

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, December 9, 2024, in-person and online**
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4 **RGB members present:** M. Cutler, A. Edelson, F. Kinney, G. Sauer, K. Swierad and T.J. Williams, (in-
5 person) and L. Johnson, T. Kane, J. Orzechowski and C. Putney online.
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7 **SWT represented** by: Supt./Dir. Meg Honsinger, Asst Dir. John Lamson 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 4PM by Chair Swierad. He asked for public comments and/or concerns.
15 Hearing none, Supt. Honsinger introduced Outreach/Marketing Coordinator, Nicole Sauer who
16 presented the board with SW Tech examples of marketing items.
17

18 The consent agenda was presented:

- 19 • Full board minutes from November 18, 2024 were motioned for approval by Kinney and
20 Edelson with unanimous support.
- 21 • Payroll warrants were motioned for approval by Kinney and Cutler with unanimous
22 support.
- 23 • Vendor warrants were motioned for approval by Kinney and Williams with unanimous
24 support.

25 Business office documents were presented with no questions or concerns.
26

27 Committee reports:
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- 29 • Chair Cutler shared that the Finance Committee met December 2, 2024 to consider
30 FY26 budget revisions, one of which might be presented to the full board today. An
31 updated Power Point and information provided by Tattersall helped the committee to
32 agree to a revision that would not hurt student education or experiences and also would
33 be acceptable for taxpayers. Cutler noted that a large portion of the budget increases
34 are due to contractual and health insurance costs over which we have no control. Cutler
35 thanked Tattersall for her diligent work as she developed the best budget possible.
- 36 • Chair Edelson reported that the Policy Committee met December 3, 2024. Policy 6191C,
37 District Equity was noted as ready for adoption at the December full board meeting.
38 Policy 5266C, Educational Support System was discussed for review and deemed
39 acceptable as written with only school name updates to be made. Policy 6000C,
40 Curriculum was tabled so that more information could be reviewed before any
41 edits/changes could be made.
42

43 Action items:

- 44 • Policy 6191C, District Equity Policy, was approved for adoption and to replace 6190C
45 with motions from Kinney and Williams and unanimous support. The board thanked
46 Edelson and the policy committee for their work on policies.
- 47 • Business Manager Tattersall was invited to share the revised FY26 budget. She
48 presented a Power Point that very clearly described exactly what SW Tech is all about,
49 explained the revised budget in detail and shared that, if board approved, will be on the
50 SW Tech website for public viewing. Details:
 - 51 ○ FY26 Proposed Budget-\$5,154,303. Increase of 6.99%

- 1 o Fixed, (inflexible increase)-99.95%
- 2 o FY25 Announced Tuition-\$29,619.

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4 Motions from Kinney and Cutler with unanimous board support, approved the revised
5 FY26 budget as presented (FY26 Proposed Budget-\$5,154,303. Increase of 6.99%)

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7 Motions from Kinney and Johnson with unanimous board support, approved the
8 Announced Tuition FY26 of \$29,619.

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10 • Tattersall shared with the board that the district treasurer has not had a raise since 2019.
11 She proposes and supports an increase of \$800.
12 Motions from Johnson and Kinney with unanimous support approved this request.
13 This will appear on the Annual Meeting Warning for the March 2025 meeting.
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15 • Tattersall then introduced a proposal concerning the Board Member Annual Stipend.
16 It was brought to her attention that it might be wise to establish a minimum amount of
17 attendance at full board meetings to receive the full annual stipend. How does the board
18 feel about including a clause stating the expectation of attendance at 50% of full board
19 meetings, either in-person or online, to receive the annual stipend? Some board
20 members were pleased to hear this request and offered support. Motions made by
21 Kinney and Cutler with unanimous support approved the wording for the Annual Meeting
22 to read:

23 Article 1: To establish the annual salaries of the District Directors at \$1500* each
24 *As long as they attend at least 50% of the meetings.

25
26 Supt. Honsinger began her report by thanking Tattersall for all the hard work and time spent this
27 past month in preparing the FY26 budget as well as organizing all the materials needed for the
28 SW Tech Annual Audit which took place last week. This takes many hours of preparation to
29 provide the required documents for the auditors. Honsinger also thanked the finance committee
30 and the full board for their continued diligent work and full support of SW Tech students. She
31 next updated information from the December newsletter concerning programs and student
32 experiences. Honsinger directed attention to a letter she has been working on as requested by
33 this board. This letter is requesting the state to consider providing funds for SW Tech
34 expansions in buildings and programs as the increasing needs for certain trades are clearly
35 evident. Board members offered suggestions and considered timing for delivery of said letter.
36 With motions from Kinney and Edelson, and unanimous support, permission was given for Supt.
37 Honsinger to complete a letter working with the board suggestions in content and timing.

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39 Last item brought up was the fact that SW Tech has five potential openings for elected board
40 members. Four present members are up for re-election and we have one empty seat. Hopefully,
41 present members up for re-election will inform SW Tech administration as soon as possible as
42 to their intentions. We appreciate the attention and commitment of our board members as they
43 strive to assist our students in their educational endeavors.

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45 With no further business, motions from Kinney and Williams and unanimous support approved
46 the adjournment of this meeting at 4:50PM. The January full board will meet Monday,
47 January 13, 2025, 10AM.