

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SWVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: May 14, 2018**

3 Assembly Room, Career Development Center (CDC)
4

5 Members Present: Rob Bahny (arrived 6:40pm); Jon Gauthier; Rickey Harrington, Chair; Art Haytko;
6 Jackie Kelley, Clerk; Fran Kinney; Ed Letourneau, Vice-chair; John MacDonald; Ken Swierad.
7

8 Members Absent: Jessica Gulley-Ward; Leon Johnson.
9

10 Staff and Others Present: Sharon Campbell, Parent*; Brian Coon, Teacher*; Tim Foley, Teacher*; Meg
11 Honsiger, Assistant Director; Albert LaCross, Parent*; Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director; Eduardo
12 McFaline, Parent*; Sienna McFaline, Student*; Heather Mould, Parent*; Mathew Mould, Student*;
13 Stephanie Mulligan, Business Manager; Vincent Redcross, Student*; Rich Ryder, Teacher*; William
14 Secoy, Student* (* left 6:30pm)
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16 CAT-TV: This meeting was recorded but not broadcast live by Ryan Scutt.
17

18 Recorder: Richard Bump
19

20 *n.b. Copies of all documents listed in these Minutes are available in the CDC drop box. Please see the*
21 *Minutes of the meeting currently scheduled for June 11, 2018 for corrections or revisions to these*
22 *minutes, if any.*
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24
25 Harrington called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and welcomed everyone present.
26

27 1. Public Comments: None presented.
28

29 2. Presentation - Puerto Rico Field Trip: Honsiger thanked the board for the opportunity to talk about
30 the recent field trip to Puerto Rico noting that

- 31 - 4 of the 5 students participating are in attendance at this meeting including Redcross,
32 McFaline, Mould and Secoy
- 33 - Ryder and she also attended as supervisors/chaperones
- 34 - teachers Coon and Foley were instrumental in making this trip possible
- 35 - the students were “the best ever [whom she has] taken on a field trip” who “displayed skills,
36 professionalism, and a desire to do their job well”

37 and thanked the board and the students’ parents for having “lots of trust in us and the program” for
38 allowing this trip to take place. Honsiger then showed two videos of the trip

- 39 - the first, created by McFaline, a video production student, and described by Ryder, showed
40 the work students were doing replacing a roof on a house that had been blown off by the
41 hurricane Maria 7 months ago as well as interactions with the family who lived in that
42 house
- 43 - and the second, filmed and edited by Scutt and narrated by Jim Goodine, Building Trades
44 Corporation and field trip coordinator with Bennington Habitat for Humanity, showed more
45 of the widespread devastation to the island caused by the hurricane, and concluded with a
46 statement by a Puerto Rican hurricane victim: “We asked God for help and He sent you
47 guys. We don’t have much to give you, just our gratitude, and we will never forget you.”

48 In subsequent discussion, members, students and staff noted that

- 49 - the 5 CDC students and 2 staff members were part of a larger group totaling 24 people
50 who were part of the Vermont for Puerto Rico initiative which was coordinated by Goodine
- 51 - house construction in Puerto Rico is significantly different from the US north east, the result
52 mainly in not needing to accommodate the weight of snow loads
- 53 - a retired contractor supervising the students said that “were he still working, he would not
54 hesitate to hire any one of them”.
55
56

1 in concluding comment

- 2 - Eduardo McFaline, a native Puerto Rican now living in Vermont, said “you not only built a
- 3 roof, you built a bridge of love, sharing and humanity, and I thank you from the bottom of
- 4 my heart”
- 5 - Scutt reported that Jim Goodine continues to coordinate fundraising efforts to help rebuild
- 6 Puerto Rico (“there are many more roofs needing to be replaced”) and to that end, there
- 7 will be a full fund-raising showing of the second video, date and place to be announced
- 8 - Ryder thanked the board for allowing “this huge learning experience for the kids which they
- 9 will never forget”
- 10 - the students said that they “are ready to volunteer again”
- 11 - and Harrington noted that “you should all be proud, we certainly are”.

12
13 3. Consent Agenda: In a series of actions,

- 14 - **Kinney moved and MacDonald seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the**
- 15 **4/9/18 Regional Governing Board meeting**
- 16 - **Kinney moved and MacDonald seconded a motion to approve**
- 17 **Payroll Warrant #1044 in the amount \$66,710.25**
- 18 **Payroll Check Warrant #26 in the amount \$358.82**
- 19 **Payroll Warrant #1046 in the amount \$71,277.89**
- 20 **Payroll Check Warrant #27 in the amount \$960.78**
- 21 - **Kinney moved and Swierad seconded a motion to approve**
- 22 **Vendor Warrant #1043 in the amount \$364.78**
- 23 **Vendor Warrant #1045 in the amount \$80,655.67**
- 24 **Vendor Warrant #1047 in the amount \$3,978.15**
- 25 **Vendor Warrant #1048 in the amount \$56,806.91**
- 26 **and all motions passed unanimously.**

27
28 4. Treasurer's Report: Members noted without comment the Treasurer's *Statement of Cash Flow*

29 detailing a cash balance of \$645,382.81 for month ending 4/30/18.

30
31 5. Revenue and Expenses: Members noted without comment the revenue and expense reports

32 (through 4/30/18, printed 5/14/18) for the regular as well as the adult education programs.

33
34 6. Committee Reports: None presented

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36 7. Action Items:

37 a. *Nomination for Pre-Law Position*: After Lawler noted that John Lamson, the person nominated

38 to replace Bruce Lee Clark who is retiring, has

- 39 - a Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School and a BFA in Drama from New York
- 40 University

41 - worked many years as staff attorney for Have Justice Will Travel

42 - been a member of the CDC Pre-Law Advisory committee

43 **Kelly moved and McDonald seconded a motion to approve the Nomination of John**

44 **Lamson, as presented, and the motion passed unanimously.**

45 b. *Policies*: In two separate actions, **Kinney moved and Swierad seconded motions to adopt**

46 - **Policy #2600C - Superintendent Evaluation and Review**

47 - **Policy #3216C - Idling of Vehicles:**

48 **and both motions passed unanimously.**

49 c. *Field Trip*: After Lawler noted that 9 students will attend the annual Skills National Competition

50 this year, which is a higher number of students than in past years, **Letourneau moved and**

51 **Swierad seconded a motion to approve the Skills National Field Trip Request to**

52 **Louisville KY 6/24-30/18 as presented, and the motion passed unanimously.**

- 1 8. House Bill 919 Legislative Update: Lawler highlighted various aspects of H 919 noting that
2 - the 31-page bill details a 3-year program to redesign the workforce development and
3 training program in Vermont
4 - the latest version of the bill is not yet on-line
5 - the redesign includes use of career pathways and other workforce initiatives as well as
6 expansion of technical education to grades 9 and 10 statewide (which is already in place at
7 the CDC)
8 - the new plan also provides stronger opportunities to provide pre-tech foundation classes
9 for middle school students
10 - there is “nothing negative in the bill; it’s positive, expansive, comprehensive and provides
11 the opportunity to think differently and to offer things differently” than we now do.

12 In subsequent discussion, Lawler further noted that

- 13 - there are “lots of ideas that will take time to flesh out” as a result of this bill
14 - career and technical centers need to report back on progress in 2020
15 - although H919 is effective 7/1/18 there won’t be much opportunity to do anything during
16 the 2018-2019 school year as programs and budgets are already set
17 - this could lead to a four-year career and technical education program, although the CDC is
18 not currently a degree-granting organization
19 - unlike other tech centers around the state, most students already attend the CDC for three
20 years
21 - an increase in graduation requirements could result in second semester senior students
22 taking more classes.

- 23
24 9. Superintendent’s Report: Lawler reported that
25 - recent changes to the Open meeting Law now allow boards to enter Executive Session to
26 discuss school safety and security issues/procedures
27 - although the list of “thank you’s” for everyone who made the Puerto Rico field trip possible
28 is “very, very long,” he thanked the board specifically for allowing this to happen
29 - this trip is “a very rewarding reminder of how we can change lives”.

- 30
31 10. Other: Letourneau noted that Jim Goodine was once an active member of the Regional Governing
32 Board and helped build the center into a technical school. And in response to a question from Kelly,
33 Harrington suggested that the Education Committee might take a look at a field trip next year similar
34 to the Puerto Rico field trip described earlier in the meeting.

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36 At 7:00pm, **Kinney moved and MacDonald seconded a motion to move to Executive Session to**
37 **consider the Superintendent’s evaluation, and the motion passed unanimously.** Harrington noted
38 that there would be no action taken once out of Executive Session except to adjourn.