

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, January 11, 2021, Zoom Online Meeting**
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4 **RGB members present:** Art Haytko, Jackie Kelly, Francis Kinney, Edward Letourneau, John MacDonald,
5 Michael Munson, Kenneth Sweirad and Dane Whitman
6

7 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Supt./Dir; Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director; Rebecca Tattersall,
8 Business Manager
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10 Audience: CAT-TV
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
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14 Meeting was called to order by Chair John MacDonald at 10:06AM. He welcomed the public and asked
15 for comments. There were none.
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17 The consent agenda was presented for approval:

- 18 • December Full Board minutes were unanimously approved after motions from F. Kinney and J.
19 Kelly.
- 20 • Payroll warrants were unanimously approved after motions from F. Kinney and K. Swierad.
- 21 • Vendor warrants were unanimously approved after motions from F. Kinney and K. Swierad. Two
22 items were questioned before approval:
 - 23 ○ Amount \$15. for Facebook? Additional costs for “boosting” of specific topics
 - 24 ○ Videos as related to Covid expenses? Geer Funds were accessed for this expenditure
- 25 • Cash Flow, Revenue, Expenses and Treasurer’s Report were unanimously approved after
26 motions from K. Swierad and M. Munson with no questions asked
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28 There were no committee reports.
29

30 Action Items:

- 31 • **Ballot Warning-R.** Tattersall explained the several changes occurring due to the Covid situation
32 as related to the District’s Annual Meeting. Meetings will be virtual; leaning towards one link for
33 all, but not sure if that is possible; different times for the meetings, maybe even different days;
34 Readsboro may re-schedule till May 2nd and other towns are still to be determined. Tattersall will
35 inform the board members electronically when final updates to the Annual Meeting process have
36 been confirmed. Board members must sign the warning by January 27, 2021, so watch your
37 email for this important information.
38
- 39 • **Ballot Warning, Article 8, A, B and C**
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- 41 • **This board has four seats up for election:** Jon Gauthier, Jackie Kelly, Edward Letourneau and
42 Michael Munson. Signed petitions have been waived due to Covid, but interested parties must
43 contact the town clerk. Filing date is mid-January, so please contact the town office if interested
44 in running for this board.
45
- 46 • **This board approved YR2022 budget amount, Options #3-\$4,073,500.** as presented at the
47 December 14, 2020 full board meeting. Business Manager Tattersall confirmed this amount again
48 and stated no additional changes need to be made. She requested the board affirm this ballot
49 warning. Discussion ensued:
 - 50 ○ Can budget pass without all towns completing their voting? *Depends on margin
 - 51 ○ Will there be further funds from state? *Unknown at this time, there are bills in legislature
52 for extra funds to cover gaps, but amounts not certain
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- 54 • **Reserve Funds added for Capital Improvements and Equipment** will remain as previous year,
55 \$60,000 and \$20,000 respectively

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2 With motions to approve by F. Kinney and K. Swierad, the Ballot Warning as presented was unanimously
3 approved for official warning.
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- 5 • **Tuition**- this board previously approved at the December 14, 2020 meeting the tuition at \$22,307.
6 Tattersall noted no additional changes, so she requested a confirmation vote for this amount.
7 Motions by F. Kinney and J. MacDonald were unanimously approved by this board at the stated
8 amount.
9

10 Supt. Lawler shared an email received from Culinary Instructor, Daniel Jackson, who has resigned his
11 position with us. Lawler thanked Jackson for the fine job he did in this difficult year and states we will
12 miss him. The position has been posted and advertised, while in the meantime, we have long term sub(s)
13 who are familiar with the program available to carry on. Motions made by F. Kinney and M. Munson to
14 accept resignation were unanimously approved.
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16 A question was raised concerning the open Manufacturing position. This program is being covered by our
17 Tech Specialist, Tim Mullen, who has been the aide in the program for several years. He has been doing
18 a great job in keeping the program running and students actively involved in this very difficult year.
19 Because of the difference in the pay scale for people in the private sector as compared to the education
20 field, it is difficult to attract good, qualified people who must also be willing to upgrade their own
21 education/training to become a tech instructor in Vermont. The position is still considered open.
22

23 Supt. Lawler reported that our fall FTE numbers were very strong even with this difficult year, about 174
24 or 175. Our classes are operating at half capacity due to Covid requirements, so we consider the count
25 to be a strong indicator as to the continued success of our school. He also informed the board that even
26 with Covid becoming more prevalent all around us, we have developed a very good system for protecting
27 our students, faculty and staff. All personnel are very willing to assist in any way possible to keep all our
28 systems going and there is much flexibility in covering all the daily needs of our school. There is total
29 cooperation to insure the quality of education for our students. Lawler also noted that even with all the
30 state guidelines, he and he alone, as superintendent, makes the final decision as to keeping school open
31 for in-person classes/learning. He looks forward to getting students back in the building fulltime for the
32 best educational experiences.
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34 Lawler shared with the board the removal of the old CDC marker located on the grassy knoll near
35 Building Trades and street parking along Park Street. David Dence and his students using the big digger,
36 pushed the top part of the marker easily, but the base was so very deeply entrenched, it could not be
37 moved. The group decided to just drop the marker on the buried base, so it will be there forever. It was a
38 simple project that turned out to be more difficult than expected and of course, led to a great CDC/SW
39 Tech story. A time capsule was buried along with the marker for future discovery.
40

41 Traditionally, as this board does not usually meet in February, the next meeting will be the Annual
42 Meeting, online, Monday, March 1, 2021. Details are still being worked out, so watch for updates
43 concerning this. Board re-organizational meeting scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021. Tattersall
44 requests that board members check for any unsigned warrants in their email/Doc-u-sign, so that these
45 can be properly filed.
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47 With no other business before the board, motions by F. Kinney and K. Swierad to adjourn were
48 unanimously approved at 10:52AM.
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