

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, August 19, 2024, in-person and online**
3

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

7 **SWT represented** by: Supt./Dir. Meg Honsinger, John Lamson, Asst. Dir. and R. Tattersall,
8 Business Manager
9

10 Audience: CAT-TV
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
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14 Meeting was opened at 4:02PM by Chair Swierad. He welcomed the general public and asked
15 for public comments. F. Kinney shared his thoughts on the upcoming 3rd vote on the turf field for
16 Spinelli Field. He feels with taxes and expenses growing every year on the taxpayer that this is
17 not the time for an expensive upgrade to the field and track. Also, many businesses in our area
18 have closed, so the tax base is shrinking. He feels the tech center is vital to the community and
19 always receives great support. The taxpayers can only absorb so much, so he feels he cannot
20 support the coming vote for the upgrades.
21

22 At 4:08PM, the board, with motions from Kinney and Johnson, voted to go into executive
23 session. Vote was unanimous.

24 The board returned to open session at 4:48PM. No actions were taken.
25

26 The consent agenda was presented for approval:

- 27 • Minutes from the June 3rd, 2024 full board meeting were unanimously approved with
28 motions from Kinney and Cutler.
- 29 • Minutes from the Special full board meeting, Friday, June 14th were unanimously
30 approved with motions from Kinney and Johnson.
- 31 • Payroll warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Kinney and Cutler.
- 32 • Vendor warrants were approved with one abstention, (M. Cutler) and motions from
33 Kinney and Orzechowski.

34 Business documents were presented with no comments or concerns

35 Business Manager, R. Tattersall, gave a verbal summary of the FY23 Audit Report. She shared
36 a letter with the board which stated the favorable results noted by the audit committee. No
37 significant differences or adjustments were discovered. A great deal of material was studied and
38 no errors noted. There were no questions from the board. A thank you was given to Tattersall
39 for all the detailed work required and very fine job accomplished. She had hard copies available.
40 No motions were needed.
41

42 The NEA Teacher's contract was then introduced for approval. With motions from Cutler and
43 Sauer and unanimous approval, the Teacher's Contract for 2024-2026 was approved. Johnson
44 noted that many goals have been fulfilled for teachers and it is up to all to follow thru on the
45 educational needs of students. It is important to see that classes are filled, so recruitment is
46 essential to show the public that we deserve their dollars and trust. Also, this contract should
47 help our present teachers to stay satisfied with their job situations. Johnson also reminded
48 board members that the VSBA regional meetings are coming up and very helpful to all board
49 members.

1 The ESP Union Contract was brought forth for approval. With motions from Cutler and Johnson
2 and unanimous support of the board, the ESP Contract for 2024-2026 was approved. Same
3 comments as noted in previous paragraph were extended for the ESP members.
4

5 Nomination for the Manufacturing Program Instructor was presented. Supt. Honsinger informed
6 the board of the selection of Justin Mizell for this position. With motions from Kinney and Cutler
7 and unanimous support of the board, Mizell was approved. We look forward to this addition to
8 our faculty. Johnson noted that the state makes it very difficult to find and hire new faculty
9 members because of the many restrictions in the hiring process.
10

11 Supt. Honsinger began her report by sharing that the Adult Education Program is well and
12 thriving. Over the summer, Culinary Instructor Nick DeLauri taught a Meat Butchering class that
13 was very well attended; our Heavy Equipment Program Instructor, Eric Bishop, ran a class for
14 the VT. Road Department; Tim Mullen, former Manufacturing Instructor, taught an Intro to
15 Welding class; CDL program, with Instructor Bruce Miles, successfully completed a class; the
16 new Massage Therapy Course with Laura Morley will begin on August 27th and last, but not
17 least, our LNA Program with Instructor Cindy Mars will begin a fall class September 10th.
18 Honsinger was pleased to say the floors and interior areas of our building are gleaming and
19 ready to accept students for the 2024/2025 school year. SW Tech will be holding professional
20 development for teachers and staff, Monday/Tuesday, August 26/27. Linda Jackson, SREB
21 Instructor will be with us for those days. She will work with new teachers concerning curriculum
22 guidelines, ACTE Work Keys and recruitment/retention. Student Resource/Campus Safety
23 Liaison, Paul Redding, who is CPI certified, will be providing CPI and intervention training for
24 para-educators.

25 Honsinger shared that there will be no cell phone use allowed during school time. She will be
26 meeting with the policy committee very soon to discuss that situation. The education/facilities
27 committee will meet soon as well. SVSU/MAU will be implementing policy concerning cell
28 phones as well.
29

30 Chair Swierad read a letter from board member, Dane Whitman which informed the board of his
31 resignation due to a change in his life. He will be attending law school and will not have the
32 necessary time to participate. Swierad thanked Whitman for his service and requested that the
33 board clerk write a thank you letter to Whitman.

34 Swierad encouraged board members to attend the upcoming VSBA regional meetings as they
35 are very informative. Information can be found online.

36 Swierad also noted the very large yearly increases to the school health insurance. Vermont
37 does not have a competitive system when it comes to insurance costs. How much more can
38 schools absorb before it becomes too costly? People must speak out about this problem.
39

40 Tattersall inquired as to the how this board should handle the vacancy caused by Whitman
41 resigning. Bylaws state, (Article 3, Section 8, Vacancy), seat shall be filled within thirty days.
42 Some board members feel it may not be fair to bring someone on board who is not
43 knowledgeable about board situations. Also, it may be difficult to find a suitable candidate. No
44 decision was made at this time.
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46 With motions from Kinney and Johnson and unanimous support of the board, the meeting
47 adjourned at 5:14PM.
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