

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Strategic Planning Committee Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 2015, 2:30 PM**
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5 Attending: RGB members – Gloria Alexander, Jessica Gulley-Ward and Heidi Pickering
6 CDC represented by Superintendent Michael Lawler, Meg Honsinger, Asst. Director and
7 Marie Pierre Huguet, Assistant Director for Adult Education; Teresa O’Loughlin,
8 Administrative Assistant to ACE and Kathleen Moore
9 Recorder: Sandra Redding
10

11 Gloria opened the meeting at 2:35 PM by asking for nominations for chair of this committee.
12 The members nominated Gloria and all were in favor. She agreed to stay on as chair. She
13 then asked for approval of February 4th minutes. Those voting were in agreement.
14

15 Gloria moved on to the AAUW visit in April. Marie Pierre has been the CDC liaison for this
16 event so far. Teresa O’Loughlin will be assisting on the event now as Marie Pierre will be
17 away on that date. Gloria informed the committee that there may be as many as twenty
18 guests coming to lunch and touring the school. We must cap the event at twenty-four. The
19 committee is welcome to attend as well. Mike or Meg will assemble the tours, so there may
20 be several groups touring about the building at the same time. Gloria asked Mike to prepare
21 numbers on gender equity in our programs and how many students participate from the
22 Northshire. Also, ACE will provide materials concerning adult education.
23

24 Supt. Lawler informed the committee that the Student of the Month project is moving ahead
25 quickly. Instructors are encouraged to submit names of worthy students and there is criteria
26 to meet for selection. This is accomplished by using a Google Docs tool.
27

28 Mike updated the committee on the summer camps situation. The CDC will participate in a
29 program with the Bennington Police Department. We will be providing a bus and driver for
30 the program. The summer agriculture program is a bit tentative as we are losing our ag
31 instructor, but Mike is still hopeful we may be able to develop something.
32

33 Room C156 continues to be changed over to the new classroom for the LNA program. The
34 next phase will be installing the proper electric and plumbing.
35

36 Mike has been in contact with the Arlington superintendent, Judy Pullinan. Discussions are
37 ongoing concerning a pre-engineering program at Mack Molding as well as finalizing the
38 school calendar for next year. Computer/Networking Academy Program is continuing on at
39 this point as well as the Marketing/Business Program. The Campus Store has been working
40 with these two programs to begin the changeover to a healthier product line for sale in the
41 store.
42

43 In-service was recently held for faculty. The group listened and participated in a program
44 presented by Linda Jackson from Technology Centers That Work. Mike felt it was a very
45 good workshop with interesting outcomes on individual programs. An evaluation tool was
46 used and prepared for the next step. How to improve and what the priorities are will be
47 investigated. There were eighteen separate assessments to use. It’s not possible to work
48 on all of them at once, so several will be chosen for the initial work.
49

50 The committee continued with a discussion concerning advisory committees for the CDC
51 programs. It is difficult getting people to participate on a committee when it is not clear what

1 the expectations are. There is a brochure developed for just that situation. This needs to
2 get into the hands of the instructors. We need to develop a better connection to our
3 community leaders and businesses to find people willing to help the CDC stay current with
4 new trends and up-to-date curriculum. The committees are only required to meet twice a
5 year, but this may not really be enough to be truly resourceful. This committee should seek
6 out people they may know to assist in program advisories. It was noted that even senior
7 teachers may not be fully aware of the role of the advisory committee. Would there be a way
8 to do meetings electronically? There needs to be more discussion with faculty to develop a
9 better model.

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11 The Computer and Networking Academy Program was up for discussion next. The
12 superintendent feels the program is under enrolled and under-utilized. Cisco is a viable
13 option. There are other options available. The state of Vermont has joined the Southern
14 Region Education Board and Mike feels there may be some very exciting programs to
15 investigate there. He mentioned "Infomatics" which has real world courses. There are four
16 courses over 2 years. Digital world is not doing so well; gaming and graphics are really hot
17 right now. We do not offer a lot of cloud based courses, so Mike feels we could use some
18 updating here. We need to be preparing students for careers that do not even exist right
19 now; they need to be able to work from anywhere, not dependent on a local economy. This
20 would certainly save companies money. Mike would like to see a joint decision on this from
21 strategic planning and the education committee. We would need approval from the state for
22 any major changes, but he feels this would not be a problem given the direction the state is
23 going in at this time. He would recommend a two week training session for the instructor.
24 All must buy into this decision to make this program work. Mike has opened the door with a
25 discussion with the instructor of the program. It would be a brand new curriculum and quite a
26 challenge. Mike noted that the program was holding an advisory committee meeting this
27 week. This would not move into place until next year. Advisory committee needs to be
28 involved in this as well.

29
30 Marketing and Business programs were discussed next. The plan would be to try and use
31 the school store as a lab for these two programs next year. Sustainability and changes in
32 regulations are important to discuss as there are many changes in the wind. The healthy
33 foods initiative is making for some significant changes to the store as far as stock and sales
34 are concerned. It will be quite a challenge to offer the foods and snacks as mandated and
35 still make this a viable money making program. The whole setup needs an update in
36 function and results for students. The instructors are ready to work with Mike to create a
37 successful environment. There should be a way to create a cross connection between
38 programs to have a successful experience for students and instructors alike.

39
40 Gloria and the committee agreed to meet next on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 2:30.

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42 The meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.