



**January 4, 2023 4:30 pm
HDEC Conference Room and Via Zoom Meeting**

Board Minutes - Unapproved

Board Members:

Voting:

David Clark –Present
Bob Flint - Present
Lyza Gardner - Present
Patti Kemp – Present
Paul Orzechowski - Present
Andrew Pennell –Present
Lois Perlah - Present
James Rumrill – Present
Sarah Vogel – Present (arrived 5:11 pm)

Ex-Officio:

Scott Farr – Present
Jennifer Cummings - Absent
Gabe Vastola – Present
Cynthia Mischel - Absent
Kristen Wilson – Present
Sherri Nichols - Absent
Andrew Hass - Absent
Brendan Minnihan – Absent
Lauren Fierman – Absent
Eric Rhomberg - Absent

Others: Derek Williams, Greg Runyan, Jennifer Fribush, Christine Balch, Tina Bixby

Program Presentation – Audio Video Production, Zach McNaughton

Bob Flint, Board Chair called meeting to order at 5:03 pm. and thanked Zach McNaughton for his presentation.

Agenda Item II. Agenda Changes or Additions

None

Agenda Item III. Public Comments

None

Agenda Item IV. Consent Agenda

Enrollment Update – Scott Farr reported we are at 219 students which puts us at 18 students ahead of where we were last year at this time with 56 enrollments in Pre Tech Foundations/Intro classes for the fall semester and 84 enrollments projected for the spring semester.

Financial Report – Scott Farr reported we are projecting a very early surplus of \$2,600 for FY23. We will have an additional revenue bump in March if we have the same amount of Fall Mountain students because our projection had fewer students.

MOTION: (Andrew/Jim) to accept and approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item V. Old Business

VTVLC Update –

- VTVLC Budget Update – Greg Runyan reported there has not been changes from last meeting. They are working on their FY24 budget.
- FY24 Partnership Agreement – Greg Runyan referred to the agreement in the Board packet. There were not any changes since the last meeting.

MOTION: (Andrew/Paul) to approve the proposed VTVLC FY24 partner agreement as presented. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

- Full-Time Program Update – Ashley Newton
 - FT K-8 Update – There has been a large amount of interest in middle school classes.
 - December Newsletter 9 – 12 – Ashley referred to the spotlight student in the newsletter provided in the Board packet.

Statewide CTE Updates – Scott Farr reported on the following:

APA - Listening Tour - The contractor out of Colorado who is working on the statewide CTE report related to funding, governance and access will be holding a session at RVTC next Tuesday from 4 pm to 5:30 pm in the Atrium. He has invited all sending Superintendents, Principals, Program Advisory Members and posted it on Facebook. We are unsure of how many will attend. If you can't make it to this session, there will be sessions in Brattleboro and Rutland.

Adult CTE Study – Scott Farr informed the Board the State has a contractor performing a study on adult CTE. It is in the very early stages of the study.

CTE Legislative Agenda - VACTED Leadership has a meeting with the Economic Development in the State of Vermont on Friday to gain support for their Act 127 White Paper. We are coordinating a meeting with the Vermont Chamber of Commerce on January 18th or 19th. We also have proxy support via the legislative priorities of the Vermont Associated General Contractors.

VTC/CTE Associates Degree Pilot - VTC received a grant from the legislature prior to the pandemic to pursue the idea of associate degree programming which would allow high school students to earn an Associate's Degree. The pilot proposal was completed two years ago but was on hold because of the pandemic and planning at VTC. VTC received about \$200k in 2020. A new President and Division Director at VTC has helped with the renewed momentum for this project. RVTC has agreed to join the project with the Central Vermont Career Center and the Hartford Area Career Center. Work

remains to be completed, particularly on the delivery of the academic components. Scott will update the Board as things move forward.

FY24 Budget Committee Update –Scott Farr reminded everyone that Tina emailed the FY 24 Proposed RVTC Budget Revenue Sheet, Tuition Assessments by District/Town, and the Budget Summary earlier today. The Budget Committee is recommending a 5% increase in the assessment, bringing the total budget to \$3,339,570 (which includes grants) and a local budget of \$3,100,986.

The proposed budget maintains current programming with about \$47K to be used towards personnel to support increases in enrollment. The heavier trades programs require additional personnel when enrollment is over 16 students due to safety concerns. Additionally, we have some more expensive equipment needs. Bob Flint reported the Budget Committee also took into consideration the ability to provide increase accessibility for more students.

MOTION: (Jim/Patti) to adopt for consideration a FY24 local budget of three million, one hundred thousand, nine hundred eighty-six dollars (\$3,100,986) and an overall FY 24 budget of three million, three hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$3,339,570) to be presented to the voters in the member districts. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

FY24 Carpentry House Update – Scott Farr reported we are still waiting for Preferred Building Systems to provide blueprints to make next year's house handicap accessible so we can determine a price for the house.

Policies Reading/Third Reading & Adoption – Derek Williams reported no changes since the last meeting on these policies:

- C8 – Public Privacy
- C9 – Nutrition and Wellness
- C11 – Student Freedom of Expression
- C14– Policy on Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol for Students & Staff

MOTION: (Lyza/Lois) to approve the third reading and adoption of policies:

- C8 – Public Privacy
- C9 – Nutrition and Wellness
- C11 – Student Freedom of Expression
- C14– Policy on Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol for Students & Staff

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Policies Reading/Second Reading & Warn Third Reading/Adoption – Derek Williams reported there were no changes since the last meeting to the following policies:

- C27 – Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature
- C70 – Use of Restraint and Seclusion

MOTION: (Andrew/Lois) to approve the second reading and warn the third reading and adoption of policies:

- C27 – Student Self-Expression and Student Distribution of Literature
- C70 – Use of Restraint and Seclusion

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VI. New Business

Announced Tuition FY24 – Scott Farr reported this is an annual statutory requirement which the Board needs to approve in January and report to the state by January 15th. Announced Tuition is the combination of the state provided base rate and annual sending school assessment. We are proposing adding a ½ a percent increase over this total base rate plus sending school assessment. We do this because the state provided base rate is only proposed at this point with the legislature finalizing the official amount at the end of the legislative session. If the legislature decides to increase the base rate, then we would not be able to realize those revenues as we cannot charge more than the announced tuition. One year they increased the base rate more than anticipated and it became a bit of an issue, to collect the revenues. If the legislature decides to increase the base rate, this will not impact the sending schools assessment.

RVTC remains in the middle of the list of all Vermont CTE centers in the state in regard to announced tuition amounts.

MOTION: (Jim/Paul) to approve RVTC to announce the tuition rate for FY24 as \$19,474 per full time equivalent student. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Article 1 for Australian Ballot – Bob Flint reported this is the language for Article 1 that will be presented to the service region voters for approval on March 7, 2023.

MOTION: (Andrew/Paul) to approve Article I as follows:

ARTICLE 1

Shall the voters of the River Valley Technical Center School District approve the sum of **three million, three hundred thirty-nine thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$3,339,570)** to defray current expenses for the ensuing fiscal year and to pay outstanding orders and obligations. Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Annual Meeting Agenda/Warning Approval and Signatures

The draft of the warning was sent out to Board members today.

MOTION: (Paul/Sarah) to approve the Warning and Agenda for the Annual Meeting for signature and posting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Policies Reading/First Reading – Derek Williams presented the following new policies for adoption by RVTC; C28 and C29 are new policies:

- C28 – Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students
- C29 – District Equity Policy
- D3 – Responsible Computer, Network & AMP; Internet Use
- D5 – Animal Dissection

Dissection occurs in Culinary and Health Sciences at RVTC. This policy allows students to not elect to participate in the dissection but they are still responsible for academic portions of the lessons.

MOTION: (Lois/Sarah) to approve the first reading and warn the second reading of policies

- C28 – Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students
- C29 – District Equity Policy
- D3 – Responsible Computer, Network & AMP; Internet Use
- D5 – Animal Dissection

Motion voted and passed unanimously.

Union Support Staff Negotiations – Executive Session

Superintendent's Report – Scott Farr reviewed the Superintendent's report.

Other – None

Agenda Item VII. Next Meeting

Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday February 2, 2023, at 4:30 pm

Annual Meeting – Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Agenda Item VIII. Executive Session

MOTION: (Andrew/Paul) pursuant to Title 1 VSA, Section 313, the Board enters Executive Session to discuss contracts and agreements because premature general public knowledge would clearly place a person(s) at a substantial disadvantage, inviting Scott and Derek.

MOTION: (Jim/Paul) to exit Executive Session at 5:51 pm

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Bixby, Recording Secretary