

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, March 18, 2024, in-person and online**

3
4 **RGB members present:** M. Cutler, A. Edelson, L. Johnson, F. Kinney, J. Orzechowski, C. Putney, G.
5 Sauer, K. Swierad, D. Whitman and TJ Williams
6 Online-T. Kane

7
8 **SWT represented by:** Supt./Dir. Michael Lawler and R. Tattersall, Business Manager

9
10 Audience: CAT-TV

11
12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

13
14 As this was the board reorganization meeting, Supt. Lawler called the meeting to order at
15 10:35AM noting no audience or comments. He invited the group to tour the Building Trades
16 Woodworking class before beginning the business of the day. Members exited the meeting area
17 to experience this class in action. Lawler also streamed the tour online.

18
19 At 10:50, the group returned sharing their appreciation for the extensive equipment,
20 knowledgeable Instructor, Brian Coon and the interaction of the students. It was noted that
21 certifications for this program are valid for life. Supt. Lawler then moved into the reorganization
22 phase of the meeting by requesting nominations for board chair. Ken Swierad was nominated
23 and seconded. With no other nominations, the position went to vote. Swierad was unanimously
24 elected board chair for the coming year. Swierad then assumed leadership and asked for
25 nominations for vice-chair. Mike Cutler was nominated and seconded. Hearing no other
26 nominations, Cutler was duly elected vice-chair by unanimous vote. After some friendly back
27 and forth between Edelson and Orzechowski, Orzechowski was nominated and seconded for clerk
28 of this board. There were no other nominations. With unanimous vote, Orzechowski was elected
29 to position of clerk for the coming year. Swierad congratulated all who were elected and asked
30 our new board member, John Orzechowski to introduce himself. He is a resident of Arlington, a
31 chiropractor, and moved here in 2006. We look forward to his input. The following items were
32 discussed and approved:

33
34 **REGIONAL GOVERNING BOARD 2024/25- *Items Approved-March 18, 2024**

35
36 ***Officers for 2024/2025**

- 37 • **Chair: Ken Swierad**
- 38 • **Vice-Chair: Michael Cutler**
- 39 • **Clerk: John Orzechowski**

40 ***Approved Meeting Place: SWT Assembly Room and/or Online**

41 ***Approved Time: will alternate every other month between 10AM and 4PM**

42 ***Approved Meeting Dates: 2024-2025 (2nd Monday) unless a holiday**

43 ***Dates and times of meetings subject to change due to emergency situations**

44 Monday, March 18-(re-org) 10:30AM

45 Monday, April 8 10AM

46 Monday, May 13 4PM

47 Monday, June 10 10AM

48 **No July Meeting**

49 Monday, August 12 4PM

50 Monday, September 9 10AM

51 Monday, October 21 due to Holiday 4PM

1 Monday, November 18 due to Holiday 10AM
2 Monday, December 9 4PM

3
4
5 **2025**

6 Monday, Jan. 13 10AM
7 Monday, Feb. 10 4PM
8 Monday, March 3, 2025-Annual Meeting time TBD
9 Monday, March 10 10AM
10 Monday, April 14 4PM
11 Monday, May 12 10AM
12 Monday, June 9 4PM

13
14 ***Approved Paper of Record: Bennington Banner**

15
16 ***Approved Off Warrant Signers: chair, vice-chair and clerk (may use DocuSign)**

17
18 Board members are invited to indicate the committee(s) they would like to serve on for the
19 coming year. Please make your choices and return form to S. Redding in-person or by email as
20 soon as possible. Committees will meet in April or May to elect a chair and establish goals for
21 the year and future. Leon Johnson mentioned that it is imperative for board members to
22 participate on RGB committees to gain experience for the future and assist our school in future
23 planning. There may be significant changes to the financial side of state funding for schools in
24 the near future, so board members must stay alert. Also, the Vermont School Board Association
25 is a strong resource for board members with its website, in-school trainings and conferences.

26
27 Consent agenda was presented:

- 28 • Minutes from RGB Full Board Meeting, Monday, January 8, 2024
29 With motions from Kinney and Edelson, full board minutes were unanimously approved
- 30 • Minutes from RGB Annual Meeting, Monday, March 4, 2024
31 With motions from Edelson and Kinney, annual meeting minutes were unanimously approved
- 32 • Payroll Warrants: #1026, #1028, #1030, #1032, #1034 and #18
33 With motions from Kinney and Johnson, payroll warrants were unanimously approved
- 34 • Vendor Warrants: #1027, #1029, #1031 and #1033
35 With motions from Kinney and Cutler, vendor warrants were unanimously approved

36 Business office documents are available in Drop Box.

37
38 There were no committee reports.

39
40 Action Items:

- 41 • Nomination for Interim LNA Administrator:
42 Nomination was reviewed by the board. The LNA Program must have a state licensed
43 administrator to run. We have received the resignation of the present administrator, so we need an
44 Interim LNA Administrator. Proper documents are on file, so with the information presented
45 motions by Kinney and Johnson with unanimous support, the nomination carried.

46
47
48
49

- 1 • Field Trip-Culinary –Prostart Competition and Burger Battle at Hyde Park, NY
2 Lawler shared the Culinary Program sends students to this competition every year where they
3 are very successful. With motions from Kinney and Cutler and unanimous vote, the field trip was
4 approved.

5
6 At 11:17AM, the board with motions from Edelson and Whitman and unanimous vote went into
7 Executive Session for [1 V.S.A. § 313](#). (a)(1); Labor relations/contract.

8
9 Board returned to open meeting at 11:36AM with motions from Whitman and Johnson and
10 unanimous vote.

11
12 Action Item:

- 13 • Motion was made to accept the resignation of Supt./Dir. Michael Lawler effective June
14 30, 2024 by Cutler and seconded by Kinney. Motion carried with unanimous support.

15
16 Superintendent's Report:

- 17 • Supt. Lawler was happy to report that the SW Tech budget passed by a large margin
18 again this year along with the requests to add funds to our Reserve Accounts. He stated
19 he is amazed with the amount of service and experiences we provide students in this
20 district, maintain many pieces of heavy equipment and extend training and education to
21 adults for just over four million dollars. He extended his thanks to the business office for
22 all the time, energy and effort put into helping this district provide so much while keeping
23 costs as low as possible. Also, the voters are to be thanked for their continued show of
24 support and trust in the education and services we offer.
- 25 • Lawler welcomed and congratulated this year's elected board members. He stated he
26 appreciated all the efforts made on behalf of SW Tech.
- 27 • Lawler wanted to alert the board that enrollment looks a little low right now for the
28 coming year. We continue to adjust to the new schedules set in motion by MT. Anthony
29 Union High School. We are holding special tours and shadow days for all our sending
30 school to encourage interest in our programs. He noted that there may be financial
31 changes at the state level coming in the way we are paid for each student, also known
32 as FTEs. More info on that as it becomes available. We must stay alert so we do not
33 lose funding for our programs. The 2024/2025 school calendar should be available soon
34 as well.

35 With no other business at this time, motions from Edelson and Kinney with unanimous support
36 voted to adjourn the March reorganization meeting at 11:42AM.

37
38