

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 13, 2020, Zoom Online Meeting**  
3

4 **RGB members present:** Jon Gauthier, Art Haytko, (at 10:32AM), Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Francis  
5 Kinney, Edward Letourneau, John MacDonald, Michael Munson, Kenneth Swierad, Todd Siclari and  
6 Dane Whitman  
7

8 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director; Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director;  
9 Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager; Rob Bahny, Workplace and Education Training Coordinator and  
10 Nicole Sauer, Education and Outreach Coordinator  
11

12 Others: Bennington Banner reporter  
13

14 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
15

16 Meeting was called to order by Supt. Lawler at 10:05AM. He welcomed all to this online Zoom format due  
17 to current circumstances. He asked for any public comments and hearing none, he invited the board  
18 members to introduce themselves and state what part of the district they represent. Bennington, North  
19 Bennington and Shaftsbury are well represented by this year's board members. Lawler then requested  
20 nominations for chair, vice-chair and clerk. Voting proceeded by verbal vote and consensus was  
21 reached:

- 22 • Chair-John MacDonald
- 23 • Vice-chair-Michael Munson
- 24 • Clerk-Jackie Kelly

25 Meeting dates and time of meeting, 6PM, were approved noting that there may be adjustments due to  
26 special circumstances if necessary. Meetings will be online for the near future and will return to the CDC  
27 Assembly Room when appropriate. The Bennington Banner continues to be the "paper of record" for this  
28 board. Board officers are approved as off-warrant signers  
29

30 Chair MacDonald continued on to the consent agenda:

- 31 • Minutes from January 13, 2020 full board meeting and March 2, 2020 Annual Meeting were  
32 approved by unanimous voice vote
- 33 • Payroll Warrants, #18, #1033, #1029, #1031, #1031, #1036, #1037 and #1040 were approved by  
34 unanimous voice vote. Question concerning warrants without signature. Process is board officer  
35 comes in to review warrants and give tentative approval until all board members have opportunity  
36 to review, vote and sign at full board meeting
- 37 • Vendor Warrants, #1030, #1032, #1034, #1035 and #1038 were approved by unanimous voice  
38 vote. Question raised as to how public can view warrants-Lawler explained all public meeting  
39 documents are posted to our website for the public

40 Cash flow, revenues and expenses documents were presented for discussion. There were no questions.  
41 Documents were approved as presented.  
42

43 Committee reports: Education Committee met to consider school name change. Jackie Kelly  
44 complimented our students/faculty/staff for the great job in helping to create the final product in this  
45 anticipated new design. Lots of behind the scenes work went into preparing a presentation for the  
46 committee. Nicole Sauer then shared the thoughts and process that went into this very exciting advance  
47 for our school and students. A great deal of work from creating a survey of ideas to establishing a design  
48 and colors that truly represent our district, school and students went into this decision. Our present  
49 moniker, shortened is the "CDC" which has been a confusing label for us for many reasons, one being  
50 very evident right now because of the current world health crisis. Mike Lawler and many others have felt  
51 a change would help in creating more interest as we grow our programs to fit the present era and also  
52 showcase the remarkable learning experiences we have here in this district for our students. Our Graphic  
53 Arts class, taught by Betsy Kane, jumped right into this project, experimenting with colors, designs, fonts,  
54 etc. They offered several choices for consideration and the final selection was agreed upon for the  
55 board's approval. Kylie Hall, a Graphic Arts student offered that the triangular shape, one of the strongest  
56 shapes, well represented Vermont and unity of our district and of course, green is well understood.

1 Lawler noted that much work on signage will need to be done, so this may be the time to get started on  
2 that. Lawler also mentioned that our school message is being update to reflect the positive environment  
3 offered. After some discussion, motion was made by Leon Johnson with second by Ed Letourneau.  
4 Unanimous approval given by board to move ahead with re-branding operation. All look forward to the  
5 introduction of "Southwest Tech."

6  
7 Action Items:

- 8 • Adoption of Warned Policies: motions by L. Johnson and second by E. Letourneau
- 9 • all proved by unanimous voice vote of the board
  - 10 o C1090-Use of School Facilities
  - 11 o C3300-Access Control
  - 12 o C3310-Security Cameras

13  
14 Rob Bahny provided the board with Adult Education updates:

- 15 • LNA is proceeding-off site locations and online-going quite well
- 16 • EMT-online course work with Bennington Rescue is underway
- 17 • All other hands on classes suspended till fall
- 18 • Expect a very full and busy fall semester for adult classes
- 19 • Online is still available at this time

20  
21 Superintendent Lawler informed the board of the many conference calls and Zoom online meetings that  
22 continue daily with the state as well as our local officials. He has been in constant contact with our faculty  
23 and staff throughout this situation. He shared that our instructors were very well prepared for distance  
24 learning, but with state guidelines changing quite often, it has been a challenge to adapt as required. Our  
25 office lobby area is open weekdays for students to access any materials they need from instructors and  
26 instructors have setup Zoom classrooms/learning for daily work and attendance. As of April 20, 2020, full  
27 remote learning will go into place for the remainder of the school year. There will be updates on the  
28 school website for the students and public. There is no playbook for this situation, so we must adjust as  
29 needed due to internet availability, social distancing, learning capacities, hands-on labs, student privacy  
30 etc. It is very taxing on instructors as well as students as they experience this new mode of education.  
31 Administration, faculty and staff have reached out to one another to assist in the learning curve of Zoom  
32 meetings, Google online classrooms and other modes of teaching our students. All have been very  
33 creative, motivated and resourceful. Jackie Kelly inquired as to awards and scholarships for our  
34 graduates. Lawler stated that applications and assistance is available for them. He will have more  
35 information regarding the end of this school year from the state in May. There are still many details to be  
36 worked out as to hours needed for completion of some certifications and how grades will be approached.  
37 It was noted by John MacDonald that the administration with continued support from the office staff has  
38 been very solid and that it truly takes a team to make it all work. We are very lucky to have a very  
39 supportive team to keep our school running so smoothly.

40 Assistant Director, Meg Honsinger informed the board that Supt. Lawler has been doing a consistently  
41 strong job working with faculty and staff to promote good moral and energy to problem solve. He has set  
42 a positive tone for all as we work together to help relieve the stress that comes with such a profound  
43 change for so many people. Our faculty and staff know that support is available anytime and we all  
44 appreciate the updates and online faculty meetings each week. We have become stronger for this  
45 experience, promoted great conversations concerning educational learning and opened our minds to new  
46 thinking.

47 Dane Whitman inquired if any custodial staff was still in the building. There is a daily skeleton staff  
48 providing sanitation as we have access to our front lobby each day between 8AM-1PM. We are not sure  
49 as to how long this access will continue.

50 Jackie Kelly had a few questions concerning public access. Again, we provide materials, information and  
51 support as needed as long as we can.

52 There is nothing new concerning teacher and ESP contracts at this time. Everything is on hold.

53  
54 With no other business, motion to adjourn at 11:21AM by E. Letourneau and L. Johnson. Unanimous.  
55