

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, Friday, May 16, 2014, 12 PM**  
3 **Luncheon meeting**

4  
5 Attending: RGB members – Jim Boutin, Gloria Alexander, Jessica Gulley-Ward, Heidi  
6 Pickering; CDC-James Culkeen, Michael Lawler; Michael Harrington, Bennington Economic  
7 Development Committee chair

8  
9 Michael Harrington was introduced and he shared his role and group’s mission/history.

10  
11 Gloria Alexander was elected chair of the strategic planning committee. She gave a brief  
12 explanation of the history of the strategic planning committee, its mission and goals.  
13 Introductions of the other participants were made and brief remarks by each as to personal  
14 history and reason for interest in this committee.

15  
16 Discussion ensued as to what we are seeing in our community today; what changes would  
17 we make if we were setting up the CDC today; what trends and needs do we see today;  
18 what do we need for school students to succeed today; how do we find a balance between  
19 the low income level experienced today vs. the need for the development of small, high risk  
20 businesses.

21 Mike Harrington spoke about his work with individuals to help them start their own  
22 businesses using the Sustainable Business Model to set goals, plan budgets and consider  
23 the importance of location. He suggested several programs the CDC might want to consider  
24 for the future:

- 25 • Entrepreneurial Boot Camp for students that would run for 12 weeks and would  
26 include financial planning, goal setting and developing a business plan. Possible co-  
27 sponsors could be local businesses, credit union, etc.
- 28 • Emerging Leaders in industry could be a very useful program to train current  
29 employees for leadership positions
- 30 • An Experiential Camp similar to the one conducted by the police department would  
31 teach the students problem solving and critical thinking.
- 32 • The possibility of a mentor advisory committee to support students in these programs  
33 and working with educational institutions could help students in dual enrollment  
34 programs.

35 Some difficulties in establishing these programs are the state AOE can be a roadblock;  
36 revenue generating is a current problem; grant applications are few and far between;  
37 Perkins funds are limited and IT must assist in re-designing programs.

38  
39 Lunch was enjoyed by the committee and a “big thank you” goes out to the CDC Culinary  
40 Arts program.

41  
42 The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 2:30 PM. Kathleen Moore,  
43 Social Media Director at Orvis Communications will join the committee for the next meeting.  
44 Meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.