

1 **Southwest Vermont Regional Technical School District (SVRTSD)**  
2 **Regional Governing Board Meeting Minutes: Monday, January 8, 2024, in-person and online**  
3

4 **RGB members present:** M. Cutler, A. Edelson, J. Kelly, F. Kinney, G. Sauer, K. Swierad;  
5 Online-L. Johnson, T. Kane, C. Putney and TJ Williams  
6

7 **SWT represented** by: R. Tattersall, Business Manager  
8

9 Audience: CAT-TV  
10

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

13 Meeting was called to order at 4PM noting no audience or comments. Chair Swierad moved to the  
14 consent agenda:

- 15 • RGB Full Board Minutes, December 11, 2023 were unanimously approved with motions from Cutler and  
16 Kinney
- 17 • RGB Finance Committee Minutes, December 11, 2023 were unanimously approved with motions from  
18 Kinney and Edelson
- 19 • Payroll warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Cutler and Edelson
- 20 • Vendor warrants were unanimously approved with motions from Kinney and Edelson  
21

22 Tattersall brought greetings from Supt. Lawler who will not be attending due to illness. She proceeded to explain this  
23 year's process for holding the Annual Meeting and also discussed the signing of the Annual Warning document by  
24 board members. We are bound by state regulations in both of these areas. We may hold our Annual Meeting in our  
25 school location and set the time to accommodate the board, citizens and other town/school meetings if the board would  
26 like to do that and the majority agrees. Attendance may be in-person or online. Discussion ensued:

- 27 • Be sure public is notified and is aware of public access, either in-person or online
- 28 • Confirm time chosen not in conflict with other annual meetings
- 29 • Is this more convenient for people who work and/or are on multiple boards?
- 30 • Include Manchester Journal in warning notices

31 Motions to hold the SW Tech Annual Meeting, Monday, March 4, 2024, 5:30PM, in-person at SW Tech, 321 Park  
32 Street, Bennington, Vermont, 05201 and online were made and seconded by Edelson and Kinney with unanimous  
33 approval. **Please note change of venue and time.**  
34

35 Tattersall shared that new instructions from Vermont State require all board members to sign the official "Warning of the  
36 Annual Meeting" in-person, (also known as a "wet signature".) State will not allow digital signatures for the annual  
37 meeting. Those board members not participating in-person today should make arrangements to either come to our  
38 office or contact the office for assistance. Thank you.  
39

40 Tattersall then noted the key elements in this year's Annual Meeting Warning which are very similar to the previous year  
41 with the exceptions of the budget amount to be funded and the venue and time of the SW Tech Annual Meeting.  
42 Motions to approve the Warning of the Annual Meeting as provided to the board this evening were made by Cutler and  
43 Kelly with unanimous agreement.  
44

45 Discussion ensued concerning the purchase of a tractor for the Adult Education program. Tattersall explained we  
46 would be acquiring this vehicle with a sub-grant from the Town of Bennington Community Project, (HUD) that we were  
47 very fortunate to receive. Our Forestry Program would have access to the vehicle as well. The business office reached  
48 out to several viable dealers with no luck. Thru private contacts, several vehicles were finally located and researched.  
49 After careful consideration, a 2021 vehicle from Newport, Vermont was selected as the best fit for us. The cost would  
50 be \$38,995 plus delivery which is under the cost specified. An analysis sheet was provided for comparisons. Edelson  
51 stated he was happy that this might showcase more opportunities for agriculture in our district. He hopes it will be well  
52 used and serve the community in a positive manner.

53 With motions from Kinney and Kelly and unanimous support, the tractor purchase for \$38, 995 was unanimously  
54 approved. \*An RFB was not needed for this purchase as the amount was under SW Tech purchase criteria.  
55

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

Policies were considered for adoption/updating:

- 4001C Sexual Harassment Kinney Edelson Unanimous Approval
- 4010C Grievance Procedures Kinney Cutler Unanimous Approval
- 4035C Conflict of Interest in Hiring Kinney Edelson Unanimous Approval

All three were approved.

Tattersall mentioned that Supt. Lawler sends regrets he could not attend. He asked her to make a special presentation to a retiring board member, Dr. Jacqueline Kelly who is completing over 10 years of involvement with the SW Tech School District. Our community has been extremely fortunate to have this educated and talented person available to assist in decisions regarding the education of our students. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

Chair Swierad informed the public that we will be electing four board members this year. We are aware that two present board members, Cutler and Edelson are seeking re-election. Kelly is not. If you are interested in being a part of SW Tech as a board member, contact the Bennington Town Office for the process or reach out to administration at SW Tech. Paperwork must be submitted by January 29<sup>th</sup> to the town clerk.

There will not be a February meeting unless needed for special circumstances.

Just before the close of the meeting, Edelson spoke about gender equity in programs. He noted the topic was brought to him by a concerned citizen. He wondered what we are doing as a school district to provide and assist gender equity in all programs and what plans there are to bridge any gaps. He feels when looking at enrollment, it is very eye opening. Kelly mentioned that she thinks this is a topic for the education committee.

With no further business, the board adjourned at 4:32PM with motions from Kinney and Cutler and unanimous approval.