

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, November 13, 2023, in-person and online**  
3

4 **RGB members present:** M. Cutler, A. Edelson, K. Swierad, G. Sauer and D. Whitman; online:  
5 L. Johnson, J. Kelly and C. Putney.  
6

7 **SWT represented** by: Michael Lawler, Superintendent/ Director, online  
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9 Audience: CAT-TV  
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11 **Recorder:** Sandra Redding, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
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13 Meeting was called to order at 4:03PM noting no audience or comments. Chair Swierad moved on to the  
14 consent agenda:

- 15 • RGB Full Board Minutes, October 16, 2023 were unanimously approved with motions from Edelson and  
16 Whitman
- 17 • RGB Policy Committee Minutes, October 16, 2023 were unanimously approved with motions from Edelson  
18 and Whitman
- 19 • RGB Finance Committee Minutes, November 6, 2023 were unanimously approved with motions from Cutler  
20 and Edelson
- 21 • Payroll warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Edelson and Cutler
- 22 • Vendor warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Edelson and Cutler  
23

24 Business office documents were considered with no questions. A comment concerning the possible steep health  
25 insurance cost increase is cause for concern as we deal with the FY2025 budget. With motions from Johnson and  
26 Edelson, the business office documents were unanimously accepted.  
27

28 Supt. Lawler began his report sharing that Business Manager Tattersall, Asst. Director Honsinger, RGB member F.  
29 Kinney and he were all involved in the NEA/ESP ongoing contract negotiations being held at SW Tech right now and  
30 therefore, not in attendance at this monthly RGB meeting. Lawler is monitoring that meeting while participating in this  
31 board meeting. Lawler was pleased to share that a major company in Bennington, Kaman Composites, recently  
32 sponsored a visit to our school campus of their company workhorse helicopter. The chopper landed in the front circle  
33 on the MAU/SWT campus, providing a presentation, tours and personal experiences with our students and their  
34 employees. Our Adult Education Coordinator, Rob Bahny, arranged for this very special event which was enjoyed by  
35 many students and adults on campus. Monday, November 13, the SW Tech Culinary Program students served a  
36 delicious brunch which was arranged by Kaman for their veteran employees. This was very well attended and enjoyed.  
37 Many thanks to our Culinary students, Instructor Nick DeLauri and staff who prepared and served this wonderful meal.  
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39 Supt. Lawler thanked Asst. Director Honsinger, Guidance Coordinator, Lisa Harrington and Assistant Dave Dutcher for  
40 the tedious, complicated and very involved effort to complete the Work Keys testing for the fall semester. This is a huge  
41 undertaking with many moving parts and will be repeated in the spring.  
42

43 Our enrollment continues to remain stable with 330 students counted at this time. The FTE count is ongoing and  
44 Lawler will report next month when all numbers are tabulated. There will be a bit of change in those numbers as we at  
45 SW Tech are now in alignment with MAU's new schedule. We continue to show progress in all areas, but some  
46 programs still have open seats. Our year one programs typically have more students than our year two programs. Our  
47 programs, due to the "hands on" nature involved are smaller in number than traditional classes. As our state funding  
48 system for tech education is difficult, (we must set our budget before we know what the tuition will be), enrolling  
49 students from other sending schools is a bit of a challenge.  
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51 Our Cosmetology Program just returned from a competition in New Hampshire where they won first and second place  
52 awards. Thanks goes out to Instructor Jen MorganHall and driver Lauri Wright for guiding and chaperoning our  
53 students.  
54

1 Lawler concluded his report by announcing that SW Tech will continue to showcase our talented and deserving  
2 students in the Vermont NewsGuide. He indicated we should be watching for inclusion of programs, faculty and staff in  
3 special segments as well. We find the NewsGuide to reach a broader population segment of our district.  
4

5 General comments:

- 6 • Edelson noted that he liked the 4PM board meeting time and some others concurred. We will continue this  
7 schedule thru the March board re-organization meeting and see where that leads.
- 8 • It was shared that the only out of state students that attend SW Tech are from one area, the Hoosick High  
9 School.
- 10 • People are looking forward to the time when our Culinary program will be offering lunches to the public again.  
11 It's great that we could host the veterans for Kaman
- 12 • Johnson shared his experiences attending the VSBA conference and encouraged all board member to attend  
13 a conference or training when they can. This information is also available online for board members. Thank  
14 you to Johnson for attending on our behalf and encouraging more folks to attend.
- 15 • Johnson brought up that policy work may be needed for a comprehensive wellness and health plan. Lawler  
16 stated that there are difficulties when it comes to fund raising for programs, our campus store and our culinary  
17 program that all must adhere to state health guidelines wherever food is concerned and that has led to some  
18 problems.
- 19 • Edelson mentioned that the group did not get to the wellness/health policy topic Johnson suggested earlier, but  
20 it could be scheduled for the next policy committee meeting.  
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22 With no further business, the board adjourned with motions from Cutler and Whitman with unanimous vote at 4:30PM.  
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