

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, May 8, 2023, in-person and online**
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4 **RGB members present:** Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Fran Kinney, Ken
5 Swierad, Glen Sauer and TJ Williams. Online, C. Putney; Absent: T. Kane and D. Whitman
6

7 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director; Meg Honsinger, Assistant Director;
8 Rebecca Tattersall, Business Manager and Rob Bahny, Adult Education Training Coordinator,
9 (at 10:16AM)

10 Audience: CAT-TV; no public attendees
11

12 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
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14 Meeting was called to order at 10:04AM by Chair K. Swierad. He welcomed all and asked for public
15 comments. Hearing none, the group left the room to tour the Medical Professions Program. Instructor
16 Kathy Slade welcomed them and gave a brief overview of program highlights. Board members returned
17 to meeting at 10:17AM to carry on with posted agenda.
18

19 Consent Agenda:

- 20 • RGB Full Board minutes of April 10, 2023-Motions to accept by Kinney and Edelson were
21 unanimously approved with a correction to line 16.
- 22 • RGB Special Meeting minutes of April 13, 2023-Motions to accept by Kinney and Edelson were
23 unanimously approved after comments about who was in attendance
- 24 • Payroll Warrants- motions to accept by Kinney and Cutler were unanimously approved
- 25 • Vendor Warrants-motions to accept by Kinney and Edelson were unanimously approved
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27 Business Office documents were presented with no discussion or questions.
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29 Adult Education Coordinator, Rob Bahny updated the board with information regarding Adult Education.
30 He had hopes for an enrollment in the various classes to reach 100 students and was pleased to
31 announce total enrollment of 110 students, 82 in-person and 28 online. After a slow start for year
32 2023/2024, enrollment increased. LNA holds classes 4 times a year with solid enrollment; CDL B classes
33 have grown as well with a class in progress at this time with five students. Bahny noted that our training
34 rig, "Big Red" can be seen on the roads of this district as students experience real time driving. Instructor
35 Bruce Miles has been very busy with training and prepping students for official testing. We are also
36 offering CNC classes more often and Intro to Welding starts this week with four students in night classes.
37 Our Manufacturing Instructor, Tim Mullen, has been attending special training in the welding area and will
38 be teaching SW Tech classes in this field. Excel has been offered to and utilized by local businesses,
39 Kaman and Mack Molding. Computer Basics was offered and fifteen students took advantage of those
40 classes. Popular online programs are Dental Assistant, Vt State Dentistry Program, IT, Legal Secretary
41 and Medical Assistant. In July, Forestry Instructor, Eric Bishop will be offering Intro to Heavy Equipment
42 which will provide a certificate to completers. Bahny shared that Vermont lists Bookkeeping and Para
43 Legal are the most promising jobs for the future. Various comments:

- 44 • Who will be in the Heavy Equipment classes? Only adults as of right now
- 45 • Looking for additional help in this area
- 46 • Certificate will be offered with more to learn
- 47 • Borrowing some equipment from Hannaford Tech
- 48 • Any plans to expand welding? We will see how it goes. Will try to run again if it catches on
- 49 • Will we be offering plumbing and/or electrical training? No, very expensive to setup programs for
50 those trades and presently, VT. Tech houses those programs
- 51 • Cyber security not on our radar at this time
- 52 • Auto body repair and training? We send our Auto students who are interested as Work Based
53 Learning participants to several shops in our area
54
55

1 Bahny had “big news” to share concerning the Adult Education program at SW Tech. The program will
2 be establishing its own advisory committee and will re-brand as “Workforce Training Center at SW Tech.”
3 Mr. Bahny was thanked for his efforts and solid report on the adult education situation. He will attend
4 board meetings several times a year to keep the group informed.
5 No committee reports, but A. Edelson requested committee members consider Monday, May 22, 4PM for
6 the next Policy Committee meeting as there was not enough time available to complete a meeting today.
7 Information will be shared with the committee to see if this is possible. S. Redding will be in touch.

8
9 At 10:40AM, with motions from Kelly and Kinney, the board unanimously agreed to enter Executive
10 Session with additional motions by Cutler and Johnson, (also approved unanimously), to allow the
11 Assistant Director and the Business Manager to be invited in if the board feels the need to do so.

12
13 Public meeting resumed at 11:26AM. Action Items:

- 14 • Three field trips in June, SkillsUSA, HOSA and FBLA, with motions from Johnson and Cutler
15 and unanimous approval of the board were accepted as presented. The board wishes the best
16 of luck to all the students competing and a hearty thank you to faculty who will be chaperoning
17 these very special CTSO trips to the national competitions for state medalists
- 18 • The ESP union has reached a settlement to ratify a one year contract with a one dollar raise
19 across the board and a raise next year of one step and a 3% increase. This year’s rate
20 increase will be in effect with the second May paycheck to employees. No other language
21 changes. With motions from Johnson and Cutler and unanimous approval from the board, this
22 contract was approved.
- 23 • The contract for the Student Resource and Campus Safety Liaison was changed to 35 hours a
24 week and for 3 years. With motions from Cutler and Johnson and unanimous approval of the
25 board, these changes will be in effect starting the 2023/2024 school year.
- 26 • The Assistant Director’s contract was negotiated with the following conclusion: contract term of
27 three years, additional days and salary of \$92,000.00. With motions from Cutler and Johnson
28 and unanimous approval from the board, these changes will be in effect starting the 2023/2024
29 school year.

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31 Supt. Lawler gave his report:

- 32 • We were hoping to showcase our CTSO state winners at this meeting, but due to scheduled
33 testing, we will present this group to the board and the public next month. We have a very
34 impressive list of competition winners this year.
- 35 • Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 will be the SW Tech Awards event scheduled at the Bennington West
36 End Art Center. More details and invitations will be shared very soon. We are combining the
37 NTHS and Awards at this event. This is always a wonderful way to recognize our talented
38 students and share with this community the successes of our school.
- 39 • The 2023/2024 school year calendar has been finalized and published without any
40 acknowledgement from the AoE concerning the many issues with the multiple half days. SW
41 Tech will make its own plans to offer our students full day experiences as much as possible on
42 these days to insure the very best educational experience in tech programs.
- 43 • Work Keys testing will take place for the second time this year on Weds; May 10. We have had
44 much help from Dave Dutcher, Lisa Harrington and Meg Honsinger to make this a seamless
45 experience for our students. SBAC testing is happening all this week at MAU, so daily schedules
46 changes are to be expected. Always a challenge, but we make the best of it.
- 47 • Last days for students are June 15 and 16 which will be half days. Faculty expected in thru
48 Weds; June 21 with the 20th and 21st being professional days. MAU graduation is June 9 and
49 Arlington will be June 10

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51 The chair did not offer a report.

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53 Jackie Kelly noted that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and she wanted to thank the teaching staff for
54 their dedicated and supportive measures demonstrated every day in every class. The entire board
55 unanimously agreed with this statement. Also, it was noted that we should honor our nurses as May is

- 1 Nurse Appreciation month. This was also supported by our board. The entire board wishes best of luck
- 2 to our competing CTSO students.
- 3
- 4 With no other business to come before the board, motions from Johnson and Cutler with unanimous
- 5 support of the board agreed to adjourn at 11:40AM.