

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 14, 2023

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

Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Chair-Zoom	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer-Zoom
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	Nicole M. Ferguson, Business Manager
Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon	Ellie Poitras, Student Council Representative
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Sosie DerKosrofia, Student Council Representative
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair	Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	
James M. Mitchell of Sutton	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	

Members Absent:

Mark J. Potter of Douglas
Paul J. Braza of Milford
Tyler D. Bartlett of Upton

Item 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Finn, functioning as temporary Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Dr. Fitzpatrick said he was notified in advance that the Chair, Mr. Hall, and the District Treasurer, Mr. Pilla, would attend the meeting via Zoom and that Mr. Potter, Mr. Braza, and Mr. Bartlett would be unable to attend the meeting.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular School Committee meeting of November 16, 2023, and to accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated September 30, 2023. The report reflected an ending balance of \$3,323,942.15 for Total Funds, \$982,545.33 in Project Funds, and \$2,341,396.82 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve the September 30, 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.

3.2. The Treasurer's Report was presented dated October 31, 2023. The report reflected an ending balance of \$6,501,661.78 for Total Funds, including \$951,785.73 in Project Funds, and \$5,549,876.05 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the October 31, 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. Comments by Student Council Representatives - Ellie Poitras & Sosie DerKosrofia

The Student Council Representatives provided an update on Council activities. First, they reported on the fundraising efforts, which will benefit BVT students and their families with over 725 gifts purchased during the annual Holiday Drive Collection. The efforts include the following:

Fast Money Friday - each homeroom raises as much money they can during one festive song over the intercom. The shop and academic homeroom that raises the most money will be given breakfast on a morning during the week of December 18th.

Handball Tournament - on Friday, December 22nd, during the day, students and staff can pay to play handball or spectate.

Second, they reported that they attended the MASC Fall Conference on November 16, 2023. Additionally, they are running their themed Spirit Weeks (11th – 15th): Monday: Long Winter's Nap; Tuesday: Anything but a Backpack – Holiday Edition; Wednesday: Group Dress Up – Family Holiday or Winter Photo; Thursday: Winter Sports Fan; and Friday: Jingle Bells vs. Holiday Lights. Spirit Week (18th – 22nd): Monday: Polar Express PJ; Tuesday: Holiday Sweater; Wednesday: Holiday Vacation – Tropical & Floral; Thursday: Holiday Hat; and Friday: Holiday Color [Seniors – Red, Juniors – Green, Sophomores – Blue, Freshmen – White, and Staff – Silver & Sparkles].

On behalf of Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Steele and the Administrative team, Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked the Student Council Representatives for the update. He presented them with a Sporty's Closet donation of black leggings (female population) and black/grey sweatpants (male population).

Item 5. Business Manager - N. Ferguson

5.1 FY24 Budget Status: The School Committee members were provided with a Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Monthly Budget Report from July 1, 2023 to December 14, 2023. The grand total budget balance was \$3,251,594.33 on December 14, 2023.

5.2. Dust Collector System Replacement - General Contractor Award: On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, the Committee unanimously voted to award the construction contract for the Dust Collector System Replacement to William F. Lynch Co., Inc. of Worcester, MA as the most responsible and eligible bidder, with a total bid of \$862,000, inclusive of the filed sub-bids for Plumbing, Electrical, and Fire Protection.

5.3. Mrs. Ferguson presented the following five donations for approval:

5.3.a On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Committee unanimously voted to accept a donation of \$2,000.00 in gift cards.

5.3.b. The School Committee is in receipt of a donation from Suzanne L. Blalock of a 2003 Chevy Silverado 4x4. On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted unanimously to accept the donation of the 2003 Chevy Silverado 4x4 for instructional and valuable training purposes in the Automotive programs at BVT.

5.3.c. On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Committee

unanimously voted to accept the donation of a 2004 Subaru Outback Wagon from Ronald McPhail for instructional and valuable training purposes in the Automotive programs at BVT.

5.3.d. On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Committee unanimously voted to accept the donation of a 2010 Nissan Pathfinder SUV from Michael Denise for instructional and valuable training purposes in the Automotive programs at BVT.

5.3.e. The School Committee is in receipt of a donation from Derek Stienstra of a TAMA Starclassic Performer Drum Set. On a motion made by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted unanimously to accept the donation of the drum set.

Item 6. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

6.1. The School Committee Members received the 2023-2024 school cancellation contact list, which outlined where BVT would announce a school cancellation or emergency announcement.

6.2. Mr. Steele informed the Committee that the District hosted the annual School Bus Drivers' Breakfast in the Three Seasons Restaurant on November 29, 2023. It was well-attended.

6.3. Mr. Steele shared with the Committee that BVT would assist Vendetti Motors with its U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as the host site for the TSA's Exercise Information System (EXIS®) program tabletop exercise. The TSA Exis Training event date is Wednesday, January 31, 2024, with a snow date of Thursday, February 1, 2024. Dr. Fitzpatrick extended an invitation to School Committee members to consider attending.

6.4. BVT Comparative Data: Principal Steele distributed two handouts at the meeting - A per-pupil cost comparison at MA Vocational Schools (the data reflects that BVT is a reasonable value for the return) and staffing level comparisons at the area vocational schools and sending schools in the District. The report included the noticeably higher state subsidy contribution for voc-tech systems, which are required to meet a higher standard than traditional high schools.

6.5. Principal Steele updated the Committee on BVT's Capital Projects regarding the dust collector and the HVAC storage building. Taking steps to see the dust collector up and running by the start of the next school year. The final phase of the HVAC storage building is underway and expected to be completed over the summer. Staff and students are excited about these grant-supported projects.

Item 7. Superintendent-Director's Report - Michael F. Fitzpatrick

7.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick provided a preliminary report on the annual Superintendent's Fundraiser Dinner with an anticipated date of March 21, 2024. The theme of this year's event is Buckingham Palace. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted and unanimously approved to authorize school officials to request permission to serve liquor on campus from the Upton Board of Selectpersons. This authorization would be valid for alcoholic

beverages/wine to be served at the single evening annual superintendent's gourmet dinner on Thursday, March 21, 2024. The liquor (wine) is to be dispensed by volunteering adult staff members to an age-eligible, non-student participating public.

7.2. The John Eldridge Memorial Scholarship – The Friends of John Eldridge propose to offer a new scholarship award in his memory. John Eldridge of Blackstone was the owner and chef at Marty's Kitchen in Milford. The award may be used for tuition, books, or tools necessary for the students' trade. The annual continuation and amount of this award will be at the discretion of the donors and subject to the level of fundraising. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to approve the John Eldridge Memorial Scholarship.

7.2.a. The Committee was informed that Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick had made a donation in the amount of \$100 to the John Eldridge Memorial Scholarship.

7.3. BVT Visitation/Tour:

a. The Medway Superintendent, Dr. Armand Pires, and the Director of Wellness, Dr. Ryan Sherman, met with Dr. Fitzpatrick and toured the School Based Health Center at BVT on November 30, 2023. After the campus visit, Dr. Pires sent a thank you note to Dr. Fitzpatrick, expressing his appreciation for sharing the great work done at BVT and that they left with many ideas to take back to Medway.

b. Dr. Fitzpatrick met with Upton Town Officials Mr. Paul Flaherty and Ms. Maureen Dwinell at BVT on November 30, 2023.

7.4. Notification of Retirements and Resignations:

a. The School Committee is in receipt of a notification of retirement (effective November 17, 2023) was received from Kimberly Silva, Teacher Assistant - Special Education.

b. A notification of resignation letter dated December 1, 2023, from Deb Graves, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent-Director, was accepted with the last date of employment being December 29, 2023.

c. The School Committee is in receipt of a notification of retirement (effective June 30, 2024) from Mark Fitzpatrick, Vocational Instructor, Carpentry/Construction Technology, a BVT graduate and instructor for 27 years.

d. A notification of resignation letter dated December 1, 2023, from Patricia Curley, Accounts Payable Clerk, Business Office, was accepted with the last date of employment being December 22, 2023.

Item 8. Budget Subcommittee Report - M. Finn

8.1. First Round Line Item Series - 1000 & 5000: Mr. Finn informed the School Committee that the Budget Subcommittee met on December 7, 2023, and December 14, 2023, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. They elected the Chair and Vice Chair of the FY2025 Budget Subcommittee. Mr. Hall was elected Chair, and Mr. Finn was elected Vice-Chair. The

Subcommittee FY2025 Budget Subcommittee Meeting Calendar is available on the District website.

8.2. Salary, Wage & Fringe Benefits - The December 7, 2023 agenda included the following: First review of Salary & Wage & Fringe Benefits - Instructional staffing patterns (Anthony Steele) and non-instructional staffing (respective department heads) identified by FTE's. First review Administration (1000) and Fixed Charges (5000) functions.

Item 9. New Business

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that the District was notified in a letter dated December 5, 2023, that the Board of Trustees of the MetroWest Health Foundation had approved a grant of \$20,000.00 for the BVT Cartwheel Care Telehealth Services. Grant funds will be available over a 12-month period beginning on July 1, 2024.

Dr. Fitzpatrick informed the Committee that the Blackstone Town Administrator Chad Lovett will tour BVT on December 20, 2023.

Item 10. Items for the Good of the Committee:

The monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence packet was provided at the meeting for members to review individually.

Item 11. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on January 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 12. *Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, Section 21(a) #2 and #3

On a motion by Mr. Cray, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, a roll call vote was taken to go into executive session at 6:59 p.m. because discussion of this subject in open session would be detrimental to the School District. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Broderick – Yes	Mr. Yitts – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes
Mr. Cray – Yes	Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Finn – Yes
Mr. Koopman – Yes	Mr. Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Ebbeling – Yes

On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Cray, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 7:01 p.m. The roll call was as follows:

Mr. Broderick – Yes	Mr. Yitts – Yes	Mr. Intinarelli – Yes
Mr. Cray – Yes	Mr. Hanratty – Yes	Mr. Finn – Yes
Mr. Koopman – Yes	Mr. Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Ebbeling – Yes

Item 13. Decide: Release Status of Exec. Session Minutes of November 16, 2023

On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was voted not to release the minutes of the executive session of November 16, 2023 because discussion of this subject in open session would be detrimental to the School District.

Item 14. Meeting Closure:

14.1. The meeting was declared closed by the temporary Chair at 7:01 p.m.

14.2. On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Cray, it was voted to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of November 16, 2023

Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2023

Item 3.2. Treasurer's Report dated October 31, 2023

Item 5.1. FY24 Budget Status: Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Monthly Budget Report

Item 5.2. Suggested Motion - Dust Collector System Replacement - General Contractor Award

Item 5.3.a Donation: \$2,000.00 in Gift Cards (available at meeting)

Item 5.3.b. Donation: 2003 Chevy Silverado 4x4 (available at meeting)

Item 5.3.c. Donation: 2004 Subaru Outback Wagon (available at meeting)

Item 5.3.d. Donation: 2010 Nissan Pathfinder SUV (available at meeting)

Item 5.3.e. Donation: TAMA Starclassic Performer Drum Set

Item 6.1. 2023-2024 School Cancellation Contacts

Item 6.4. BVT Comparative Data Sheets (available at meeting)

Item 7.1. Suggested Motion – BVVRSD Superintendent's Fundraiser Dinner

Item 7.2. John Eldridge Memorial Scholarship

Item 7.2.a. John Eldridge Memorial Scholarship Donation

Item 7.4.a. Retirement: Kimberly Silva, Teacher Assistant-Special Education

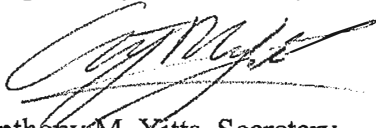
Item 7.4.b. Resignation: Deborah Graves, Administrative Assistant-Superintendent-Director

Item 7.4.c. Retirement: Mark Fitzpatrick, Vocational Instructor-Construction Technology

Item 7.4.d. Resignation: Patricia Curley, Accounts Payable Clerk, Business Office

Item 10. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,



Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary