

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, June 12, 2023, in-person and online**  
3

4 **RGB members present:** Mike Cutler, Asher Edelson, Leon Johnson, Jackie Kelly, Fran Kinney, Ken  
5 Swierad, Glen Sauer and Dane Whitman. Online, C. Putney, T. Kane and TJ Williams  
6

7 **CDC represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/Director, (online); Meg Honsinger, Assistant  
8 Director; Cathy Vosburgh, Asst. Business Manager  
9

10 Audience: Mike Fernandez; CAT-TV  
11

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

14 Meeting was called to order at 10:03AM by Chair K. Swierad. He welcomed all and asked for public  
15 comments. Hearing none, he invited Mike Fernandez to speak. Mr. Fernandez represents the  
16 Bennington County Conservation District and had news to share concerning available grants for  
17 agricultural workforce development and outreach equity in the ag/tech world. If there is a positive result in  
18 this grant area, there may be room for up to ten SW Tech students to participate. It could be a good fit for  
19 our forestry program, so Fernandez will keep us informed. There is a strong demand for workers in farm,  
20 forestry and the maple industry. Chair Swierad thanked Fernandez and invited him to come back in a  
21 couple of months to update .  
22

23 Consent agenda was presented for approval:

- 24 • Minutes from RGB Full Board Meeting, Monday, May 8, 2023
    - 25 ○ Motions from Kinney and Cutler were unanimously approved
  - 26 • Minutes from RGB Special Meeting, Wednesday, May 17, 2023
    - 27 ○ Motions from Kinney and Cutler were unanimously approved
  - 28 • Minutes from RGB Finance Committee Meeting, Wednesday, May 17, 2023
    - 29 ○ Motions from Kinney and Cutler were unanimously approved
  - 30 • Payroll Warrants
    - 31 ○ Motions from Kinney and Cutler were unanimously approved
  - 32 • Vendor Warrants
    - 33 ○ With Cutler abstaining, motions were made by Kinney and Johnson with unanimous approval
- 34

35 Business office documents were accepted as presented in drop box.  
36

37 Committee reports:

- 38 • Finance committee:
  - 39 ○ Motions were made and seconded for F. Kinney as chair. Hearing no other nominations,  
40 unanimous vote was recorded for Kinney and he accepted. Kinney then requested  
41 Business Manager Tattersall explain the purpose of this meeting. She explained the  
42 need to increase Southwest Tech's line of credit with M&T Bank to \$25,000. (See  
43 enclosed informational sheet) We have this one commercial account with 2 cards which  
44 is used for big purchases and school travel. The two signers are Treasurer E. Strohmaier  
45 and R. Tattersall. If after this committee recommends this request to the full board and  
46 approval is received from them, J. Kelly will sign increase resolution as presented. The  
47 committee agreed to recommend this request to the full board at the Special Full Board  
48 Meeting today at 10:15AM.  
49

50 Policy committee:

- 51 ○ The committee elected A. Edelson to chair this committee. Discussion centered around new  
52 directives from the state concerning Fire and Emergency Preparedness Drills and Access Control  
53 and Visitor Management. The committee will work diligently to meet deadlines required for  
54 completion. More info to follow.  
55  
56

1 Action items:

- 2 • Resignation of B. Foster was presented and accepted
- 3 • Nominations:
  - 4 ○ Special Needs Coordinator-Kristen Olmstead was presented and approved
  - 5 ○ Para/Transportation Specialist-Arthur Haytko, Jr. was presented and approved
  - 6 ○ Para/Transportation Specialist-Hailey DeLauri was presented and approved
  - 7 ○ Math Interventionist-Kimberly Clarke was presented and approved

8 It was noted that new faculty/staff must have all the necessary VCIC/legal documents in before starting the  
9 school year. Completed nom forms will be placed on file.

10  
11 Bids for legal services were presented and discussed. After careful scrutiny, the firm of Lynn, Lynn, Blackman and  
12 Manitsky, PC was chosen. With motions from J. Kelly and A. Edelson and unanimous vote, this firm was approved to  
13 handle SW Tech legal matters.

14  
15 Warnings for (1) Fire and Emergency Preparedness Drills and (2) Access Control and Visitor Management Policies will  
16 follow state suggested guidelines. J. Lamson will format and update the board with the necessary information and  
17 endeavor to complete this as soon as possible.

18  
19 Supt. Lawler requested the board adjourn for Executive Session and that M. Honsinger be allowed to attend. There will  
20 be no action to present upon return to open session. With motions from F. Kinney and A. Edelson and unanimous vote,  
21 the board adjourned at 10:35AM and returned at 10:49AM.

22  
23 Supt. Lawler presented his report:

- 24 • Awards night was held last week in a new venue, The Arts and Cultural Center which provided a very nice  
25 backdrop for this gathering. Many SW Tech students received awards and scholarships with a packed  
26 audience present to applaud their achievements. Delicious desserts prepared by the Abbey Group were  
27 enjoyed. This was recorded so the community may enjoy it anytime. Lawler extended congratulations to  
28 students, parents and guardians, faculty and staff who all work so hard to provide for the students who attend  
29 our school. There is a strong bond with our sending schools, Mt. Anthony Union High School, Arlington  
30 Memorial High School, Hoosick Central High School and Burr and Burton Academy and we intend to continue  
31 our commitment to them.
- 32 • We are pleased to announce that we have 2 CTSO national field trips coming up very soon. Students have  
33 qualified for nationals in SkillsUSA and HOSA. FBLA also has national qualifiers. We wish all the competitors  
34 the best of luck.
- 35 • Lawler shared a nice thank you letter from the Early Childhood Center at Harwood Hill. Our building trades  
36 students, under the watchful eyes of Brian Coon and Bruce Miles have been hard at work completing projects  
37 for them this past year and the Center is very appreciative. J. Kelly remarked on the good work of the program  
38 she has seen and photographed.
- 39 • Our Annual Audit has been completed with no major issues. We have a new team doing this work and they  
40 have been assisted very competently by R. Tattersall and C. Vosburgh in our business department. Supt.  
41 Lawler extended thanks to them for a big job well done. We have hard copies of the report if anyone would  
42 like one.
- 43 • Supt. Lawler thanked the school board for their unwavering support. We are very fortunate to have the interest  
44 and involvement of such an active group. We look forward to the upcoming year as always.

45  
46 Chair Swierad mentioned that the front entrance was looking very good. Thanks goes out to Eric Bishop and the  
47 forestry program. We do not expect to meet in July. Policy and other committees will check in to see what is needed for  
48 the near future.

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50 With no further business to come before the board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 11:04AM with unanimous vote.