

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, September 20, 2010**
3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center

4
5 Members Present: Justin Corcoran; Claude DeLucia; Kevin Goodhue; Rickey Harrington;
6 Larry Johnson; Leon Johnson; Fran Kinney; Frank Lamb; Ed Letourneau.

7
8 Members Excused/ absent: Gloria Alexander; Jon Peaslee.

9
10 Staff and Others Present: Dr Barone, Superintendent/ Director; Nancy Burzon, Workforce
11 Development Partnership of Bennington County (WDPBC); Greg Lewis, Business
12 Manager; Bob Montgomery, Assistant Director; Sandy Redding, Office Manager.

13
14 Videotaping: CAT TV

15
16 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger (Sandy Redding taped)

17
18 At 6:30pm, Lamb called the meeting to order, welcoming all. Lamb also introduced board
19 members Kevin Goodhue, Larry Johnson, and Fran Kinney who were not able to attend the
20 August Special Meeting.

21
22 **Public Comments** There were none.

23
24 **Agenda Changes/ Additions**

25 The following two items were added:

- 26 • Rickey Harrington – report on ‘gores’
27 • Nancy Burzon, Workforce Development Partnership of Bennington County

28
29 **DeLucia moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to approve the Agenda as set. All**
30 **in attendance voted in favor.**

31
32 **Guest Presentation**

33 Nancy Burzon, Director of the Workforce Development Partnership of Bennington County,
34 explained that her purpose tonight was to acquaint the board with her organization, what
35 they do and to talk about their current project. Burzon circulated and bulleted a handout
36 that included WDPBC’s Vision, Mission, 2010-2011 Work Plan, 2010-11 Board of Directors
37 and Meeting Schedule.

38
39 Burzon then focused on the Business Assessment of Composite Clusters in Bennington,
40 begun this summer. A special committee that includes local employers VT Composites,
41 Plasan NA and Plasan Carbon Composites along with CDC, Hudson Valley, RPI and Union
42 College is researching this emerging engineering/ manufacturing field. Projections call for
43 400+ workers needed within five year in this field locally.

44
45 There was brief discussion which included Barone noting the reasonable possibility of
46 offering an evening adult education course on a tuition basis. Barone also noted that parts
47 of this topic are further addressed in the Strategic Planning Report, which will be presented
48 later this evening.

49
50 **Vermont Gores**

51 Board member Rickey Harrington shared information he received from Attorney Paul Gilles

1 on 'gores'. Essentially, gores are left over land slivers (from surveys) that are not
2 recognized by either abutting towns. These slivers arose when surveyors tried to make
3 right angle plots of land on round, hilly surfaces. Other areas of rural New England have
4 them, as well as England itself. Vermont had as many as 41. Harrington provided a
5 handout that provides more specifics.

6

7 **PowerPoint Presentation: Five Year Strategic Planning Committee Report**

8 Dr Barone thanked Gloria Alexander for her leadership and also thanked the board for its
9 service and commitment to the students of Bennington County.

10

11 Having received the Report in their packets, Q & A was the format. Leon Johnson inquired
12 as to how Goal # 5, Reviewing & monitoring overall program & school evaluation, would be
13 followed up on. Evaluation and follow up are necessary to determine effectiveness. Barone
14 noted surveys are sent out to CDC completers after six months and again after three years.
15 Questions as to if they are employed in their course of study are a part of this survey.

16

17 DeLucia asked about membership on the advisory boards; wasn't the goal to include all
18 curriculums not just composites? Barone and Corcoran concurred that the Plan is for 5
19 years with an annual review, this year's focus is on the composite industry.

20

21 Corcoran commented that the best goal is having every CDC completer leave with a portfolio.

22

23 **Motion was made and seconded to approve the Five Year Strategic Planning Report.**
24 **All in attendance voted in favor.**

25

26 **Consent Agenda**

- 27 - Minutes of the August 17, 2010 Regional Governing Board Special Meeting
- 28 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 5 08/27/2010 in the amount of \$ 12,019.56
- 29 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1007 08/27/2010 in the amount of \$ 61,927.90
- 30 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 6 09/20/2010 in the amount of \$ 10,837.03
- 31 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1009 09/20/2010 in the amount of \$ 61,725.14

32

- 33 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1008 08/27/2010 in the amount of \$ 82,267.37
- 34 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1010 09/20/2010 in the amount of \$ 72,146.44

35

- 36 - Field Trips
- 37 Human Services II October 7 → October 8 Boston MA 14 students (max)
- 38 FBLA Nov 18 → Nov 21 Washington DC 10 students

39

40 **Harrington moved and Leon Johnson seconded a motion to approve the Consent**
41 **Agenda. All in attendance voted in favor.** There was no discussion.

42

43 **Action Items**

44 Barone asked for permission to purchase a complete greenhouse kit for up to \$13,000.
45 There has been resistance from SVSU to have CDC share use of MAU's new constructed
46 greenhouse. Putting a greenhouse kit on the CDC campus would still need to be approved
47 by MAU.

48

49 Discussion as to where on the CDC campus the kit would be located, securing Town of
50 Bennington permits, other area greenhouse facilities that could possibly be used, SVSU
51 resistance (board or staff), and the adequacy of structure followed. Montgomery

1 elaborated on the upgrades that would be needed to make the MAU greenhouse usable
 2 (upgrade electrical/ plumbing/ mats/ flow through ventilation) and noted that the costs to
 3 CDC for these upgrades would be in the thousands of dollars - just to create adequate
 4 space.

5
 6 **At 7:25pm, Corcoran moved and Kinney seconded a motion to enter Executive**
 7 **Session to discuss for personnel. All in attendance were in favor. Administrators**
 8 **Barone and Montgomery participated also.**

9
 10 **At 7:37 Harrington moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to exit Executive**
 11 **Session. All in attendance were in favor.**

12
 13 After exiting executive session, further discussion as to how quickly a decision was needed,
 14 Barone's reminder to the board that their approval, though desirable, was not needed for
 15 purchases under \$15k, involvement of the CDC students in the project, and total project
 16 costs. Letourneau noted that if the board chooses to use the MAU greenhouse, based on
 17 prior experiences an ironclad agreement, reviewed by the attorney, should be in place.
 18 Barone will bring to the board total project costs at the next board meeting or prior if a
 19 special meeting is warned.

20 21 **Director/ Superintendent's Report**

22 Barone noted that his monthly report was in the packet and referred the board to a chart
 23 prepared by another tech director that shows where the CDC is in relation to other tech
 24 centers in Vermont.

25
 26 Barone reported on the following topics:

- 27 • Legislative
- 28 He would ask John Fischer, VT Department of Education, to meet in early October
- 29 (in Montpelier) to discuss the following issues that were not addressed in the just
- 30 past legislature:
- 31 1) Hoosick falls tuition
- 32 2) Extending FTEs so that courses can be offered after school and/ or during the
- 33 summer to high school students
- 34 3) Tech centers being able to award their own separate diploma or degree

35
 36 Lamb requested a report from Barone at the October RGB meeting.

- 37
- 38 • Distance Learning
- 39 Lamb noted that there are courses offered at CDC that could be taken either by
- 40 students in the county or statewide – why is this not happening??

41
 42 Barone has discussed distance learning with Bruce Lee-Clark, who teaches
 43 primarily academic classes, and Lee-Clark felt that his classes could be taught
 44 simultaneously remotely. Barone would like to do a study similar to the one done by
 45 Black River, this time to study the feasibility and costs involved in equipping and
 46 modifying curriculum of existing courses. DeLucia inquired if Barone had been in
 47 contact with VIT to see how they do it.

48
 49 **Leon Johnson moved and Harrington seconded a motion to approve a feasibility**
 50 **and cost study, not to exceed \$1,000, in relation to distance learning. All in**
 51 **attendance were in favor.**

- 1 • Culinary Advisory Board
- 2 Barone provided a list of names and organizations of the members. The advisory
- 3 board has already met once and will meet again, possibly this week. Two
- 4 members, TJ Carmody and Natasha Garder, will be participating in the instructor
- 5 interview process along with board member Gloria Alexander. There were over 50
- 6 applications have been received; 6-8 will interview with the advisory board.
- 7 Barone's hope is to have someone on board asap.
- 8
- 9 • CDC open house this Wednesday (September 22) at 6:30pm
- 10
- 11 • Room Utilization
- 12 Lamb inquired as to the status of the rooms upstairs.
- 13
- 14 Barone reported that the Black River study got administration looking at how to create
- 15 more instructional space and office space in the future. The third floor has two oversized
- 16 classrooms that can be partitioned. This would be an option down the road.
- 17
- 18 • Building Trades House Project
- 19 The house was boxed up over the summer; however the decking did not weather
- 20 well. The students have torn of the old decking and put new decking down. The
- 21 students are now working from plans; scheduling to pour the concrete floor and
- 22 begin the second floor. They are now going full steam ahead.
- 23

24 Kinney noted that on Wednesday, September 22 (4pm) there would be prep meeting at
25 Central Office for teacher negotiations. Lamb asked for an update at next month's RGB
26 meeting.

27
28 **Adjourn**

29
30 **At 7:54pm, Kinney moved and Corcoran seconded a motion to adjourn. All in**
31 **attendance were in favor.**

32
33 **Attachments:**

- 34 - August 17, Regional Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes
- 35 - Payroll Warrants #5 & #1007 Dated August 27, 2010
- 36 - Payroll Warrants #6 & #1009 Dated September 20, 2010
- 37 - Vendor Warrant #1008 Dated August 27, 2010
- 38 - Vendor Warrant #1010 Dated September 20, 2010
- 39 - Revenue & Expenses & Treasurer's Report
- 40 - Field Trips (2)
- 41 - Director's Report
- 42 - PowerPoint Presentation - Draft of 5-Year Strategic Planning Committee Report
- 43 - Five-Year RGB Strategic Plan
- 44 - Tech Centers Information
- 45 - "Hands on Training"

46 **Meeting Handouts:**

- 47 - Gillies' History on Gores
- 48 - Nancy Burzon's FYI – Workforce Development Partnership
- 49 - Culinary Arts Advisory Board membership
- 50 - Barone's Talking Points