

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, January 10, 2022, Zoom Online Meeting**
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4 **RGB members present:** Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Art Haytko, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Francis
5 Kinney, Ken Swierad, Anthony (TJ) Williams and Dane Whitman
6

7 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director; Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director;
8 Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager and Rob Bahny, Adult Education Coordinator
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 Vice-Chair, Leon Johnson at 10am. He presented the agenda,
15 welcomed the public and asked for public comments. None being heard, the consent agenda was up for
16 vote:

- 17 • RGB Full Board Minutes, December 13, 2021-motions from F. Kinney and A. Williams;
18 unanimous vote for approval
- 19 • Payroll warrants #1021 and #1023-motions from F. Kinney and K. Swierad;
20 unanimous vote for approval
- 21 • Vendor warrant #1022-motions from F. Kinney and K. Swierad;
22 unanimous vote for approval. There was a question concerning a line item expense for annual
23 audit. Business Manager, Rebecca Tattersall explained that by law, we must conduct a yearly
24 audit and the bill for that audit is broken down into several invoices. This audit is submitted to the
25 state and access is available to the board.
- 26 • Business offices documents were accepted without any questions, concerns or comments
- 27 • There were no committee reports. The education/facilities committee will meet Monday, January
28 31, 2022, 10AM with policy committee to follow at 11AM.

29 Moving on to action items, Tattersall explained the dilemma concerning the Bennington Town meeting
30 and election dates. Due to Covid and the calendar this year, dates chosen are Monday, February 28,
31 2022 for town meeting and Tuesday, March 1, 2022 for voting. That decision was just made, so our
32 Warning is prepared with those dates. However, whether the meeting will be in-person or virtual is yet to
33 be determined. Tattersall requested the board approve the Warning with the stipulation that she could
34 make the final edits as soon as that info is available and then, inform the board with the updated version.
35 With motions from A. Edelson and M. Cutler and unanimously approved by the board, Tattersall was
36 granted this permission.

37 Tattersall next update the board on the purchase of a new school bus. The board has already given
38 approval for this purchase, but unfortunately, the purchase price agreed to with the company increased
39 and cannot be honored. Tattersall re-negotiated with both vendors and provided the board with updated
40 figures. The new agreed upon purchase price, which will be guaranteed, is \$67,195. This cost may be
41 adjusted depending on which undercoating service is chosen. Fran Kinney will continue to research
42 undercoating providers and inform Tattersall of our choices. The board thanks Kinney for his continued
43 assistance in this area. Motions from M. Cutler and F. Kinney to accept the Datco updated bid, \$67,195
44 with the provision that the cost may change slightly with the undercoating issue were unanimously
45 approved by the full board. The board was also informed that the arrival of this new bus could be up to a
46 year.
47

48 Rob Bahny, Workforce and Adult Technical Education Coordinator, reported to the board that there are
49 several new courses beginning at SW Tech. Dental Assistant, Step-up to Childcare and Penn Foster
50 Legal Secretary are now available to interested parties. Bahny stated that the fall semester was very
51 successful in the LNA and CDL areas. These courses will continue to run as we enter a new year and he
52 expects continued strong enrollment. The CNC course will begin in March. He noted that there is a high
53 need for many of the programs we offer as they do not require college degrees to enter the specific
54 occupation. A. Edelson was interested in how all this information reaches the community and public and if
55 the board could help in any way. Bahny shared that word of mouth seems to be the best advertising.
56 Course information is placed on our website and with possible financial assistance available, the

1 opportunities for people to advance in the job market are enhanced. Our Outreach Coordinator, Nicole
2 Sauer, also places information in appropriate spots thru the Internet and other community avenues. Print
3 media is not used too often as it very expensive. As we keep our class size small to insure the success
4 of the participants, the program spaces fill up very quickly. Obviously, this is a good problem to have.
5 We look forward to continued growth in the coming years.
6

7 Vice-Chair Johnson, in his report, extended New Year's greetings to one and all. He thanked faculty,
8 administration and staff for their continued hard and loyal work to ensure the success of SW Tech. He
9 noted that it is time for board members to contact the town clerk for signature papers if they wish to
10 continue with this board. Art Haytko, Leon Johnson, Fran Kinney and Ken Swierad are up for re-election
11 this year. All but Haytko will run for re-election. Haytko, due to changes in his life, will not be available in
12 the coming times for this board. Johnson thanked Haytko for his years of service to SW Tech. Haytko
13 has made significant contributions to this community in his quiet way and participated in many needed
14 decisions for the betterment of students especially in policy. He will be missed.
15

16 Supt. Lawler began his report by extending thanks to the faculty and staff as well as this board for all the
17 support given during these trying times especially with the Covid situation and more recently, our
18 challenges with flooding issues. He noted:

- 19 • Flood update-approval has just been received from insurance to begin renovations. The work has
20 started in the main office area in the small offices. The Assembly Room, which suffered much
21 damage, is now being used as a staging area. We are hopeful this office area will be finished in a
22 few weeks, then the crew will move on to more difficult areas. It may take until late spring to
23 complete final renovations as materials needed are in high demand. Classes have been re-
24 located appropriately and student participation continues successfully.
- 25 • Second semester begins Monday, January 24, 2022. We will continue some of our short block
26 intro classes with a few more added. Teacher in-service is Friday, January 21, 2022.
- 27 • As Covid continues in our communities, we have established good routines even with the
28 changes that seem to occur daily. We want to keep students in school, so we provide as much
29 support as needed. Masks are available for students and staff with compliance around 95%. We
30 are well supplied with KN-95 masks as well as other disposables.
- 31 • Lisa Harrington Redding and Nicole Sauer have been reaching out to 10th grade students at MAU
32 informing them of what is available at SW Tech for programs and career intros. Usually, we
33 encourage 8th grade in-person tours to introduce SW Tech this time of year. Not sure if the
34 format for that might change this year due to Covid. Getting ready to launch new online
35 application process soon.
- 36 • We continue to search for appropriate new staff to fill open positions. Very costly to use print
37 media, but we have reached out to several recently.
- 38 • The process for the Perkins Grant has begun for next year. We may need to expand several
39 programs due to additional enrollment which is a great problem to have. Medical Professions,
40 including Nursing and the Auto Program may have large enough enrollment to consider adding
41 more staff and additional classes.

42 Comments from board members:

- 43 • Information on home tests-updated quite often; hope we can continue in-person learning as
44 opposed to remote as much as possible
- 45 • Vermont not accepting any remote learning days this year; must be in-person
- 46 • Faculty/staff Covid testing-was conducted from October till just recently; due to supply shortages
47 here in Vermont, this process will most likely be discontinued very soon; may be going to self-
48 administration for students and staff

49 Committee meetings will be scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2022 with Education/Facilities at 10AM
50 and Policy at 11AM. Agendas will be forthcoming.

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52 At 11:02AM, with no other business, the board adjourned with motions from Kinney and Cutler,
53 unanimous approval.