

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, August 9, 2021, Zoom Online Meeting and**
3 **in-person**

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

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8 **CDC represented by:** Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director

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10 Audience: CAT-TV

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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 10:08AM. 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 contract(s) at 10:10AM. Supt. Lawler will be allowed in session. The board
19 returned to open session at 10:15AM to resume public meeting. **Motion** was made by K. Swierad and
20 second by L. Johnson to extend for one year the lease contract for Growing Upright, the daycare center
21 located on SW Tech property. Vote was unanimous as presented.

22
23 **Consent agenda** was presented for vote and discussion:

- 24 • Minutes of RGB full board meeting, Monday, June 14, 2021 were unanimously approved after
25 motions from F. Kinney and L. Johnson
- 26 • Minutes from RGB Special Meeting, Tuesday, June 29, 2021 were unanimously approved after
27 motions from A. Edelson and D. Whitman.
- 28 • Payroll Warrants were unanimously approved after motions from F. Kinney and K. Swierad
- 29 • Vendor Warrants were unanimously approved after motions from F. Kinney and K. Swierad

30 There were no questions/concerns on the business office documents included for this meeting. Business
31 office documents were accepted as presented after motions from A. Edelson and L. Johnson with
32 unanimous vote.

33 **No committee reports**

34 **Action Items:**

- 35 • As stated previously, the Growing Upright Daycare lease was approved for a one year extension
- 36 • Noms:
 - 37 ○ Supt. Lawler presented the nomination for Manufacturing Instructor, Michael Thoreson.
38 After sharing pertinent details, motions by F. Kinney and L. Johnson to accept nom as
39 presented. Unanimous vote to approve.
 - 40 ○ Nomination for Culinary Instructor, Nicholas DeLauri, was presented next by the
41 superintendent. After sharing pertinent details, motions by F. Kinney and K. Swierad to
42 accept nom as presented. Unanimous vote to approve.

43 Lawler shared that we are now fully staffed and ready to begin a new school year. New employees have
44 been properly vetted as required. We are ready to welcome back faculty, staff and students.

45 L. Johnson mentioned that the superintendents evaluation committee needs to meet soon and other
46 committees should be preparing to continue with planned meetings in September. Meetings may be in-
47 person or by Zoom.

48 **Superintendent's Report:**

- 49 • Professional Development for faculty and staff will take place. August 23 and 24 with students
50 arriving on campus August 25. At this time, students will be expected to return fulltime to classes
51 on campus with face masks suggested for all unvaccinated people and required for at least the
52 first 10 days of school for all. When we reach 80% fully vaccinated, masks will be optional per
53 the AoE. No social distancing or other special directions are in place at this time, but we are
54 prepared to make changes quickly if the situation changes. We now have many procedures in
55 place for our buses and the campus if needed. Online learning was tackled last year with our

1 instructors becoming very well acquainted with Zoom formats and very creative in
2 preparing/presenting innovative lessons for students. We also have a specific bus cleaning
3 procedure in place which will continue as we strive to stay safe and functional.

- 4 • Lawler thanked the cleaning, maintenance and landscaping crews for their diligent and very
5 noticeable hard work in and around our facility over the summer. It is always a challenge to carry
6 out all the necessary upkeep with summer weather and use of the building still an issue.
- 7 • SW Tech hosted the Bennington Police Department's first day of New Experience Camp. We
8 shuffled young people thru four programs, Building Trades, Forensics, Graphic Arts and Culinary
9 Arts. Our drivers and busses were used to transport campers for the week to several very
10 interesting venues and experiences. Thank you to all involved, drivers, instructors and staff who
11 stepped up to fill in as needed to insure a positive experience for the campers and also, for
12 representing our school in a very positive manner.
- 13 • We will not be offering any fully remote programs at this time. Arrangements can be made if
14 specific needs call for that. We look forward to a much more normal school schedule this year.
15 AoE and VT DoH will be offering vaccination/testing sites in various schools to facilitate easy
16 access to help with controlling any Delta breakouts. Elementary schools will be requiring face
17 masks as the vaccine is not approved for 12 and under yet.
- 18 • The Education Recovery Plan submitted at the end of June has been returned for the expected
19 revision. Lawler shared that as part of the upcoming professional development agenda, social
20 and emotional learning training will be provided for faculty and staff as required by the Agency of
21 Education to meet certain requirements of the Recovery Plan. We will develop a pilot program to
22 train our employees.
- 23 • Lawler expressed his desire to bring back a First Day type celebration for our students. He would
24 like to see a welcome back reception in the morning for second year students and lunchtime
25 gathering for first year students. This would be a great time for students to meet our faculty and
26 staff.
- 27 • Lawler explained the process for new hires to attain their teaching certificates. They must juggle
28 attending "boot camp" in August, continuing education for up to four years to complete their
29 certification, enter a new work experience in a fulltime job working with teenagers, continue their
30 family/personal life and finally, pass a series of Praxis tests to fully become a tech teacher in
31 Vermont. Not an easy schedule to handle!
- 32 • Lawler asked if any questions:
 - 33 ○ TJ Williams inquired if proof of vaccination will be required. Lawler shared that we have
34 forms that are required for every student to fill out, so that a question concerning the
35 vaccine may be added to that form
 - 36 ○ D Whitman wondered about the protocol for any positive cases. Lawler explained there
37 will be no changes on that front from last year. We have an isolation area setup and will
38 continue with established procedures. We have a developed data system for tracking
39 any cases.
 - 40 ○ L. Johnson suggested that the Education Committee be involved in any new learning
41 criteria as needed and Lawler stated information regarding any pilot program would be
42 brought before the committee/board. Johnson also suggested that this project be
43 included in the superintendent's evaluation goals.

44 **Discussion** ensued as to schedule and format of future RGB meetings. We are allowed to meet in
45 person and/or online as preferred. Committees should be setting dates/times for meetings in September.
46 The next meeting, Monday, September 13, 2021, the group decided to continue with the 10AM time and
47 the meeting will be offered in-person at the SW Tech Assembly Room and also online for those who may
48 prefer that format. In the future, we will arrange a visit to our various programs and/or invite program
49 instructors/students to share/update the board on program educational experiences. M. Cutler stated a
50 half hour before the scheduled 10AM for a tour would enable the board to see the programs in action.
51 J. Kelly added it would be great to visit the school and perhaps, board members could have a chance to
52 experience the CDL simulator!

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54 With no further business to come before the board at this time, motions by K. Swierad and A. Edelson to
55 adjourn were unanimously approved at 10:55AM.