson nominated DeLucia for Vice-Chair.

1 Peaslee nominated Harrington for Vice-Chair.

2  
3 Kinney moved and Alexander seconded a motion to close nominations. All were in favor.

4  
5 Redding handed out and collected the ballots with Lewis then tallying. **Lewis announced the vote: Goodhue 6 (six) and DeLucia 4 (four) and Harrington 1 (one). And so it was voted that Goodhue will serve as Vice-Chair.**

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9 **▪ Secretary/ Clerk**

10 Lamb called for nominations for Clerk:

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12 Goodhue moved and Peaslee seconded the motion of Letourneau for Clerk/ Secretary.

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14 Peaslee moved and Corcoran seconded a motion of DeLucia Clerk/ Secretary.

15  
16 Kinney moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to close nominations. All were in favor.

17  
18 Redding handed out and collected the ballots with Lewis then tallying. **Lewis announced the vote: Letourneau 7 (seven) and DeLucia 4 (four). And so it was voted that Letourneau will serve as Secretary/ Clerk.**

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22 **▪ Meeting Day**

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24 **Alexander moved and Corcoran seconded a motion for meeting day to continuing being the third Wednesday of the month. All were in favor.**

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27 **▪ Meeting Time**

28 Leon Johnson brought up the discussion of changing the meeting time to 7:00pm, noting 6:30 was a challenge for him.

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31 **Leon Johnson moved and Harrington seconded a motion to change the meeting time to 7:00pm. All voted nay. The motion did not carry.**

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34 **Corcoran moved and Alexander seconded a motion to keep meeting time at 6:30pm. All were in favor. The motion carried.**

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37 **▪ Meeting Location(s)**

38 Harrington re-opened the previous discussion regarding travel meetings. Noting cost incurred by both board members and administration, barely having a quorum at Stamford, and the fact that at the majority of travel meetings the only one in attendance is the hosting school's janitor, Harrington suggested that Barone be the one reaching out to the outlying district and inviting that Superintendent. Harrington would like to have all meetings in Bennington and dedicate 'travel meetings' to the school/ town by using a banner.

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44  
45 Agreeing with keeping the meetings 'at home', the following members spoke their reasons:

- 46 • Corcoran added that travel meetings keep the meeting from 'going live' with CATTV.
- 47 • Letourneau stated that travel is difficult but we do have an obligation to reach the
- 48 outlying towns. He would like to see better use of technology with Comcast
- 49 telecasting simultaneously and the audience being able to email or call in. He also

1 expressed the importance of being broadcast to the television audience that regularly  
2 tunes in. (*Only 'at home' meetings are broadcast*)

- 3 • Goodhue would not be averse to traveling to towns if invited however does not want  
4 to travel just to see the janitor.
- 5 • Kinney would like to see the use of technology for communication.

6

7 Speaking for travel meetings were:

- 8 • Alexander, who feels it is important to go to the Arlington, Manchester and Dorset.
- 9 • Leon Johnson feels that it is responsibility of the Board to reach out to and represent  
10 all the towns/ schools in the district. Leon feels that it is also important to get board  
11 representation from outlying districts. He suggested car-pooling as a way to cut  
12 costs. Johnson noted that it is not just janitors who attend and cited meetings in the  
13 Northshire where others have been in attendance.

14

15 Lamb noted there were pros & cons and expressed that if we ask students to travel to the  
16 CDC daily there is an obligation to go to their schools. Lamb also noted that no one  
17 normally attends the meetings here in Bennington.

18

19 Leon Johnson inquired as to the legality of changing this practice by Board vote. DeLucia  
20 noted that when the Board was first formed, traveling was a part of Outreach; it was not a  
21 requirement, more an opportunity to make CDC's presence known. There is no statute  
22 prohibiting a change of meeting place.

23

24 Harrington would like to have a banner to show respect to those communities that would  
25 have been previously visited. He also suggested Barone personally invite the  
26 superintendent/ principal to the meeting. Barone would like to look at some tech solutions  
27 for ways these communities could participate.

28

29 **Harrington moved and Larry Johnson seconded a motion to hold Meetings in**  
30 **Bennington unless there is a reason/ request to travel elsewhere. Hand vote reflected**  
31 **six (6) in favor and five (5) opposed. The motion carried.**

32

- 33 ▪ **Paper of Record**

34

35 **Corcoran moved and Harrington seconded a motion for the Bennington Banner**  
36 **remaining Paper of Record. All were in favor.**

37

- 38 ▪ **Authority to Sign Warrants (Off Warrant) signers**

39

40 **Harrington moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to authorize the three officers to**  
41 **sign warrants.**

42

43 Peaslee requested that the signer also print their name beside their signature.

44

#### 45 **Public Comment**

46

47 There was none.

48

49

1 **Agenda Changes/ Additions**

2 Harrington requested the Board discuss the Outreach position. The topic was added for  
3 tonight's meeting.

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5 **Corcoran moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to set the Agenda. All were in  
6 favor.**

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8 **Presentation**

9 Dr Barone introduced Melody Troy, Sunderland Elementary School Principal. Troy thanked  
10 all and spoke of the opportunity presented last summer when her Board President  
11 approached her re having interns from the CDC to help with Sunderland's Laptop Initiative.  
12 Troy visited and met with CDC students and explained the Coop, which involved setting up  
13 the laptops, network, and print sharing for the third through sixth grade students, all of which  
14 were receiving one. Joshua Greenlaw, Artificial Intelligence student, applied, went through  
15 the interview process and was accepted to participate along with one other CDC student.  
16 Joshua works at Sunderland Elementary two days per week, is paid minimum wage, treated  
17 as an employee and is required to keep a log. Troy noted the laptops are all up and running  
18 and thanked the Board for the Coop program. Troy then introduced Joshua.

19  
20 Greenlaw thanked all involved for the Coop opportunity. Joshua was impressed when Ms  
21 Troy and Digital Wish visited last year to explain the Coop and applied thinking it would be  
22 good for his college resume and give him life experience. What he learned is what is like to  
23 be a teacher. Joshua then led the Board through his PowerPoint presentation.

24  
25 Greenlaw began with the Coop Mission: to setup the laptops/ network them and then show  
26 the teachers how to keep the system working. Working in conjunction with the other Coop  
27 student, Joshua was responsible for the software and OS. Use of the log was essential for  
28 communication between the two schools and the two programs.

29  
30 Joshua spoke of the benefits of this Coop:

- 31 • Affordable tech support for Sunderland Elementary
- 32 • Generating interest in the CDC programs among the elementary students
- 33 • On the job experience for the Coop CDC students
- 34 • Resume builder for the CDC interns
- 35 • Forging an ongoing relationship between Sunderland and Mr Sebborn's classes.
- 36 • Inspiring elementary students to attend CDC and college. Joshua expressed his firm  
37 belief in an outreach program that places a CDC student in every single elementary  
38 school in the district.

39  
40 Joshua also reported on a presentation he gave the Sunderland students, which grew into  
41 him bringing micro controls to the school, providing the students with a hands-on  
42 experience. Greenlaw feels that the students often learn better from 'peers'; this activity  
43 also gave him a feel for what teachers go through (for the better) and helped him gain  
44 empathy for teachers. Alexander and Leon Johnson expressed their interest in his idea of  
45 peer teaching.

46  
47 Joshua expressed that he did not get his life on course until three years ago. If someone  
48 like himself came in during elementary school, he would be far better off. A guiding hand  
49 when he was 10-12 years old would have enabled him to be there from the start.

1 Lamb thanked Joshua, who received a round of applause from the Board.

2  
3 **Consent Agenda**

- 4 - Minutes of the February 22, 2010 RGB Meeting  
5 - Minutes of the March 1, 2010 Annual Meeting  
6 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 117 3/15/2010 in the amount of \$ 12,284.38  
7 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1034 3/15/2010 in the amount of \$ 61,862.89  
8 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 118 3/15/2010 in the amount of \$ 13,697.58  
9 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1036 3/15/2010 in the amount of \$ 60,364.61  
10 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1035 2/23/2010 in the amount of \$ 1,630.00  
11  
12 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1037 3/16/2010 in the amount of \$ 60,151.35  
13

14 **Harrington moved and Peaslee seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. All were in**  
15 **favor.**

16  
17 **Field Trip**

- 18     ▪ Plants & Flowers/ FFA     3/25 → 3/28     HVCC Troy NY     11-15 Students  
19

20 Johnson again requested that all requests be presented in a typed format rather than  
21 handwritten.

22  
23 **Peaslee moved and Kinney seconded a motion to approve the Field Trip. All were in**  
24 **favor.**

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26 **Resignation/ Job Posting**

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28 **Harrington moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to accept Jessica Hill's**  
29 **resignation from the Outreach Coordinator position with regret. All were in favor.**  
30

31 Harrington opened discussion regarding the Outreach Coordinator position and questioned  
32 if CDC was getting their money(s) worth. If the goal of the Superintendent is to be 'leader',  
33 shouldn't he be getting out, interacting with, and drawing people in? If so, why are we hiring  
34 someone else? In these economic times, wouldn't it be prudent to take a couple years  
35 without the position and let Barone do the work?  
36

37 Comments and thoughts were as follows:

- 38     • Leon Johnson commented that in SVSU, the initiative is to review every position  
39     when someone leaves before it is filled; we should do the same.  
40     • Alexander, a member of the Outreach Committee, reported on the many  
41     responsibilities the position entails; more than Barone could be expected to do with  
42     his other duties. The position requires a person that relates well with students on  
43     their level; she is in favor of keeping the position.  
44     • Corcoran, Chair of the Outreach Committee, noted the work done since the  
45     position's inception has been successful; enrollment is up and the position should not  
46     be eliminated.  
47     • Letourneau added the numbers speak for themselves; enrollment is up 14%.

- 1       • Harrington responded he is glad enrollment is up, however the over 90% of the  
2 students attending are from MAU, not outlying districts. Corcoran noted this is a  
3 logistics issue, but it really does not matter where the students are coming from.  
4       • Larry Johnson, Outreach Committee, expressed Barone has a good supportive staff  
5 and should draw on Montgomery and Swisher and put together his own cohesive  
6 outreach program.  
7       • Kinney questions the need for the position; he wants to know how many more  
8 students are coming from outlying districts and would like to see the numbers and  
9 compare them to those from before the position was created. He expressed his  
10 thought that Barone should be leading the charge. Fran referred back to Greenlaw's  
11 earlier comments about CDC students acting as ambassadors.  
12       • Barone noted that Harrington was absolutely right that there is no way to quantify  
13 with numbers a person's effect on enrollment. Barone noted that the Outreach  
14 Coordinator's job is to recruit students period, not just from the outlying areas but  
15 also MAU. Barone indicated his Enrollment Report (April meeting) should give the  
16 proportion numbers that members are asking about. The position supports Barone's  
17 and Montgomery's efforts. Barone reiterated, you don't know how important the  
18 position is until you do not have it.  
19

20 **Corcoran moved and Alexander seconded a motion to maintain the Outreach**  
21 **Coordinator position. Hand vote was taken with six (6) for and five (5) opposed.**  
22 **The motion carried.**  
23

#### 24 **Action Items**

25 Lamb noted the updated Action Items checklist was in the packet. He requested  
26 administration take a look and update the Board next month on items that have not yet been  
27 done. Lamb reported that they have not met with Legislature yet, they are tied up with  
28 school consolidation.  
29

#### 30 **Committee Reports**

- 31       • Strategic Planning

32 Alexander reported the teams are making progress on their goals. A report will be given at  
33 the May RGB Meeting.  
34

#### 35 **Director/ Superintendent's Report:**

36 Barone highlighted Items:

- 37       # 1       Thank you for unanimous support for Budget  
38       # 2 / 3     Engineering & Design/ Human Services Reports  
39       # 4       Vacancy notices re Outreach Coordinator's position. Doc personally posted at  
40 the CDC and all SVSU buildings. Resumes have begun to come in and will  
41 continue to be accepted until April 1.  
42       # 5       Administration requests the Board's authorization to solicit bids for a new bus.  
43 Funds have been already been saved and put aside to help pay for it.  
44 Administration also wishes authorization to sell the old bus, which is over ten  
45 years old and still runs well but is developing undercarriage issues. These  
46 busses pay for themselves in less than two years of service.  
47 Peaslee noted that Pownal just took advantage of a Federal government 'Cash  
48 for Clunkers' school bus type program. Pownal received \$40,000 from the  
49 government for giving them their old one. Peaslee suggested Barone contact

1 Joy Ketchum, Pownal Elementary Principal.

2  
3 **Peaslee moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to allow Administration to solicit**  
4 **bids for new 20-passenger bus. All were in favor.**

5  
6 # 6 Administration hopes to present the 2010 Five-Year Enrollment Trends  
7 PowerPoint presentation at the April RGB Meeting.

8 # 7 Barone apologized for the picture, noted it was not because of the printer.  
9 Barone noted that the Sophomore Summit last week at SVC was very  
10 successful.

11 # 8 Greg Lewis will bring the RFPs for audit services to the April RGB Meeting for  
12 Board approval.

13  
14 **Chairman's Report:**

15 Lamb reported:

- 16 1. They did not get to Montpelier  
17 2. Barone and himself will continue to visit school boards as arranged  
18

19 Barone noted that Dan French, BRSU Superintendent, will visit Wednesday to discuss  
20 proposals on how to get more students from the Northshire into CDC programs.  
21

22 **Executive Session:**

23  
24 **At 7:32PM Corcoran moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to enter Executive**  
25 **Session to discuss 1) non-union district personnel contract, 2) personnel issue, 3)**  
26 **Superintendent contract and 4) Assistant Director contract. All were in favor.**  
27

28 Barone and Montgomery joined the board in Executive Session.  
29

30 **At 9:02PM Corcoran moved and Letourneau seconded a motion to come out of**  
31 **Executive Session. All were in favor.**

32  
33 **Corcoran moved and Leon Johnson seconded a motion to approve the four (4)**  
34 **individual three (3) year contracts for the non-union district personnel. Hand vote**  
35 **was taken; seven (7) in favor and four (4) opposed. The motion carried.**  
36

37 **Corcoran moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to extend for one (1) year the**  
38 **contract of the Superintendent. Hand vote was taken; nine (9) in favor and two (2)**  
39 **opposed. The motion carried.**  
40

41 **Leon Johnson moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to extend the Assistant**  
42 **Director's contract for one (1) year. Hand vote was taken; nine (9) voted for and two**  
43 **(2) opposed. The motion carried.**  
44

45 **Harrington moved and Peaslee seconded a motion upon the recommendation of the**  
46 **District's Superintendent that we terminate for cause on June 30, 2010 the Building**  
47 **Trades Instructor. Hand vote was taken; eleven (11) voted in favor, zero (0) opposed,**  
48 **zero (0) abstained. The motion carried.**  
49

1 **Other**

2 Leon Johnson expressed thanks for all the voters that came out and supported the Board  
3 members and the budget as did the other incumbents.

4  
5 **At 9:06PM Corcoran moved and Peaslee seconded a motion to adjourn. All were in**  
6 **favor.**

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9 **Attachments:**

- 10 RGB February 22, 2010 Minutes
- 11 RGB March 1, 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 12 Payroll Warrants #117, #1034; 1035; #118, #1036
- 13 Vendor Warrants #1037
- 14 Treasurer's Revenue and Expenses/ Cash Flow
- 15 Field Trip
- 16 Resignation/ Job Posting
- 17 Contract Information
- 18 China Trip Update
- 19 RGB Action Items
- 20 Director/ Superintendent's Report

21  
22 **Distributed at Meeting**

- 23 Revised Director's Report