

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 2:30 PM**  
3  
4

5 Attending: RGB members – Gloria Alexander, Edward Letourneau and Heidi Pickering  
6 CDC represented by Superintendent Michael Lawler, Meg Honsinger, Asst. Director and  
7 Marie Pierre Huguet, Assistant Director for Adult Education  
8 Recorder: Sandra Redding  
9

10 Gloria opened the meeting at 2:37 PM and asked for approval of January 8 minutes.  
11 Corrections were suggested and will be made. Minutes were adjusted as requested and  
12 then approved by the committee. Ed Letourneau abstained as he was not at the last  
13 meeting.  
14

15 Ed commented on the student recognition idea by sharing an idea to dedicate a wall for the  
16 recognition plaques to be displayed as an inspiration for others. Mike Lawler shared a story  
17 concerning a former student who contacted him after several years to share his positive  
18 progress in his career. He noted how good it felt to actually know of a student's success  
19 which was directly related to the classes he taught. Mike also mentioned he spoke with  
20 some faculty members and will be seeking input to set this in motion.  
21

22 Gloria expressed her gratitude for the work of this committee in getting the goals, philosophy  
23 and mission accepted by the full board.  
24

25 The superintendent's report began with Mike telling the committee about the Sustainable  
26 Foods Program. The program is up and running this semester with two short block classes.  
27 He noted that we are using the MAU greenhouse and have been collaborating with MAU  
28 teachers.  
29

30 Mike shared information about the summer programs. We have an agreement to work with  
31 the Bennington Police Department for one week this summer. More details will follow soon.  
32

33 Mike spoke of the ongoing changes to C156. The room is being renovated for the LNA  
34 program. The in-house maintenance department is handling a lot of the work. There will be  
35 an official public opening in early September with this area not expected to be used until the  
36 fall of 2016.  
37

38 The committee was given several possible forms concerning the evaluation process of the  
39 center. We currently use NEASC, but that is not written in stone. Mike mentioned "Tech  
40 Centers That Work" as a possible alternative for our center. There are others as well.  
41 Questions concerning how these tools could be used to help our center progress and how  
42 the possibilities for our students could be enhanced were discussed. Much more research  
43 needs to be done. Should faculty and/or students be involved in an evaluation process and  
44 what roles would they play? Perhaps, an exit survey for students would be helpful using  
45 Survey Monkey. The committee decided to recommend to the full board that we continue to  
46 move forward using a tool such as "Tech Centers That Work" for program evaluation.  
47

48 A presentation concerning the cosmetology program prepared by Mike with input from Marie  
49 Pierre and Meg Honsinger was next on the agenda. Mike mentioned he had spoken at  
50 length with both cosmetology instructors and in the process, learned a lot about the internal  
51 workings of this program. He stated there were a few surprises. Mike prepared a power

1 point presentation to help the committee understand all the ramifications relating to this  
2 program. Significant time was spent with questions and explanations being given as to the  
3 several scenarios that might come to pass. It looks like the setup of this program might  
4 have to be re-designed to assist the students in attaining the certifications that would be  
5 most useful to them. Also, the program as is stands right now, is not a positive cost effective  
6 program as well as leaving students in need of more hours to fully prepare and test for their  
7 cosmetology license. This is not due to any fault of the instructors or the curriculum. It is  
8 simply a time problem. A great deal of information was discussed as the committee came  
9 to appreciate the structure of this program. Much research was done to get to the root of the  
10 problem and how to solve that problem and make the program run more positively for all  
11 concerned. Plans for the future were discussed with the thought of perhaps, adding an  
12 afternoon/evening class to the program. Ed Letourneau, representing the  
13 education/facilities committee, had thoughtful insights and comments as the discussion  
14 continued. It was decided to recommend to the education committee and the full board that  
15 the cosmetology program be consolidated with one instructor to run the program. Gloria  
16 and Heidi Pickering voted in favor of this and requested that Ed inform the education  
17 committee of this motion as the next full board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February  
18 9, 2015. There are several very interesting scenarios that the administration will be looking  
19 at to assist in going forward with some innovative ways to continue to grow this program.

20  
21 Moving on, Mike reported that he did not have sufficient information concerning the  
22 Computer Networking Academy program as there are several ideas on the table at this time.  
23 He continues to have a dialogue with the instructor.

24  
25 Also, Mike continues his work with the Marketing, Business and Accounting/Finance  
26 Programs to perhaps suggest a re-design in the near future. He has just begun a  
27 discussion with the instructors. Meg Honsinger will be doing some follow up on this.

28  
29 Mike thanked the committee for their patience as he moved through the many scenarios and  
30 possibilities for the future. He feels this is all very important as we continue to provide the  
31 best tech education we can to students. Students needs have to be #1!

32  
33 Ed inquired if we will be needing more physical classroom space. The short answer  
34 is,"YES." There are plans and discussions ahead for the growing future of the Career  
35 Development Center. More research and information is needed. Stay tuned.

36  
37 Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2015 at 2:30 PM.

38  
39 Meeting adjourned at 4 PM.

40