

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, May 10, 2021, Zoom Online Meeting**  
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4 **RGB members present:** Michael Cutler, Asher Edelson, Art Haytko, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Francis  
5 Kinney, John MacDonald, Kenneth Sweirad and Anthony (TJ) Williams  
6

7 **CDC represented** by: M. Lawler, Supt./Dir; Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director; Rebecca Tattersall,  
8 Business Manager  
9

10 Audience: CAT-TV  
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
13

14 Meeting was called to order by Chair John MacDonald at 10:01 AM. He welcomed the public and asked  
15 for comments. There were none.  
16

17 Consent Agenda presented for approval:

- 18 • Minutes from full board meeting, Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were unanimously approved.
- 19 • Payroll warrants were unanimously approved after a question from J. Kelly concerning random  
20 drug testing for CDL/bus driving staff. Testing is random and mandated by the Feds/state and  
21 has been for many years. We have used the same company for many years, they come right to  
22 our facility for convenience.
- 23 • Vendor warrants were unanimously approved after a question concerning the payment of cell  
24 phone expenses for our administrators. Because M. Lawler and M. Honsinger are effectively on  
25 call 24 hours a day for our district, a portion of their cell phone expenses is covered by the district.  
26 This has been the usual practice for many years now so that they do not need to carry more than  
27 one phone.
- 28 • There were no questions concerning the Business Office/Treasurers documents.  
29

30 The Education/Facilities chair, J. Kelly, updated the board on the organizational meeting of this committee  
31 and presented discussion points, (see minutes of this meeting, Monday, April 26, 2021.)

32 Supt. Lawler supplied a brief history of how decisions to establish, continue or dis-continue programs at  
33 our school are evaluated. The needs of the area, interests of the students in the district, availability of  
34 instructors and time constraints are all considered. As an example, agriculture was once quite popular  
35 with active classes. As interest here decreased and new instructors were not available, the MAUMS was  
36 growing a substantial program, so we passed along our equipment and supplies to them. The district  
37 researched the interest in solar, wind, new age, green, farm to table, and several other specialized topics.  
38 Not enough students were interested and no availability of instructors stopped the forward motion of any  
39 new possibilities. We added Graphic Arts recently and still look into collaborating with area trades people  
40 for crossover experiences in our established programs. We could offer online possibilities for computer  
41 and computer related courses thru the Vermont Learning Cooperative if the budget allows. L. Johnson  
42 suggested that enrichment classes for 9<sup>th</sup> graders should be considered to expose younger students to  
43 the tech center.

44 The Policy committee chair, L. Johnson, reported on the organizational meeting of this committee. Asher  
45 Edelson was elected vice-chair. Johnson shared the process and intent of this committee, (see minutes  
46 of this meeting, Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021),  
47

- 48 • Resignation: Culinary Instructor, Mark Anthony Conway, resigned his position, 4/27/21 with  
49 regret. Board accepted resignation with motions from L. Johnson and A. Edelson. Unanimous.  
50 Asst. Dir. Meg Honsinger, informed the board that the position will be re-advertised and that we  
51 are going along with our present in-house teaching. Students have had good exposure to area  
52 chefs serving in guest teaching scenarios, local field trips and hands on cooking experiences in  
53 the classroom.

54 Lawler expressed his thanks to all faculty and staff for the very hard work and additional  
55 teaching/scheduling that took place in such a cooperative manner during these past trying times.  
56 Everyone helped out in every way to ease the stress as much as possible. The best teamwork ever!!

1 Covid is still a real thing and we must follow guidelines, but we look forward to getting back to a more  
2 normal schedule for all.

3  
4 We are happy to announce that many awards and scholarships will be presented to SW Tech students as  
5 they near graduation. There will be a live feed and then re-plays for the public. Full details to follow.

6  
7 We are in the process of responding to the State Recovery Program request concerning this past year's  
8 Covid experience. This is a challenging 17 page document of questions/comments/concerns we must  
9 answer for the state. The board will have an opportunity to review the document when it is ready for  
10 presentation to the state. The Education/Facilities committee will see a draft as a WIP.

11  
12 The Superintendent Evaluation committee should meet in June. Also, contracts for non-union office staff  
13 should be available for approval at the next meeting in Executive Session.

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15 Dates ahead:

- 16 • June 7 Last day of School for Students
- 17 • June 11 Last day Teachers
- 18 • June 7 10 AM Finance Committee Re-org meeting
- 19 • June 7 10:30 Policy Committee Meeting
- 20 • June 14 9:15 Educ/Fin Committee Meeting
- 21 • June 14 10 AM Full Board

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23 Meeting adjourned unanimously at 10:58AM.

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