

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, August 8, 2022, online**
3

4 **RGB members present:** Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Fran Kinney, John
5 MacDonald, Charles Putney, Ken Swierad, Dane Whitman and Anthony (TJ) Williams
6

7 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director and Rebecca Tattersall, Business
8 Manager
9

10 Audience: CAT-TV; no online public attendees
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
13

14 Chair Ken Swierad called the meeting to order at 10AM noting there were no members of the public
15 online for any comments other than CAT-TV. He proceeded to the consent agenda:

- 16 • Minutes from the June 6th full board meeting were presented for approval. With motions from M.
17 Cutler and A. Williams, and unanimous approval, the minutes were approved.
- 18 • Payroll warrants were approved after motions from A. Williams and J. MacDonald and unanimous
19 support from board
- 20 • Vendor warrants were approved after motions from F. Kinney and D. Whitman and unanimous
21 support from the board

22 Business office documents were available for comments and/or concerns. Hearing none, the documents
23 were accepted as presented.
24

25 There were no committee reports.
26

27 Action Items:

- 28 • Nominations for the Paraprofessional/Transportation Specialist were presented. Supt. Lawler
29 shared background/history of the two nominations, Bruce Miles and Paul Redding, with the board.
30 Both nominations were approved after motions from F. Kinney and D. Whitman and unanimous
31 vote from the board.
32

33 Supt. Lawler began his report with the positive results of our CTSO field trips in June to national
34 gatherings. We are pleased to announce students participating in the Law Enforcement program earned
35 a third place Bronze medal in their national competition. All of our students participating in Skills and
36 HOSA deserve our thanks and appreciation for their hard work which enabled them to reach national
37 competition levels. This is quite an honor for them, our school and our community.
38

39 Just last week, the Bennington Police Department along with assistance from SW Tech, completed
40 another successful New Experience adventure for young people in our community. We provided bus
41 drivers, vehicles and program instructors who spent a day with campers at our facility learning new skills
42 in several areas. As there were more campers than anticipated, it was very much appreciated that
43 Dufour Bus Company stepped in to assist with transportation by offering a full size bus. Supt. Lawler
44 thanked program instructors, Brian Coon, Nick DeLauri, Tom Haskins and John Lamson for their
45 participation and also Lisa Harrington, Nicole Sauer and the office staff for all the planning and
46 assistance.
47

48 Summer clean-up work is ongoing as well as continued repair work due to the severe flooding incidents
49 from last November. We extend appreciation to Tony Donofrio and his staff for the continuous efforts to
50 bring our school up to readiness for students, a very difficult job especially considering the weather
51 conditions this summer. Lawler shared that one of the two new lifts for the Auto shop has been installed.
52 We do not expect the other until later in the fall. Several of the school vehicles have been refurbished
53 and updated with new undercoating. We do not expect to see any new vehicles for a while due to supply
54 issues.
55

1 Lawler explained we are still experiencing some difficulties with the insurance claims resulting from the
2 November 2021 interior water leaks/floods. Extensive areas in the building as well as huge amounts of
3 equipment/supplies were ruined. Our Assembly Room is still a staging area and is unusable for the near
4 future. We hope to have this area cleaned up and ready for use as soon as possible. Because of supply
5 chain shortages, we are on hold until materials become available. We are grateful to Building Trades
6 Instructor, Brian Coon and his students for the beautiful cabinets they built for Kristen Barrett's classroom.
7 Nicely done! Also, Dan McGuire, our IT Specialist, deserves a thank you for his ongoing, meticulous work
8 to classify, remove and replace all the ruined equipment from the floods. An exhausting job! Supt.
9 Lawler noted that without the accounting expertise and the knowledgeable negotiations by our Business
10 Manager, Rebecca Tattersall, we would not be as far ahead as we are today and we thank her for her
11 tireless work.
12

13 The Superintendent stated that at this time, we have all open positions filled and look forward to a busy
14 and exciting school year. Our enrollment is strong and no program is in danger of being eliminated. Our
15 school year for faculty/staff will begin on Monday, August 29 with Professional Development in the 7
16 Mindsets training to be continued. Students K-9 begin on Wednesday, August 31 with high school
17 students, 10th -12th entering MAUHS and SW Tech on Thursday, September 1. We look forward to our
18 NEASC 5 year visit later this fall. We are ready and in full compliance with our state Agency of Education.
19

20 Comment/concerns from board members:

- 21 • Could we check if any local businesses, (esp. health/fitness) offer corporate accounts for our
22 faculty/staff (*We participate in VEHI thru the state for health and wellness*)
- 23 • Any Theatre Arts program being offered this year? Public speaking a very important asset for
24 students. (*not this year, but we would support efforts to revive this area for our students. We do*
25 *partner w/MAU in their Drama programs with behind the scene needs. Many technical skills*
26 *needed that we can provide. Also, should be noted that we have many fine theatre*
27 *opportunities/venues in our district. However, the AoE says this program not high wage or high*
28 *need*)
- 29 • VSBA-annual meeting October 20-21. Check website for more meeting information. Most
30 meetings are taped and this is a good place to research Robert's Rules of Order
31

32 Meeting adjourned with motions from F. Kinney and L. Johnson and unanimous vote at 10:27AM.
33