

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, October 18, 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, Ken Swierad and Anthony (TJ) Williams

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

10 Audience: CAT-TV

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

14  
15 Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, John MacDonald at 10:07AM. He welcomed the public and  
16 asked for comments. Leon Johnson mentioned that the Superintendent's evaluation committee met and  
17 would like to report and Auto Instructor, Tom Haskins was present with a student to share information  
18 concerning their program. There were no other comments.

19  
20 Auto Program Instructor, Tom Haskins and student, Jason Perkins gave a detailed report concerning SW  
21 Tech's very successful auto class. All are happy to return to a more normal classroom situation this year  
22 after dealing with remote learning due to Covid. Haskins shared that industry is having a very difficult time  
23 with labor and supply demands. There are many credentials needed to be certified for the variety of  
24 positions open and available in this industry right now. Advanced training is always ongoing and critical  
25 to the industry. Competition for qualified trainees is intensifying in all the major auto distributors such as  
26 Audi, Chevy, Volkswagon and Subaru. Haskins informed the group that he has developed very strong ties  
27 to area dealers which has been tricky due to changes in ownership/leadership of several businesses.  
28 The trend for electric vehicles is continuing to increase, so that means specialized training for instructors  
29 and students. Student Jason Perkins shared that SW Tech has very good equipment, a strong and well-  
30 prepared training program and the co-op program is really beneficial for students. The board appreciated  
31 the report and suggested that the Banner and other media should be informed so that the word gets out  
32 to more people about what is happening at this school. Congratulations to Mr. Haskins and student  
33 Jason Perkins; continue the good work!

34  
35 Minutes from the October 18, 2021 full board meeting were unanimously accepted as presented after  
36 motions from L. Johnson and F. Kinney.

37  
38 Payroll warrants were unanimously accepted by the full board after motions from F. Kinney and L.  
39 Johnson.

40  
41 Vendor warrants were unanimously accepted by the full board after motions from F. Kinney and L.  
42 Johnson.

43  
44 Committee reports were discussed. Education/Facilities met on October 18 right before that full board  
45 meeting and Chair J. Kelly shared the information with the board at that time. Policy committee met  
46 September 20 and Chair L. Johnson gave a brief update on where that committee stood with policy  
47 review and by-law updating. (See minutes for both committees for full report.)

48  
49 CTSO, (Career and Technical Student Organizations) nominations were presented for discussion and  
50 approval:

- 51 • Kathy Slade-HOSA-Motions by L. Johnson and A. Edelson-unanimously approved by board
- 52 • James Gulley and Jennifer Morgan-Hall-SkillsUSA-Motions by Johnson and Edelson
- 53 • unanimously approved by board
- 54 • Kristen Barrett-FBLA-Motions by Johnson and Edelson unanimously approved by board

1 Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager, reported that there are no bus bids to present at this time. The  
2 search continues for either a new or used school bus outfitted properly for our transportation needs. A  
3 new RFP will be developed and sent out with hopes for solid response. A vehicle will probably not be  
4 prepared for our use until at least spring of next year, maybe later. Could we rent a bus? Probably not as  
5 the requirements are very specific when it comes to school busses. Edelson inquired if there might be  
6 any grants available from the state or federal level for emission free vehicles. Good question and we will  
7 check that out. It would be a great coup for the center to have the first one in the state being used by our  
8 tech center for our district students.  
9

10 Chair Mac Donald shared that the Superintendent Evaluation team met recently, both in-committee and  
11 with Supt. Lawler. He noted that Supt. Lawler has accomplished the goals set out for him. Considering  
12 the difficulties of this last year, Covid and personal health related issues included, Lawler has led the SW  
13 Tech team in a positive and smooth manner. Mac Donald stated that the fact that the school and school  
14 team of faculty, staff and administrators showed a strong willingness to work thru any adverse conditions  
15 to keep a positive environment for students and community spoke volumes to Lawler's leadership.  
16 The committee will prepare for a final brief meeting and the superintendent's evaluation will be listed as  
17 an action item on the agenda for public awareness.  
18

19 Supt. Lawler requested a joint meeting of the Education/Facilities and Finance committees for Thursday,  
20 October 28, 9AM. The board members concurred this could be arranged. Agenda will be determined  
21 and sent out. These committees may need to meet on November 8, 2021, 9AM just before the next full  
22 board meeting. Finance will be getting ready to work on FY23 budget in the coming month.  
23

24 Lawler shared information dealing with new state requirements concerning "Social Emotional Learning."  
25 We at SW Tech had a very useful and informative in-service concerning this topic recently. Faculty, staff  
26 and administrators all found this very informative, useful and inter-active. Many shared personal feelings  
27 and thoughts that will be very helpful as we go forth in aiding our students in this area of social emotional  
28 learning. Lawler shared a 5 minute video with the group and the response was very good, with a few  
29 board members wondering if they could experience this training as well. The Vermont School Board  
30 Association offers training for board members to access and usually runs several time a year. Lawler is in  
31 the process of setting up "Mindful Mondays" for faculty/staff.  
32

33 Students have been involved in "Work Keys" testing required by the state. We must have a certain  
34 percentage of our students tested by a certain date and the criteria to run/offer the tests is very specific.  
35 We have been fortunate to have Dave Dutcher be available to us to organize and proctor the tests.  
36 Guidance Coordinator, Lisa Harrington Redding and Asst Director, Meg Honsinger have spent a great  
37 deal of time organizing and facilitating the exacting procedures required. No cell phones allowed in the  
38 testing room, no food or beverages, testees must be escorted to the bathroom, specific calculators must  
39 be used and completed tests must be package up and mailed a specific way. We will need a second  
40 round in the spring to complete the process. This testing is just for tech centers and results will be  
41 available for review upon completion.  
42

43 Board members are interested in touring this facility. Lawler stated that they are welcome anytime, but a  
44 good time would be 8-10AM to see the students in action. Just contact the office to make plans.  
45

46 With no other business before the board, unanimous vote to support motion to adjourn at 11:21AM from  
47 L. Johnson and K. Swierad was approved. Next full board meeting will be Monday, November 8, 2021,  
48 10AM.