

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, June 14, 2021, Zoom Online Meeting**
3

4 **RGB members present:** Michael Cutler, Asher Edelson, Art Haytko, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Francis
5 Kinney, John MacDonald, Kenneth Swierad, Dane Whitman and Anthony (TJ) Williams
6

7 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director and Rebecca Tattersall, Business
8 Manager
9

10 Audience: CAT-TV
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
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14 Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, John MacDonald at 10:02AM. He welcomed the public and
15 asked for comments. There were none.
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17 The board voted unanimously with motions from F. Kinney and L. Johnson to go into executive session
18 for discussion/action on non-union office staff contracts at 10:06AM. Supt. Lawler and Business
19 Manager, Rebecca Tattersall will be allowed in this session. The board returned to open session at
20 10:24AM to resume public meeting. Decisions made in executive session will be announced later in this
21 meeting during superintendent's report.
22

23 Consent agenda was presented for vote and discussion:

- 24 • Minutes of full board May 10th, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved after motions from L.
25 Johnson and M. Cutler.
- 26 • Payroll Warrants were unanimously approved after motions from L. Johnson and F. Kinney
- 27 • Vendor Warrants were unanimously approved after motions from L. Johnson and F. Kinney

28 There were no questions/concerns on the business office documents included for this meeting.
29

30 Committee reports:

- 31 • Education/facilities meeting has been postponed until September
- 32 • Bylaw Review will meet in September.
- 33 • Finance had re-org meeting with K. Swierad voted chair. R. Tattersall reported to that committee
34 that SW Tech finances were in good shape. This committee will not meet again till fall.
- 35 • Policy committee met according to chair L. Johnson. Several policies and policy procedures were
36 discussed for review. Committee will continue in September.
37

38 Action Items:

- 39 • Referring to the executive session, Supt. Lawler opened the discussion concerning the several
40 non-union office staff employees. He indicated that these contracts would be for three years and
41 follow guidelines outlined in the current Teacher's agreements. Also, the Guidance Counselor
42 position has been increased from .8 to 1. as in years previous with same stipulations as Teachers
43 contract. This is not a new position nor new employee. With motions from L. Johnson and F.
44 Kinney, board unanimously agreed to accept contracts as presented in executive session.
45
- 46 • Lawler presented the nomination of Jared Austin for Forestry Program Instructor replacing David
47 Dence who has been with this school for many years and will be sorely missed. Austin is well
48 qualified for this position and has been vetted thru VCIC. Tattersall explained the included salary
49 update that will take place when the Teachers contract is approved. Also, she shared the formula
50 used for determining how "step" placement is achieved. Motions by L. Johnson and F. Kinney to
51 accept nomination as presented were unanimously passed. The superintendent noted that
52 Austin will have big shoes to fill and is truly up to the task. He will pick-up where Dence left off
53 and continue this intense program. Dence is a graduate of this school many years ago under the
54 program teaching of Frank Lamb. He has achieved great success with students both in
55 classroom work and actual hands-on experiences. On behalf of this board and our faculty and

1 staff, we wish Dave well and thank him very much for his watchful and experienced overview,
2 care and expertise he showed his students. We will miss him very much. The board clerk will
3 send a note Dence expressing the board's gratitude.
4

- 5 • Lawler announced that the school is preparing to put out a "Request For Bids," (RFB), on a new
6 yellow school bus. As it took almost a full year from start to finish to complete the purchase and
7 arrival of our last acquisition, we need to start the process with the board's approval sooner rather
8 than later. The older bus will be passed along to the forestry program for their use and the new
9 bus must be up to the latest state standards. A request for funds from the reserve fund to cover
10 this purchase is expected to be around \$50,000 and possibly more. We can thank the voters of
11 this district for approving the additional amounts be placed in reserve funds each year so that this
12 figure does not affect the yearly budget. It also enables us to plan ahead for these large
13 expenditures. We get a great deal of use out of our vehicles as they are used daily in our
14 programs as well as transporting students throughout the district. Care and upkeep is handled by
15 our very capable Auto Program Instructor, Tom Haskins. Most vehicle issues are handled in
16 house. We will be looking for:
 - 17 ○ 16-21 passenger
 - 18 ○ Standard yellow bus
 - 19 ○ Must meet all state/federal requirements
 - 20 ○ Must be safety equipped
 - 21 ○ Gas fueled as diesel is not recommended
 - 22 ○ Undercoating as suggested by F. Kinney; we do all our vehicles every 1-2 years

23 The board agreed that an RFB for a new bus could be researched with more information to be
24 forthcoming as available.

25 Continuing with the superintendent's report, Lawler offered thanks to the board for their support over the
26 past 15 months as we dealt with the Covid pandemic. After a very challenging time for all involved, he
27 looks forward to a return to more normal circumstances for students and faculty/staff. He expects
28 restrictions to be lifted very shortly in Vermont as the overall state response has been very good. He
29 commended the faculty/staff for their fantastic attitude, perseverance, overall generous participation in
30 each and every task asked of them. Everyone stepped outside their comfort zones to fill in wherever
31 needed. We experienced a lot and learned a great deal. Somethings, we hope to never see again, other
32 things just might prove to be useful. We look forward to returning to in-person meetings as soon as
33 allowed. Information will be shared as available. As much as not using face masks will be much
34 appreciated, Lawler noted some of us may have a bit of "separation anxiety."

35
36 The SW Tech Awards program will be aired Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 7PM. Lawler was pleased to share
37 the names of our Tech Excellence achievers and scholarship recipients. We also added many to the
38 National Technical Honor Society. Please check out the SW Tech Facebook page for the presentation.
39 Our students were very appreciative of the award process and the thoughtful "swag bag" gifts.
40 Many thanks to Nicole Sauer, Lisa Harrington Redding, Tiffany Martin and Ryan Scutt for the planning,
41 presentation and completion of this creative effort to recognize our students from across the Southwest
42 Tech District. Yard signs were delivered to award recipients by our dedicated paras as one of their final
43 duties for this year. Thanks to all involved for making this year's ending more memorable than the
44 beginning and that is not an easy thing to accomplish! Congratulations to all our students,
45 parents/guardians and teaching staff.
46

47 The Vermont State CTE Recovery Plan Report is underway in our facility. Due to many unusual
48 circumstances and the fact that we service several schools, this is taking a great deal of time and effort to
49 complete. We need to meet a June 30th deadline, so board members can expect a call to a very brief
50 meeting later in the month to approve the information compiled in the report. The report will be available
51 to board members when completed.
52

53 Concerning enrollment, considering the disruptive circumstances of this past year, SW Tech showed
54 positive enrollment and participation by district students. All efforts were made to assist students in any
55 needs they had, be it tech, transportation, personal or mentoring.

1 Enrollment for the coming year looks very strong, according to R. Tattersall. We have good number of
2 applications for programs as well as short blocks with a few programs actually way over the number we
3 can accommodate. We have been working very hard to grow and this seems to be the trend at this time,
4 so we may need to look at adding additional classes or instructors, not any new programs. This is a good
5 problem to have, so we will continue to develop SW Tech as the numbers indicate. We do not have any
6 summer programs at this point other than Adult Education offerings, such as LNA, CDL and
7 Manufacturing. We will be participating in the Bennington Police New Experience Camp the first week of
8 August. Several of our programs will host young people for a day long experience at SW Tech. Our
9 para/CDL drivers and buses are available for the camp as well.

10
11 Hopefully, we can plan any further June meetings in a same day schedule. Details will be forthcoming.
12 Other than that, we expect to meet in August, possibly in person at SW Tech.

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14 With no further business, motions from A. Edelson and L. Johnson to adjourn at 11:11AM were
15 unanimously approved.

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