

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Special Meeting Minutes: December 12, 2011**  
3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center

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5 Members Present: Gloria Alexander; Jim Boutin; Kevin Goodhue; Rickey Harrington; Larry  
6 Johnson; Leon Johnson (left @ 6:55); Fran Kinney (left @ 6:55); Frank Lamb.

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8 Members Absent: Justin Corcoran; Jon Peaslee; Rick Pembroke.

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10 Staff and Others Present: Dr JoAnn Cox; James Culkeen; Mike Lawler; Greg Lewis; Dawson  
11 Raspuzzi, Banner; Sandra Redding; Kathy Slade; Bill Swisher; Addie VanDeurzen.

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13 Videotaping: CAT-TV

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15 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger

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17 **Call to order/ Welcome**

18 Boutin called the meeting to order at 6:03, and noted a) that tonight's meeting was a Special  
19 meeting because of the change of day and b) that even though some members would have  
20 to leave early for other meetings, a quorum was present.

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22 **Public Comment** There were none

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24 **Agenda Change**

25 The Agenda was modified to move all items to be voted upon up time wise; Instructor  
26 Lawler's presentation was moved back.

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28 **Presentation – MGT Representative**

29 Dr JoAnn Cox, senior partner, gave a brief background of her professional history and her  
30 partnership at MGT of America. She also gave brief backgrounds of her teammates Robert  
31 Schiller (State Superintendent) and Michael Bowman (CBO in Minneapolis). Dr Cox  
32 reported their process is thorough and they come with no 'pre-conceived notions'; she noted  
33 and thanked both Sandy Redding and James Culkeen for having been most responsive.

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35 Cox further explained the process: review the data, interview stake holders, and draft the  
36 report; the project will conclude in late January/ early February 2012. Topics addressed will  
37 be: governance, human resources, transportation, tech/ info, and instructional programs.

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39 **Consent Agenda**

40 **Lamb moved and Kinney seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**

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42 Goodhue inquired as to where the Warrants were. Lewis explained that because tonight's  
43 meeting is a 'Special' meeting being held a week before the normally scheduled RGB  
44 monthly meeting, they were not available. Boutin interjected we would get caught up next  
45 month.

- 46  
47 - Minutes of the November 21, 2011 RGB Meeting  
48 - Minutes of the November 21, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting  
49

1           There was no discussion on these minutes.

2

3 **Hand vote was taken with all in attendance voting on favor. Boutin reported the**  
4 **motion carried unanimously.**

5

6 **Action Items**

7 CTSO Nominations

- |                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 8       ➤ DECA                | Lauri Wright     |
| 9       ➤ SkillsUSA           | Kathy Slade      |
| 10      ➤ Human Services Club | Stephanie Peters |
| 11      ➤ FBLA                | Neal Hogan       |

12

13 **Harrington moved and Goodhue seconded a motion to accept the four (4)**  
14 **nominations based on the new contract agreement.**

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16 Discussion

17 Lewis noted the salary on the nomination forms was taken from the new contract. Leon  
18 Johnson commented positively on the new review process that has more than one individual  
19 doing the reviewing. He would like to see even more people involved in the review process.

20

21 **Hand vote was taken with all in attendance voting on favor. Boutin reported the**  
22 **motion carried unanimously.**

23

24 **Chairman Report**

25 Boutin reported the MGT study was following an aggressive schedule (the public can get a  
26 copy from the front office) and requested everyone participate, including community  
27 members.

28

29 **Superintendent/ Director Report**

30 Culkeen circulated copies of the signed Teacher's Agreement and noted that at this time,  
31 CDC is not paying the teachers the new contract rate. The aim is for the teacher's first  
32 checks in January begin the new rate. Culkeen noted there is a lot of work required to  
33 update: docked pay, a no-pay period, health insurance, and STEP.

34

35 Culkeen reported that SWVEA filed a wage claim today, which neither Boutin nor he has  
36 seen. Brief discussion followed as to the changes being handled by the CDC business  
37 manager and assistant (in-house) and what SVSU is doing.

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39 Culkeen reported the para-professionals have settled their contract; it needs to be ratified.

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41 Culkeen reported he had a lengthy interview with Dr Cox this morning and thanked Sandy  
42 Redding and Greg Lewis for their prep work. Culkeen commented he thinks the audit will be  
43 a good thing, providing him with a blueprint to go forward with.

44

45 Culkeen reported on the input from Vern Grubinger (UVM Extension – Brattleboro)  
46 during their conference call:

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- 48       • Developing a program based on 'food systems' (the 'new' term which includes farm  
49       to table/ farm to fork)

- Greenhouse location is still an unclear issue. It was suggested by Grubinger that the greenhouse be located where it will receive sun from all directions.
- The Education and Facilities committees will meet after the holidays to again discuss the greenhouse size/ location based on Grubinger's suggestion.
- Culkeen passed out the finalized school calendar this evening.

Brief discussion followed regarding Distance Learning and the need for it to be implemented now and Bruce Lee-Clark and 'Virtual Learning'.

Goodhue raised the topic of the costs of the strike; in particular the cost(s) of security and legal services. Culkeen reported he did not yet know what our portion/ percentage would be; we entered into a contract for 'joint negotiation' with SVSU and will share expenses with them. Goodhue commented that we have to pay, so we should just move on.

**Presentation – Smart Board – Mike Lawler**

At 6:35pm, the board and those present moved to Lawler's classroom for a presentation on smart boards. Lawler's classroom uses one of the newest boards purchased by CDC; it is touch based. There are a total of six being used; 3 older models and three new ones.

Lawler demonstrated some of the functions available on this multimedia device and gave an example using Google earth of an exercise his class might perform. Leon Johnson commented that 'this was how kids learned today'. We should be teaching kids to use technology on their own, ie how to use these new devices and letting them bring in their own devices to fully realize what technology can do – policy is in place for this.

There was brief Q&A with distance learning applications, Bridge It software, mechanics of the Smart Boards, using these to 'sell' the district, and cost (complete with installation, warranty and camera is roughly \$6,800/ each).

At 6:55pm the group returned to the Assembly Room; Leon Johnson and Kinney left the meeting.

**Committee Reports**

- Strategic Planning Subcommittee on Advisory Committees

Alexander highlighted the committee's November 29 Meeting minutes and also handed out copies of the Faculty Survey Results. Alexander noted the subcommittee has reviewed the survey results and distributed these results to all Advisory Committee members. Culkeen has suggested a template be devised for Advisory Committee meeting minutes, a chair be elected and a year end dinner for chairs and faculty. Generally, a more formal/ organized treatment of the Advisory committees is the goal. Mazur is also working on a brochure/ pamphlet for the advisory committees.

- Finance

Lamb noted the Minutes for the last meeting were in the packet.

**Other**                                There was none.

**Executive Session**                There was none.

1 **Adjournment**

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3 **At 7:04, Goodhue moved and Lamb seconded a motion to adjourn. All in attendance**  
4 **were in favor.**

5  
6 Respectively submitted,

7  
8 Barb Schlesinger  
9 December 19, 2011

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11  
12 **Attachments:**

13 Packet

- 14 - Minutes of the November 21, 2011 RGB Meeting
- 15 - Minutes of the November 21, 2011 Finance Committee Meeting
- 16 - CTSO Nominations:
  - 17 o DECA
  - 18 o SkillsUSA
  - 19 o Human Services Club
  - 20 o FBLA
- 21 - Bennington Police Department Letter dated November 8, 2011 (Lawler)

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23 Meeting Additions/ Handouts

- 24 - Culkeen: 1) Signed Teacher's Agreement
- 25 2) Calendar
- 26 - Boutin: 1) MGT Schedule of Meetings (Monday, 12/12 → Thursday 12/15)
- 27 - Alexander: 1) Strategic Planning Subcommittee on Advisory Committees 11/29/2011
- 28 Minutes
- 29 2) RGB Strategic Planning Committee – Advisory Committees Faculty
- 30 Survey 2011
- 31 - Minutes of the November 16, 2011 Outreach/ Marketing Meeting