

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**November 15, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee was held in the Three Seasons Restaurant at the school. The following members, staff and others were present:

Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Chairman	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
David R. Bartlett of Upton	Anthony Steele, Asst. Supt./Principal
Paul J. Braza of Milford	Kurtis Johnson, Asst. Supt. For Finance and Operations
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	Eddie Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator
Gerald M. Finn of Millville	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Nicole Forman, Recording Secretary
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	Len O'Neil, Social Studies Instructor
John C. Lavin III of Douglas	Megan Potenti, Social Studies Instructor
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Kat Manoogian, SkillsUSA Advisor
	Rebecca Corda, SkillsUSA Advisor
	Robert Jordan, SkillsUSA Advisor
	Katie Cunningham, SkillsUSA Advisor
	Logan Keefe, Student Representative
	Andrew Regan, Student Recognition
	Anika Koopman, Student Presenter

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick said Mrs. Mitchell and Messrs. Braun, Hanratty, and Broderick informed him in advance they would not be able to attend the meeting.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1 On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Lavin, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 18, 2018 and to accept them as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1 Treasurer Auger presented a report dated October 31, 2018. The report reflects a cash balance of \$7,542,836.86 including \$6,866,845.10 in local funds and \$675,991.76 in project funds.

Treasurer Auger said the District continues to see more funds in the student activities account. She also noted the reclassification of funds from the Student Activity account to the Project Fund account because some of the recent graduating classes had donated class funds to the front sign project in the amount of \$12,131.31. Dr. Fitzpatrick expressed the District's gratitude to the recent graduating classes for contributing to the front sign project.

On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Lavin, it was voted to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

Item 4. Governor Baker Video Presentation

This item was postponed due to technical difficulties.

Item 5. Student Recognition – Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

5.1 Dr. Fitzpatrick recognized Casey Goyette for earning his Eagle Scout rank. Dr. Fitzpatrick congratulated Casey for his extensive work preparing for the honor.

5.2 Dr. Fitzpatrick also recognized Sebastian Vazquez for earning his Eagle Scout rank.

Item 6. Comments by Student Representatives – Jake Stevens & Logan Keefe

Logan said the Student Council is deep in planning the annual Turkey Run. The Student Council will supply 20 dinners to BVT families to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Student Council is also preparing for the annual MASC Spring Conference, which occurs in March. The Student Council is beginning to create their excellence book to showcase the activities done throughout the year.

Item 4. Governor Baker Video Presentation

Dr. Fitzpatrick shared a video presentation created by Governor Baker’s campaign that included several scenes from Blackstone Valley Tech.

Item 7. Academic Department Presentation – Megan Potenti & Len O’Neil

7.1 Ms. Potenti introduced herself and Mr. O’Neil to the Committee and spoke about the other members of the team. She reviewed the curriculum the department uses and the changes coming next year. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Social Studies courses will be different in that freshmen will take World History II, sophomores will take U.S. History I, juniors will take U.S. History II, and seniors will have the option to take AP U.S. History or Government. To prepare for this transition, the department has begun using three new textbooks that have online components.

Mr. O’Neil shared the AP U.S. History exam results from the past several years. He noted the new frameworks for Massachusetts Social Studies teachers align more with the AP frameworks asking students to synthesize and analyze information rather than simple memorization. He expects AP scores to rise as students become well versed in the new frameworks.

Ms. Potenti noted the department is very involved in the school’s extracurricular activities. The students participated in Student Government Day at the Massachusetts State House, the Model United Nations program, Humanities Scholars, and Constitution Day among other activities.

In the future, the department would like to add AP courses such as AP European History or AP Human Geography. They would also like to add classes like Psychology and Sociology.

Mr. Yitts asked about crossover activities and assignments the Social Studies department does with the vocational departments. Ms. Potenti mentioned the Civil War reenactment among other activities.

Item 8. Out-of-Country Trips – Rebecca Corda, Kat Manoogian, Robert Jordan, & Katie Cunningham

The BVT SkillsUSA chapter proposed an out-of-country field trip to Haiti as part of the Be Like Brit Foundation. The Be Like Brit Foundation is one of the organizations the BVT SkillsUSA chapter supports through fundraising efforts, including the SkillsUSA Charity Dinners. The chapter is now looking to add new opportunities to give back while also utilizing the experience as part of their Chapter of Excellence and Model Chapter proposals at the SkillsUSA Massachusetts and SkillsUSA National levels.

The trip would take 12 students in the construction trades to Port-au-Prince, Haiti to build a home for a family. The minimum age to participate is 16 years old. The trip would be seven days and six nights and come at a \$2,000 per person cost. The cost would be covered by fundraising.

Ms. Cunningham noted safety is paramount on the trips and the organization provides transportation, security, and a fully gated compound to visitors. Mr. Hall asked if travel warnings would affect the trip. Ms. Cunningham said the Be Like Brit organization is always in contact with groups about travel warnings and will cancel or postpone trips if necessary.

Mr. Koopman noted the organization has a great reputation for safety.

Mr. Lavin inquired about the amount of people at the compound during the trip. Ms. Cunningham said the BVT group would be the only outside group at the facility.

Safety concerns were discussed at length.

On a motion by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to grant conditional approval for the SkillsUSA Charity group's out-of-country field trip request to Port-au-Prince, Haiti in September 29, 2019-October 5, 2019. The Committee requested the SkillsUSA chapter return in June to discuss final approval after documentation and assurance of safe travel and additional evidence of construction site safety precautions are adequately presented.

Item 9. Facilities Subcommittee Report

Mr. Lavin said the Facilities Subcommittee met recently and toured the Advanced Manufacturing and Fabrication program and were impressed by the newly installed flooring. He also noted the group is updating its preventative maintenance plan. Mr. Yitts asked for an update on the District's snow removal plans. Mr. Steele announced the purchase of a new truck in which a sander and plow were installed.

Item 10. Asst. Supt. for Finance/Operations – K. Johnson

10.1 Mr. Johnson said the District's E&D certification came back at \$1.023 million of which \$360,000 was due to the land sale and therefore a one-time deposit. The money was

pledged to the roof project. The certification came in at 4.3 percent, which is in accordance with the law stating the certification must be at 5 percent or less.

10.2 Mr. Johnson presented the Committee with the following motions:

a. On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Lavin, it was voted to approve the transfer of \$360,000 from the District's Certified Excess & Deficiency Fund into the Roof Repair Capital Projects Fund.

b. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to approve the transfer of \$140,000 from the District's Certified Excess & Deficiency Fund into the Program and Facility Expansion Capital Projects Fund.

10.3 There were no line item transfers needed.

10.4 Mr. Johnson noted the full information about the 2003 Saab Convertible and Liberty Mutual furniture donations were not available, so the vote would be postponed. The Committee received a donation approval request for a laminating machine.

c. On a motion by Mr. Lavin, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to approve the Fellowes Venus Laminating Machine donation.

10.5 On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to approve the tuition for the new 15-week advanced manufacturing adult evening program in the amount of \$585. This includes the base tuition, a toolbox, access to online program manual, safety glasses, project supplies and materials, application fee, and ID fee.

#### Item 11. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report – A. Steele

11.1 Mr. Steele said the John and Abigail Adams ceremony was held on November 7<sup>th</sup> and the school awarded 81 students with scholarships. The ceremony also acknowledges the Teachers Assistants who play a crucial role in student success. The annual aerial photo was also completed.

11.2 Mr. Steele said the annual National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society induction was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The clubs welcomed 82 new students, which brings its total membership to 141 students.

11.3 Mr. Steele reported the Vocational Curriculum Night was occurring simultaneous to the School Committee meeting. The event welcomes parents of freshmen students to tour shops, learn more about career opportunities, and ask questions.

11.4 Mr. Steele shared the school cancellation list with the Committee.

#### Item 12. Budget Subcommittee Report – Chair (TBA)

Mr. Lavin announced he was elected Chair of the Budget Subcommittee and Mrs. Mitchell was elected Vice Chair. The Subcommittee planned their calendar for the budget-making process and discussed the District's debt at their meeting.

Item 13. Superintendent-Director's Report – M. Fitzpatrick

13.1 Dr. Fitzpatrick shared several financial donations the District received:

- a. UniBank donated \$3,500 for student transportation van support.
- b. Homefield Credit Union donated \$3,500 for student transportation van support.
- c. Blissful Meadows donated \$4,800 from their Company Open, which will contribute to the new five-way snow plow.
- d. Milford Federal Bank donated \$3,500 for student transportation van support.

13.2 Dr. Fitzpatrick reported the school hosted a Riverside Community Center Regional Forum on October 25<sup>th</sup>, which promoted greater sensitivity to the need for crisis counseling. The school has agreed to host a second forum. He noted the data shows there is a growing need for mental health support in the Blackstone Valley area and BVT is doing its part to help bring more services to the area.

13.3 Dr. Fitzpatrick mentioned several visitors the school recently hosted:

- a. Uxbridge Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano visited on October 20, 2018.
- b. Hopedale Superintendent Dr. Karen Crebase toured on October 31, 2018.
- c. Milford Social Emotional Director Lisa Kingkade toured on October 31, 2018.
- d. Northbridge citizen and former educator Kim Pepper visited on October 31, 2018.

13.4 Dr. Fitzpatrick noted he spent a full day touring the Westover Air Force Base. During the tour, he learned about their economics among other things and asked the Air Force Base to aid the District in finding a new truck to use for snow removal.

13.5 Dr. Fitzpatrick reported the Negotiation Subcommittee has met with the Teachers' Association to discuss different health insurance options. Dr. Fitzpatrick noted the District has the right to simply announce GIC like or GIC membership changes, but the District is working to negotiate changes to keep the positive working relationship with the Teachers' Association, which both sides have enjoyed.

13.6 Dr. Fitzpatrick shared the Winter 2018 Parent Newsletter with the Committee.

Item 14. New Business

There was no new business.

Item 15. Items for the Good of the Committee

The monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence was made available for the School Committee's review.

Item 16. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on December 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Three Seasons Restaurant.

Item 17. Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, §21(a) #3

Due to worsening weather conditions and a lack of urgency, the Committee decided not to enter into Executive Session and instead reschedule the Executive Session for a later meeting.

Item 18. Decide Release Status of Executive Session Minutes 6/21/18

As there was no Executive Session, this item was skipped.

Item 19. Meeting Closure

19.1 The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 8:04 p.m.

19.2 On a motion by Bartlett, seconded by Koopman, it was voted to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Listing of Materials used in the meeting:

Item 2 Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 18, 2018

Item 3 Treasurer's Reports October 31, 2018

Item 7 Social Studies Department Presentation

Item 8 Be Like Brit Foundation Presentation

Item 8 Out-of-Country Field Trip Request – Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Item 10.1 Excess and Deficiency Calculation

Item 10.2.a. Suggested Motion – E&D Transfer (Roof Repair Capital Projects Fund)

Item 10.2.b. Suggested Motion – E&D Transfer (Program and Facility Expansion Capital Projects Fund)

Item 10.4.c. Non-cash Donation Itemization/Value Form

Item 10.5 Suggested Motion – Advanced Manufacturing Foundational Skills Tuition

Item 11.4 School Cancellation Contacts

Item 13.1.b. Donation – Homefield Credit Union

Item 13.1.c. Donation – Blissful Meadows

Item 13.1.d. Donation – Milford Federal Bank

Item 13.4 Newspaper article – “Westover’s economic impact dips slightly”

Item 13.6 Parent Newsletter Winter 2018

Item 15 Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary