

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
May 19, 2022**

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:

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| Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Chair | Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director |
| Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone | Anthony E. Steele, Asst. Superintendent/Principal |
| Mark J. Potter of Douglas | Lorna M. Mangano, Business Manager |
| Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton | Christopher C. Pilla, Treasurer |
| Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale | Leah Cook, Student Representative |
| Edward D. Cray, III of Mendon | Bradley Lyon, Student Representative |
| Paul J. Braza of Milford | Becky Corda, SkillsUSA Advisor |
| Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury | Robert Jordan, SkillsUSA Advisor |
| Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge | Kat Manoogian, SkillsUSA Advisor |
| James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge | Ray Lehner, Aviation Club Advisor |
| David R. Bartlett of Upton | Elise Bogdan, Recording Secretary |

Members Absent:
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chair
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mr. Hall. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that he was notified in advance that Mr. Finn and Mrs. Mitchell would be unable to attend and that Mr. Cray would be delayed. Mr. Cray arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Item 2. Secretary’s Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the regular School Committee meeting minutes of April 14, 2022, and accept the minutes as written.

Item 3. Treasurer’s Report – C. Pilla

3.1. The Treasurer’s Report was presented dated April 30, 2022. The report reflected an ending balance of \$8,601,240.93 for Total Funds, including \$1,286,845.06 in Project Funds, and \$7,314,395.87 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Koopman, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the April 30, 2022 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

Item 4. School Committee Fiscal Year 2023 Appointments

4.1. District Treasurer (Term 07/01/22 – 06/30/23) On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, and with acceptance of the candidate, the District School Committee unanimously voted to appoint Christopher Pilla as District Treasurer for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for the period of July 1, 2022, through and including June 30, 2023.

4.2. Recording Secretary (Term 07/01/22 - 06/30/23) - On a motion by Mr. Hanratty seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, and with acceptance of the candidate, the District School Committee unanimously voted to appoint Elise Bogdan as the Recording Secretary for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District for a term office commencing July 1, 2022, and concluding on June 30, 2023.

Item 5. Comments by Student Representatives - Bradley Lyon & Leah Cook

The Student Council (STUCO) Representatives provided an update on Council activities. First, they elected a new STUCO Executive Board for the 2022-2023 school year. The new Executive Board positions are President: Hunter Claflin, Vice President: Ellie Poitras, Treasurer: Bradley Lyons, Secretary: Lizmary Vidal Sanchez, Historian: Luke Perier, Events Coordinator: Zabel Derkosroffian, Publicity Coordinator: Sara Lewis, Awards Coordinator: Sarah Flynn, Evaluation Coordinator: Katelyn Steele, Senior Representative: Max Guyton, Junior Representative Laney Beahn, Sophomore Representative Sosie Derkosroffian, and the Freshman Representative will be elected next school year. In the 2022-2023 school year STUCO Student Representatives to the School Committee will be Hunter Claflin, President; Ellie Poitras, Vice President; and Bradley Lyons, Treasurer. They also reported on other Council activities, such as training officers, various workshops, and teacher appreciation activities.

Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked the student representatives for their comments and contributions to School Committee this year.

Item 6. SkillsUSA State Competition Results - Becky Corda, Robert Jordan & Kat Manoogian

The SkillsUSA Advisors had nine seniors attend the SkillsUSA SAIL Conference. They said the SkillsUSA fundraising dinners were very successful and popular. They hope to expand the dinners next school year. They also reported on the impressive results of BVT students in the 2021-22 SkillsUSA competitions. In the first of three SkillsUSA competitions held remotely on March 16, 2022, the District V Competition resulted in students earning 102 medals: 33 Gold, 37 Silver, 32 Bronze, and 11 Sweeps. During the second of three SkillsUSA competitions, students who competed in the State competitions on April 14, 2022, and April 29, 2022, earned 66 medals: 29 Gold, 27 Silver, and 10 Bronze. BVT has 27 student competitors and 4 National Voting Delegates who will attend the SkillsUSA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in June. They will campaign for their National Officer Candidate, Hunter Claflin, to be elected a National Officer. Lastly, during the Graduation on May 26, 2022, BVT has 69 seniors who have medaled in SkillsUSA and will proudly wear their SkillsUSA graduation cords.

Item 7. Aviation Club Advisor - Ray Lehner

7.1. Out-of-State Trip Approval: Mr. Lehner, Aviation Club Advisor, was in attendance with Anastasia Siryk, a senior from Mendon in Engineering & Robotics and President of the Aviation Club, and Club Member Colin Chambless of Milford, a junior in Engineering & Robotics. Mr. Lehner spoke and voiced his appreciation to the Committee for approval of past Aviation Club field trip requests before the request to visit the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in 2023, which provides students with complete exposure to the history and advancement of aviation. Anastasia and Colin had attended the recent Aviation Club field trip to Florida in April

of 2022 and spoke about how impactful that trip was for them.

7.2. The School Committee is in receipt of an out-of-state field trip request scheduled for the Aviation Club to visit the Kennedy Space Center in Florida from 03/28/23 – 04/04/23. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip from March 28 to April 4, 2023.

Item 8. Business Manager - L. Mangano

8.1. Ms. Mangano presented a year-end line item transfer:

8.1.a. On a motion made by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to transfer available funds not to exceed the amount of \$104,983 from the Tech Dept. Hardware account 10000.50.2250.580.8 to the 1000.50.7350.000.8 Capital Tech-Sch Data Infrastructure account. The identified savings from available appropriations will fund eight Ruckus switches. These switches will replace current switches that have reached the end of their expected useful life. This request aligns with the district's replacement plan for switches as they reach the end of life (the average useful life of a switch is approximately six to eight years.

8.1.b. On a motion made by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to transfer available funds not to exceed the amount of \$20,000 from the Supt. Prof. Salaries account 1000.12.1210.200.8 to the SkillsUSA account 1000.76.3530.500.8. The identified saving from available appropriations will provide additional funding to send 31 students to the SkillsUSA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, from June 20, 2022, to June 25, 2022. Unexpected cost increases primarily drove the need for additional funds. The estimated District cost for the conference is \$64,000, which includes airfare, lodging, and competition registration. Students are responsible for their meals and baggage check costs. Also, fundraised money in Student Activity funds will cover competition equipment, uniforms, supply container shipping costs, and transportation to and from the airport.

8.2. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the donation of welding gloves valued at \$255.21 from Riverdale Mills Corporation, which will be used for instructional and training purposes in the Advanced Manufacturing and Fabrication program.

Item 9. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report - A. Steele

9.1. Mr. Steele informed the Committee of the U.S. News & World Report Annual School Rankings and, as a courtesy, shared the Telegram & Gazette article published May 3, 2022. The article listed the top 25 high schools in the Worcester Metro area according to the Annual U.S. News & World Report rankings, which ranked BVT at #15.

9.2. Mr. Steele shared a pamphlet on the 23rd Annual Golf Tournament planned for June 13, 2022, at Highfields Golf & Country Club and encouraged each member to consider participating.

9.3. Mr. Steele reported that Faculty Appreciation Day took place on May 4, 2022, following the faculty staff meeting with a wild, wild west-themed event to thank the amazing

teachers and staff who make a difference every day for the students.

9.4. Mr. Steele reported that the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), an organization that was founded to develop, encourage, and improve automotive technician education, examines the structure and resources of training programs and evaluates them against nationally accepted standards of quality. NATEF's precise national standards reflect the skills that students must master. The evaluation process ensures that accredited training programs meet or exceed industry-recognized, uniform standards of excellence. The organization had shop visits on 05/03/22 and 05/04/22. The visit resulted in no major findings, just positive comments and recommendations.

9.5. Mr. Steele reported on Nurses Appreciation Day, which took place on May 6, 2022. He noted that the nurses continue to play an extremely pivotal role in managing Covid cases while serving and caring for our school community.

9.6. Mr. Steele shared that Chemistry/Physics Teacher Elizabeth Sherman, an outstanding teacher, and leader, was selected as BVT's nominee for Promising Practices recognition by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents' Consortium. This recognition is alternated annually between an academic and vocational teacher at BVT.

9.7. Mr. Steele reported that the grant-funded School Based Health Center program applied for a \$150,000 grant with a \$1,500,000.00 value. The school received notification of the intent of the Department of Public Health to award the 10-year renewal provision of the State grant pending the finalization of contract negotiations.

9.8. Out-of-State Field Trips:

9.8.a. The School Committee is in receipt of an out-of-state field trip request for the Auto Collision Shop to visit the American Muscle Car Museum on June 17, 2022, in Portsmouth, RI. On a motion by Mr. Broderick seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip as requested.

9.8.b. The School Committee is in receipt of an out-of-state field trip request for the Robotics Team to travel to Orlando, Florida, from January 19, 2023, through January 24, 2023. On a motion by Mr. Intinarelli seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the out-of-state field trip as requested.

Item 10. Budget Report – M. Fitzpatrick

10.1. A status report with FY23 budget approval standings and updated annual town meeting dates was shared and reviewed by the Committee. With the approval of nine of the thirteen towns as of May 19, 2022, Dr. Fitzpatrick noted that the District has an approved FY23 Budget. The remaining towns to vote on the proposed budget include Bellingham, Blackstone, Hopedale, and Milford.

10.2. Finance Committee Presentations/Meetings - M. Fitzpatrick:

10.2.a. Uxbridge: 04/19/22 - Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the District's budget presentation to the Uxbridge Finance Committee on April 19, 2022, was well received. In

response to an enrollment career path informational request a subsequent detailed report was provided.

10.2.b. Blackstone: 04/27/22 – Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that the District’s budget presentation to the Blackstone Finance Committee on April 27, 2022, was well received.

10.3. Annual Town Meeting Actions - M. Fitzpatrick:
Dr. Fitzpatrick shared information on the annual town meeting actions on the District’s budget advising that the budget secured approval by nine of its thirteen member towns.

10.3.a. The Town of Douglas voted in favor of the budget on May 2, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick attended and shared that it was a favorable vote.

10.3.b. The Town of Northbridge voted in favor of the budget on May 3, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he attended the town meeting.

10.3.c. The Town of Millbury voted in favor of the budget on May 3, 2022. Mr. Hanratty reported that he attended the town meeting and that the budget passed.

10.3.d. The Town of Upton voted in favor of the budget on May 5, 2022. Dr. Fitzpatrick said that he attended the town meeting and that the budget received a favorable vote.

10.3.e. The Town of Mendon voted in favor of the budget on May 6, 2022. Mr. Cray reported that he and the Superintendent attended the meeting and the budget received a favorable vote.

10.3.f. The Town of Millville voted in favor of the budget on May 9, 2022. Mr. Finn reported that he and Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the town meeting and that the budget passed.

10.3.g. The Town of Sutton voted in favor of the budget on May 9, 2022. Mrs. Mitchell reported that that the budget received a favorable vote.

10.3.h. The Town of Grafton voted in favor of the budget on May 9, 2022. Mr. Yitts reported that he attended the town meeting and that the budget passed without questions.

10.3.i. The Town of Uxbridge voted in favor of the budget on May 10, 2022. Mr. Ebbeling reported that he and the Superintendent attended the town meeting and that the budget passed easily.

Item 11. Superintendent-Director's Report – M. Fitzpatrick

11.1. BVT Visit/Tour(s):

11.1.a. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that new staff members from Waters Corporation visited BVT on April 28, 2022, and were highly complimentary of the school.

11.1.b. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared that a new representative from the Foundation for MetroWest, a non-profit organization, expressed interest in the school and met with Dr. Fitzpatrick and Dr. Connors via a Zoom presentation on May 5, 2022.

11.1.c. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that Cornerstone's senior assisted living facility awarded its Lifetime Achievement Award to Rose Mary Natelson. Rose Mary Natelson, a teacher for 22-years, had lunch in the Three Seasons Restaurant at BVT with him to celebrate the recognition on May 12, 2022.

11.2. Dr. Fitzpatrick reported that he and Mr. Denise attended the Upton Park and Recreation Commission Meeting held on April 20, 2022.

11.3. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared a status report on the Milton CAT/Upton Cemetery Commission Project. The company will use drones to produce topographical charts to survey and assess the land directly across from Nipmuc High School to be used as additional athletic fields.

11.4. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared an update on his FY22 goals as the Superintendent and welcomed feedback and suggestions.

11.5. Dr. Fitzpatrick share that BVRSD nomination papers are now available for elections to the Regional School Committee.

11.6. Dr. Fitzpatrick shared an updated list of the FY22 Grants and Donations as of May 17, 2022, with the Committee.

Item 12. New Business

Ms. Mangano presented a year-end line item transfer: On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to transfer available funds from the following accounts: 1000.13.2110.100.4 Coordinator Prof Salaries \$27,864; 100.86.5268.000.8 Ins-Unemployment \$20,000; 1000.53.4110.200.8 Custodial Salaries \$10,000; and 100.14.141.200.8 Business Office Support Staff \$3,000 with a combined total amount of \$60,864 into the Equipment Account 1000.87.7300.000.8. The identified savings from existing appropriations will fund seventy-three security cameras for use inside the school building (five various models). A needs assessment based on camera functionality and location placement was conducted by various internal staff members and consulted with an exterior camera manufacturer. This request is one of the final components of the security replacement initiative underway. The final component of the security camera needs is still underway. A funding request for exterior security cameras will be presented at a subsequent meeting. It was important to advance this interior camera request with the current supply chain and delivery issues. The current security cameras on campus are approximately 18 years old and record poor-quality videos that are grainy and blurred. Upgrades to the security cameras will strengthen campus/building security, take advantage of technological advances, and mitigate end-of-life functionality with many of the existing cameras.

12.a. Notification of Resignation – A Notification of Resignation letter dated May 12, 2022 from Richard Calderon from the Chief Procurement position was accepted with an effective date of May 20, 2022.

12.1.b. Notification of Resignation – A Notification of Resignation letter dated May 12,

2022 from Ana Calcada as full-time faculty for the PN program was accepted with an effective date of June 21, 2022 per contract.

Item 13. 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 14. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting - J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting will be held on June 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Item 15. Meeting Closure:

15.1. The meeting was declared closed by the chair at 7:18 p.m.

15.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli it was voted to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

Listing of materials used in the meeting:

- Item 2.1. Minutes of Meeting of April 14, 2022
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2022
- Item 4.1. Suggested Motion: District Treasurer (Term 07/01/22 - 06/30/23)
- Item 4.2. Suggested Motion: Recording Secretary (Term 07/01/22 - 06/30/23)
- Item 6. SkillsUSA Massachusetts BVT Competition Results 2021-2022 (District & State)
- Item 7.2.a. Out-of-State Trip Approval - Kennedy Space Center (03/28/23 - 04/04/23)
- Item 8.1.a. Suggested Motion: Transfer Available Funds - Eight Ruckus switches
- Item 8.1.b. Suggested Motion: Transfer Available Funds - SkillsUSA National Conference
- Item 8.2.a. Donation Approval - Advanced Manufacturing and Fabrication (Welding Gloves)
- Item 9.1. U.S. News & World Report - School Rankings
- Item 9.7. School Based Health Center 10 Year Renewal
- Item 9.8.a. Out of State Field Trip Request - Auto Collision Shop: 06/17/22 (Portsmouth, RI)
- Item 9.8.b. Out of State Field Trip Request - Robotics Club: 01/19/23 - 01/24/23 (Florida)
- Item 10.1. FY23 Budget Status Report Update as of May 19, 2022
- Item 11.4. FY22 Superintendent Goals - Progress Update
- Item 11.6. Summary FY2022 Grants and Donations dates April 25, 2022
- Item 12.1.a. Resignation letter from Richard Calderon dated May 12, 2022
- Item 12. New Business/Suggested Motion: Transfer Available Funds – security cameras
- Item 12.1.b. Resignation letter from Ana Calcada dated May 12, 2022

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony Yitts, Secretary