

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2013**

3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center
4

5 Members Present: Gloria Alexander; Katie Bourn; Jim Boutin; Kevin Goodhue; Jessica
6 Gulley-Ward; Leon Johnson (6:45); Jackie Kelly; Ed Letourneau; Heidi Pickering.
7

8 Members Absent: Rickey Harrington; Fran Kinney.
9

10 Staff and Others Present: Deb Berard; James Culkeen; Marie-Pierre Huguet; Wendy Klein;
11 Mike Lawler; Stephanie Mulligan; Sandra Redding; Kathy Slade.
12

13 Videotaping: CAT-TV
14

15 Recorder: Barb Schlesinger
16

17 **Call to Order and Welcome**

18 Boutin called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, welcomed all who came and noted a quorum
19 was present.
20

21 **Public Comments**

22 Boutin called for public comments; there were none.
23

24 **Grievance**

25 The grievance opened at 6:32pm. Deb Berard, SWVEA Vice President, handed out a
26 narrative addressed to Superintendent Culkeen concerning the nature of the grievance:
27 violation of Article 29, Section 29.22 which relates to the redefinition of a job position without
28 bargaining. Berard summarized what has happened to date for the board. The specific
29 concern is the use of the word 'willingness' with regards to obtaining a CDL school bus
30 driver endorsement as a qualification for the recently posted Engineering and Design
31 Instructor position.
32

33 Discussion followed with Culkeen, the majority of the board, Berard and Slade participating.
34 Topics covered were: redefining/ requiring classroom teachers to be bus drivers, the
35 reasoning behind having teachers who can transport tech students offsite, listing under
36 qualifications vs in another part of the posting, negotiating change through the proper
37 procedure, use of the word 'preferred' in prior listings, hiring a person as a driver only (and
38 the cost) and what would be considered a remedy to the grievance.
39

40 Culkeen explained the first posting for the position used the word 'willingness'; a difference
41 between preferred and willingness was not obvious. However, after the first grievance, an
42 attempt was made for the wording to revert back to 'preferred' but the message did not
43 reach all staff.
44

45 Consensus of the board is to return to past practice and list it as preferred, not required.
46 The grievance ended at 6:48pm.
47
48
49

1 **Consent Agenda**

2 **Minutes**

- 3 - Minutes of the August 19, 2013 Regional Governing Board Meeting

4
5 **Kelly moved and Goodhue seconded the motion to accept the August 19 full board**
6 **minutes. Hand vote was taken with all in attendance voting in favor.** Boutin noted the
7 motion was unanimous. There was no discussion.

8
9 **Warrants**

- 10 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 5 9/16/2013 in the amount of \$ 6,342.31
11 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1007 9/16/2013 in the amount of \$ 64,652.46
12 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 6 9/16/2013 in the amount of \$ 4,165.32
13 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 1009 9/16/2013 in the amount of \$ 65,875.45
14
15 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1008 8/28/2013 in the amount of \$ 26,123.95
16 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1010 9/16/2013 in the amount of \$ 43,896.24

17
18 **Goodhue moved and Alexander seconded the motion to approve the Payroll and**
19 **Vendor Warrants.**

20
21 A question in regards to Warrant # 1008 and the September monthly monitoring cost was
22 asked. Culkeen reported this would be discussed later in the meeting during his report.

23
24 **Hand vote was taken with all in attendance voting in favor.** Boutin noted the motion was
25 unanimous.

26
27 **Committee Reports**

- 28 - Education and Facilities
29 Letourneau reported that no action was taken at their meeting; however they
30 discussed 1) pursuing a grant for a summer program, 2) the VT Agency of
31 Agriculture's Farm to School Grant Program and 3) the possibility of solar to help
32 curb electricity costs on the shared CDC and MAU campus.

33
34 **Cash Flow Statement - Revenue & Expenses** (August 1 through August 31, 2013)

35 Boutin called for comments, there were none.

36
37 **Action Items**

38 ➤ **ESP Contract**

39 Culkeen reported he was a representative at negotiations; the contract was approved
40 on the first day by the paras. He noted that essentially it came down to wages and
41 insurance with minor language changes: the new contract calls for a 1.5% increase
42 year one, 2.5% year two and 3% year three plus 1% insurance. The increases are in
43 addition to STEP across the board. The three year contract is retroactive to the
44 beginning of the school year with all the school boards voting to approve at their
45 September meetings.

46
47 **Johnson moved and Alexander seconded a motion to accept the ESP contract as**
48 **negotiated. Hand vote was taken with all in attendance voting in favor excepting**
49 **Goodhue who abstained.**

1 **Director/ Superintendent's Report**

2 Culkeen

- 3 ▪ Reported on the opening week of school, which consisted of in-service days. The
4 morning of day one started with the Southshire Challenge, in which local business
5 are working to create 8-9 challenges for the students and their instructors. Part two
6 of the morning had VTNEA presenting on social media. In the afternoon, the
7 instructors participated in a team building scavenger hunt event through Bennington
8 named 'The Great Race". Nine locations were involved and the instructors all
9 received iPads, which they put to good use.

10 Day two centered on technical training which included iPads and smartboards.

11 On day three, Marie P Huguet conducted a harassment workshop in the morning and
12 the Bennington Police Department held an afternoon workshop, Know Your
13 Community.

- 14 ▪ Summarized the Symquest security audit that was conducted this past spring on the
15 recommendation of the financial auditors. In reference to the question posed earlier
16 this evening, Symquest will be monitoring and correcting as necessary any security
17 issues with the CDC computer network at a cost of \$1,600/ month. Lawler reviewed
18 the Symquest report (dropbox) and went through the items found to be substandard.
19 He also gave a brief description as to how the audit was conducted, a brief review of
20 what the CDC network involves, what work still needs to be done, what Symquest
21 brings to the table, and what their monthly fee includes. Kelly voiced "what a great
22 thing this is".
23 ▪ Marie Pierre Huguet passed out the Fall 2013 Adult Education course listing. She
24 noted the trend seems to be toward tech, with instructors coming from local
25 companies. There are many good computer courses and enrollment of students
26 from Massachusetts and New York is increasing. The listings are available in two
27 formats (newspaper and brochure) and that they are distributed throughout the
28 community.
29 ▪ Spoke of upcoming topics for the October RGB meeting:
30 ○ Perkins, which at this point does not have full State approval,
31 ○ Schiller Report, which he is continuing with as instructed. October discussion
32 will include the student info systems software.
33 ○ Class size, October 15 is the reporting day to the State.
34 ▪ The first week of school saw a launching of a 'new' Facebook page. Lawler brought
35 the page up for demonstration. Each program has its own 'photo album', included
36 one album that features pictures of the center being constructed. To date, the page
37 has had 1600 hits and 74 likes.
38

39
40 **Chairman's Report**

41 Chairman Boutin

- 42 ▪ Reported Rick Pembroke, Jim Marsden and himself have continued their
43 investigation into the placement of solar panels on the complex's roof to help
44 alleviate the \$1M a year spent on electricity. Initially, the cost to install panels would
45 be \$3M; they are looking into funding now.
46 ▪ Noted that this fall teacher contract negotiations will begin. Jim reported he is
47 looking for volunteers and asked anyone interested to please contact him.
48
49

1 **Executive Session**

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3 **At 7:29pm Letourneau moved and Johnson seconded a motion to enter Executive**
4 **Session for Personnel. All in attendance were in favor.**

5
6 **At 7:53pm Goodhue moved and Alexander seconded a motion to exit Executive**
7 **Session. All in attendance were in favor.**

8
9 **Other**

10 Boutin called for comments, hearing none

11
12 **At 7:54pm Goodhue moved and Pickering seconded a motion to Adjourn. All in**
13 **attendance were in favor.**

14
15 Respectively submitted,

16
17 Barb Schlesinger
18 September 22, 2013

19
20
21 **Dropbox:**

- 22 - Minutes of the August 19, 2013 Regional Governing Board Meeting
- 23 - SWVRTSD Payroll Warrant # 5 & # 1007; # 6; # 1009 (Sept 16)
- 24 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1008 (Aug 28)
- 25 - SWVRTSD Vendor Warrant # 1010 (Sept 16)
- 26 - Revenue & Expenses, Statement of Cash Flow
- 27 - ESP Contract (Final)
- 28 - Symquest Summary Report
- 29 - VT Agency of Education 21st Century Community Grant Application

30
31 **Meeting Hand-Outs**

- 32 - Fall 2013 New Program Highlights
- 33 - Grievance Form to J Culkeen filed by Deb Berard (9/3/2013)
- 34 - Mount Anthony Solar Project (9/8/2013)