

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, June 6, 2022, at SW Tech**  
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4 **RGB members present:** Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Fran Kinney, John  
5 MacDonald, Charles Putney, Ken Swierad, Dane Whitman and Anthony (TJ) Williams  
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7 **CDC represented by:** Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director; Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director and  
8 Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager  
9

10 Audience: CAT-TV; no online attendees  
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
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14 Chair Ken Swierad called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM in the Culinary café at SW Tech. After  
15 inviting any public comments, Swierad invited Amy Prentiss Rogers, Human Services Instructor at SW  
16 Tech to begin her presentation. She explained the general parameters for each of her classes and  
17 answered questions concerning future enrollment which looks strong at this point. She shared how the  
18 hands-on experiences her students encounter while in the program are critical to the decisions made for  
19 their future. Because we have an excellent daycare associated with and connected to SW Tech, (Growing  
20 Upright), our students have a great opportunity for hands-on experience in the childcare portion of the  
21 Human Services program. The program also has strong ties to the Community College of Vermont and is  
22 active in the dual enrollment program offered to college bound students. The HS program presently  
23 covers topics from birth thru senior care, all of which are high demand occupations at this time. The  
24 many options for employment are explored and researched. The board thanked Ms. Rogers for her  
25 excellent presentation and moved on the further business.  
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27 Chair Swierad requested a motion to go into Executive Session for an issue related to contracts and labor  
28 relations with employees. With motions from F. Kinney and M. Cutler and unanimous support, the board  
29 voted to go into executive session at 10:12AM. The board returned to open session at 10:59AM with  
30 motions from L. Johnson and F. Kinney with unanimous vote of the group. Motion was made by L.  
31 Johnson to modify the contract of Superintendent/Director Michael Lawler with a second by M. Cutler. A  
32 unanimous vote was given to this motion.  
33

34 The consent agenda was presented:

- 35 • After motions from F. Kinney and J. MacDonald, minutes from the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 RGB full board  
36 meeting were unanimously approved.
- 37 • After motions from F. Kinney and M. Cutler, payroll warrants were unanimously approved
- 38 • After motions from F. Kinney and M. Cutler, vendor warrants were unanimously approved  
39

40 Policy Committee Chair, Asher Edelson, reported that the policy committee had met Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>,  
41 2022 and Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. Several policies were discussed and reviewed with the following  
42 outcomes:

- 43 • 1100C-as requested by R. Tattersall, Business Manager, this policy was reviewed and updated to  
44 reflect current changes to monetary thresholds. Consensus from the committee and the board  
45 gathered here today is that this policy has been properly reviewed with administrative regulations  
46 updated as requested/required. With motions from L. Johnson and M. Cutler and unanimous  
47 vote of the board, this was approved and will be noted in all policy documents.
- 48 • The informational box noting specific policy creation, warning, adoption and updates has been  
49 adjusted for clarity
- 50 • Several other policies are still WIP
- 51 • By-laws need a bit more cleanup
- 52 • The committee will meet following the full board today  
53  
54  
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1 Action items:

- 2 • HOSA Field Trip-with motions from L. Johnson and F. Kinney and unanimous vote, this field trip  
3 was approved
- 4 • SkillsUSA-with motions from F. Kinney and L. Johnson, (noting that our two program instructors  
5 will be the chaperones for this trip), and unanimous vote, this field trip was approved
- 6 • Nomination for Manufacturing Program Instructor, Timothy Mullen-Supt. Lawler presented the  
7 nom to the board with his approval and noted that Mullen was the paraeducator in the class for  
8 several years who then stepped up to fill in as program instructor when the previous instructor  
9 resigned. Lawler will apply for a provisional license with the state as required. Board member J.  
10 Kelly offered to assist in any way if needed. With motions from F. Kinney and L. Johnson, the  
11 nom was approved with unanimous vote.
- 12 • Policy 1100C is all set
- 13 • Auto lift-information was placed in drop box concerning this issue. Lawler thanked F. Kinney for  
14 his time and expertise in assisting with this purchase. Even with board's approval, it may be some  
15 time from start to finish as supply chain problems may slow this purchase down. Lawler stressed  
16 that the present lifts are not unsafe, just time for replacements. With motions, from F. Kinney and  
17 A. Edelson, the board unanimously approved this purchase.
- 18 • Growing Upright Daycare Lease-Supt. Lawler met with owner, Pam Upright to re-visit the possible  
19 upcoming increases in rent for her next three year contract with SW Tech. After considering the  
20 value added component for our school, Upright and Lawler came to an agreement which both  
21 considered fair and appropriate. So, as directed by the board, Lawler presented an updated  
22 acceptable contract for the next three years. Board members were happy with the changes and  
23 noted that this business has a very good reputation and works well with our Human Services  
24 program, so it is a win-win. With motions from L. Johnson and J. Kelly, the board voted  
25 unanimously to accept the new three year lease as presented by Lawler.

26  
27 Supt. Lawler began his report by noting that the MAUHS graduation was coming up on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.  
28 SW Tech experienced a very successful Awards Night at the Park McCullough House on Thursday, June  
29 2 with over 150 people in attendance. Our students earned many awards and scholarships for their hard  
30 work this past year. The event was live streamed for those who could not attend. SW Tech held the  
31 National Technical Honor Society Award Ceremony the week before due to the large number of students  
32 and families participating. With the dedication of our faculty and staff, many students did outstanding  
33 work this past year. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments. It should be noted that we  
34 received great coverage from our local paper, The Bennington Banner as we closed out this school year.  
35 Thank you for helping us share with our district the successes of our students. Also, these events could  
36 not have happened without the hard work of many behind the scenes people at SW Tech and we  
37 gratefully appreciate and thank one and all for the constant support given our students by you.  
38 Enrollment for the fall classes looks good. We finished out this past year as usual with higher enrollment  
39 in the fall programs and fewer in the spring classes. We look forward to a busy and successful start-up in  
40 August. We are pretty much at capacity for number of students and consider this to be a good problem  
41 and positive sign for the future.

42 The Perkins Grant has been submitted after a great deal of work. Asst Director, Meg Honsinger has the  
43 responsibility to see that project thru to completion and we thank her for the long hours, stress and strain  
44 that comes with that project. There will probably be requested amendments as that is very typical for this  
45 grant.

46 Lawler reported that the repair work from the damaging flood which occurred in November continues  
47 slowly. The aim is to have affected classrooms up and running for the 2022/2023 year with other  
48 renovations happening as soon as possible, too. The Assembly Room and some office areas are still in  
49 need of work. Insurance money has been slow to come in with the supply chain problems being a close  
50 second in the problems area. We are still waiting for equipment which is on back order.

51 MAUHS graduation will take place outside on the baseball field this year on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, but if bad  
52 weather will postpone to Saturday, June 11.

53 J. Kelly inquired as to how many 3<sup>rd</sup> year students we have in programs. Lawler will check on that for  
54 her.

55 Swierad noted that the meal served at our awards event was first class and enjoyed by everyone.  
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1 Full board will next meet Monday, August 8, 2022, 10AM.

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3 With no further business to come before this board, motions to adjourn by F. Kinney and M. Cutler were  
4 unanimously approved at 11:21AM.

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