

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, March 14, 2022, Zoom Online Meeting**

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4 **RGB members present:** Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Fran Kinney, John MacDonald, Charles Putney, Ken Swierad, Anthony (TJ) Williams and Dane Whitman

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

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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 As this was the RGB re-organization meeting, Superintendent Lawler called the meeting to order at
15 10AM. He welcomed everyone and asked for public comments. Board member, Jackie Kelly, asked to
16 read a letter of thanks for the past years of service of retiring board member, Art Haytko. She stated the
17 letter would be mailed to Haytko and thanked him again for his participation. There being no other public
18 comments, Lawler asked for nominations for board chair. Ken Sweirad was nominated and seconded by
19 L. Johnson and F. Kinney. With no other nominations, vote was taken and Swierad was selected with
20 eight for, one abstention, one not present and one negative. Swierad then proceeded with the election of
21 vice-chair. Dane Whitman was nominated and seconded by L. Johnson and A. Edelson. With no other
22 nominations, vote taken was unanimous for Whitman. Jackie Kelly was nominated and seconded by F.
23 Kinney and L. Johnson. With no other nominations, Kelly was elected to the clerk's position.

24 Also determined for the coming 2022/2023 board year:

- 25 • **Approved Meeting Place**-SW Tech; in-person or online as needed. We plan on in-person
26 meetings starting with the April 11th, 2022 meeting. We will not be using the Assembly Room as
27 that area is still under repair from the November flood.
- 28 • **Time/Date of Meeting** to remain 10AM, second Monday of month. This time of day will allow
29 board members to see students and programs in action at our school. It was suggested that we
30 may want to schedule at least one evening meeting/open house for the public to meet board
31 members and experience our school. A tentative list of dates was included for board members.
32 It may be necessary to change some dates, but that will be determined in the future.
- 33 • **Paper of Record**-Bennington Banner was selected for continued use as paper of record.
34 Motions by Kinney and Johnson were supported unanimously.
- 35 • **Approved Off Warrant Signers** will continue to be board officers and they may sign
36 electronically or come in to office to do that. Motions from Kinney and Johnson were
37 unanimously supported.

38 Board members were asked to indicate which two committees they would like to participate. Please email
39 Supt. Lawler with your choices. He will get a list back to all before the next meeting.

40 **The Vermont School Board Association Code of Ethics** was shared for board members to read and/or
41 discuss. After some discussion, the group decided to hold a vote on accepting this code. With motions
42 from Johnson and MacDonald, the motion passed unanimously. This concluded the re-organization
43 portion of the meeting.

44
45 The **Consent Agenda** was presented next beginning with the **Minutes from the February 14, 2022** full
46 board meeting. With motions from Kinney and Johnson, the minutes were approved with no corrections
47 or comments. **Minutes from the Annual Meeting, February 28, 2022**, were presented for approval.
48 Motions from Johnson and Kinney were unanimously approved without comment or correction.

49 **Payroll Warrants** were unanimously approved after motions from Kinney and Johnson.

50 **Vendor Warrants** were unanimously approved after motions from Kinney and Johnson with one question
51 concerning toner supplies which was answered by Business Manager, Rebecca Tattersall.

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53 Business office documents were considered for questions or concerns. There were none. No action
54 required as this is informational purposes only.

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56 There were no committee reports.

1 Supt. Lawler began his superintendent's report by reading a letter of retirement from Tech Specialist,
2 Richard Ryder. The board unanimously, after motions from Kinney and Johnson, accepted Ryder's
3 announcement with regret, thanked him for his years of service to our school and wished him well.
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5 Lawler then read letter from VT Agency of Education concerning Covid mitigation. Starting today, March
6 14, 2022, masks will no longer be required in schools. It will be a personal choice for continued use. We
7 here at SW Tech, have followed state guidelines from day one as we dealt with the Covid crisis. With
8 motions from Johnson and Cutler, the board unanimously agreed to follow the recommendations as read
9 today. This will be personal choice for people and it was noted that we still have sufficient supplies on
10 hand to assist those in need.

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12 Lawler spoke of the professional development that is happening at SW Tech. We are pleased to share
13 that Student Emotional Learning, (SEL), has been readily accepted by our teachers and students.
14 Whitney Adams, from 7 Mindsets, was here for in-person training and sharing March 9-11. The program
15 has been well received as we develop a schedule of every Monday morning announcing a Mindful
16 Monday thought to begin the week. As we look to the future, we plan to hold an in-person celebration for
17 our graduating seniors and award winners in June, more details will be forthcoming.

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19 Lawler informed the group that enrollment is excellent and continued progress is highly anticipated for
20 further development. He also is in the process of completing our Perkins Grant which is a yearly task and
21 very important to our financial needs. This is a complicated and engrossing project which has many
22 facets before completion. There has been increased attention to CTE in the state of Vermont and we are
23 grateful for that. Residents are seeing the value in providing strong career and technical education to
24 students and our community. We continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for students,
25 faculty and staff. Our appreciation of "normal" is quite different because of our shared Covid experiences.
26 Lawler gave a shout out to faculty, staff and the board for the continued work and support given the past
27 several years as we all learned to work remotely and develop hybrid systems to assist our students. All
28 personnel went above and beyond their usual duties to ensure the smoothest possible experience for our
29 students.

30 There has been good progress made in the areas that were damaged by the flood in November. The
31 main office is about 99% complete. Further work will take place in the summer. Building Trades students
32 have been hard at work replacing all the cabinets in the second floor Business classroom. The Campus
33 Store has been cleaned up along with the Accounting classroom which now houses Video Productions as
34 that room was totally destroyed and much work is needed there. The second floor Business room, our
35 first floor Assembly Room and the bottom floor Video room were totally flooded and are located one
36 above the other. The AR will probably not be available till 2023. Lawler noted that the Building Trades
37 students did a great job in building the sets for the production of "Clue." Very impressive work!
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39 The Building Superintendent, Tony Donofrio, continues with the MAU campus feasibility study and notes
40 there are areas that need attention on the SW Tech campus. This is a work in progress and we will hear
41 more at a later date.
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43 SW Tech will continue to promote Vermont tech careers and help area students and residents prepare for
44 the future by offering programs and classes that will insure the success of our graduates.
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46 With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:42AM unanimously with motions from Cutler and
47 Johnson.
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