

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 17, 2019**

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
Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Anthony Steele, Asst. Supt./Principal
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Sean Nugent, Assistant Principal
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	Amy Sutherland, Recording Secretary
Dennis P. Braun of Mendon	
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	
David R. Bartlett of Upton	
Gerald M. Finn of Millville	

Members Absent:

Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton
John C. Lavin, III of Douglas
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton
Paul J. Braza of Milford

Item 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Hall.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 19, 2019 and to accept the minutes as presented.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's report was presented dated August 31, 2019. The report reflects an ending balance of \$7,521,943.43 for Total Funds, including \$1,095,012.09 in Project Funds and \$6,426,931.34 in General Funds.

On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the August 31, 2019 Treasurer's report as presented.

3.2. The Treasurer's report was presented dated September 30, 2019. The report reflects an ending balance of \$6,510,142.37 for Total Funds, including \$1,091,204.09 in Project Funds and \$5,418,938.28 in General Funds.

On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the September 30, 2019 Treasurer's report as presented.

Item 4. Comments by Student Representatives – Logan Keefe & Isabella Caccavelli

The Committee was informed that Student Council had a workshop meeting with the focus on leadership skills. The school had the annual pep rally for homecoming. The tickets for the dance were sold out. The bonfire was cancelled. BVT will be hosting a Fall Conference for over 700 students on November 7, 2019. This is a leadership event for students across Central MA. The theme is “The Game of Leadership.” The freshman elections were held and officers were elected. There will be a Dig Pink Volley Ball Game to be held on October 22 & 23rd. Dr. Fitzpatrick thanked the students and staff who helped to make Homecoming a successful event.

Item 5. Vocational Department Presentation – Jim Millette

5.1. Multimedia Communications: Mr. Millette began the presentation by explaining the theme which is “Innovation is Creativity with a Job to do.” There were links provided for those who may be interested in different parts of the program. The timeline of what is covered each year was explained on the back of the Multimedia Communications brochure. The curriculum covers a wide range of topics from the foundations of graphic design, video production, digital photography, animation, and advertising. BVT offers students the opportunity to further their studies with live work and personal projects in chosen specialties. There is a blog of students’ work which is always updated with projects. The class also has a “YouTube” channel with self-created videos (ex. Dog Orphans Humane Society). Some of the students are taking part in COOP opportunities. The new space provides for more students to be allowed in the program.

Item 6. Out of Country Trips – Len O’Neil

6.1. Len O’Neil informed the school that a trip is being planned for April vacation 2020 for Grades 9-12. There are 43 students going on the trip. This trip will include visiting Austria, Germany, and Switzerland.

6.2. The School Committee is in receipt of a request for a field trip for April Vacation 2021 to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, and Budapest. The projected number of students who can attend is 34 - 44 students. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve this trip subject to follow-up from Mr. O’Neil.

Item 7. Director of Student Life – M. Denise

7.1. & 7.2 FY20 Admissions Applicant Status: The School Committee was provided with an Admission Status Report for 2019-2020. The report showed a breakdown of the attendance from the towns. The current freshman enrollment is 313 students. The total number of upperclassman applicants is 42. This number has increased over previous years. There was a kick off admission breakfast held on September 17, 2019. An Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The School Committee members are in receipt of a redesigned view book which has new features and updated photos. There will be new photos included in April 2020 from Machine Tech, Engineering, Electronics, Carpentry, and Business & Entrepreneurship.

7.3. 2018-2019 Athletic Review: The School Committee was provided with a memo which categorized the history of the athletic participation of the boys and girls from 2006-2019. The sheet also included various sports which were added through the years. There are five girls participating in a Hockey Co-op with Bellingham, Dover/Sherborn, and Hopkinton. The Athletic

Achievements of 2018-2019 were also shown. BVT athletics attained the following achievements: Colonial Athletic League Champions (6 teams), State Vocational Qualifiers (5 teams), State Vocational Champions (3 teams), MIAA Playoff Teams (13 teams), Central MA Division Champs (1 team), Massachusetts State Division 7 Champions (1 team), and Boston Globe Markham Award (8th time in 12 years).

Item 8. Facilities Subcommittee Report – D. Bartlett

The school took part in many projects over the summer and into the fall. All of the summer projects with the exception of one have been completed. The track is still in need of repair. The execution of the security grant is in full swing. The hot water valves and risers have been replaced; this was done in house. There was an infra-red roof inspection done and moisture spots were located, working with the contractor to do the warranty repairs. The next meeting of the Facilities Subcommittee is scheduled for November 11, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. All were reminded that the building is 55 years old and periodic and preventive maintenance repairs are needed.

Item 9. Asst. Supt. for Finance/Operations – K. Johnson

9.1. Security Fence/Gate Contract Award (Safety Grant): Mr. Johnson explained that the security grant went out to bid. There were two formal submissions. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to accept the quote/bid summary for the project to be awarded to Green Acres Landscape & Construction in the amount of \$49,316.00.

9.2. Line Item Transfers – There were no transfers.

9.3. Donation Approvals

- a. Vehicle Donation – 2002 Ford Explorer: Dr. Fitzpatrick indicated that he was not aware a relative of his made this donation. However, the Superintendent wanted to ensure transparency and go on record as having no financial interest or benefit by this unanticipated gift. On a motion made by Mr. Braun, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, it was unanimously voted to accept the donation of a 2002 Ford Explorer.
- b. Appliance Donation – GE Stacked Washer & Dryer: On a motion made by Mr. Braun, seconded by Mr. Ebbeling, it was unanimously voted to accept the donation of a GE Stacked Washer and Dryer.

9.4. The FY20 Grant Applications/Approvals: The School Committee is in receipt of the updated Fiscal Year 2020 Grant & External Funding Activity. The current grant listing is at two million dollars. A grant from Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce was granted for \$500.00. The Lampin Grant for \$2,000 was granted. The DOT Workforce Transportation Grant (2 Vans) for \$100,000 was submitted and the District received positive replies back about this submittal. The school is waiting to hear back about the awarding of the MA Skills Capital Grant in the amount of \$830,000. Mr. Johnson has a meeting with our OPM, Hill International, and the design firm, Mount Vernon Group. He has reached out to see when we would have the roof repair proposals available. It was communicated that this could be provided as early as next week. The OPM for the previous roof project came in at \$127,000 with an overall project projection of \$722,000 for the construction. When looking at this for an estimate for the new project, he put the OPM at \$132,000, \$93,000 to architect, and \$495,000 for construction. The

numbers were figured out conservatively. There is currently \$716,000 in the Capital Projects account. If the numbers come in higher a transfer will be required.

9.5. Courtesy Copy Budget Subcommittee Meeting Dates: A proposed FY2021 Budget Subcommittee timetable of meeting dates was reviewed. This sheet included a snow day if needed. The schedule is relatively tight.

Item 10. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report – A. Steele

10.1. Preliminary MCAS/AYP Report: Ed Evans provided a report of the MCAS Update. The report provided terms, data points, and achievement levels. There were several changes to the administration of the 10th grade MCAS Next Generation exam for English Language Arts and Math. The students were able to complete the exam on computers for the first time. The test has been designed to be harder for students with fewer students in the top achievement level. The new achievement levels are Exceeding Expectations (E), Meeting Expectations (M), Partially Meeting Expectations (PM), and Not Meeting Expectations (NM). The science exam was administered on paper using the legacy achievement scale. Due to the controversial essay question last March, 268 BVT students had the opportunity to retake the ELA exam in November for the purpose of the Adams Scholarship Calculation; 23 students decided to retake the exam. The spring 2019 ELA percentile showed BVT students scoring 81% Advanced, 18% Proficient, 1% Needs Improvement, and 1% Warning/Failing. The 2019 Next Generation MCAS Achievement Results are as follows: English = 81% M+E, 18% E, 63% M, 18% PM, and 2% NM; Math = 76% M+E, 17% E, 59% M, 22% PM, and 2% NM; Science = 91% Proficient+ Advanced, 45% Advanced, 47% Proficient, 7% Needs Improvement, and 1% Warning/Failing. Thank you to all the academic staff who prepared the students.

10.2. 2019 Project Lead the Way Final Exam Data: Vocational Director Matthew Connors was recognized for recently attaining his Doctoral degree. Dr. Connors provided the PLTW End of Course Assessment scores. There are four (4) performance levels to indicate a student's performance on an End-of-Course Assessment; Novice, Practiced, Accomplished, and Distinguished. This shows a range from 100 to 600; 38% of the BVT students who took this received the Distinguished range; 53% received Accomplished; and 9% received Practiced. The students scored exceptionally well for the 157 students who took the test. In Civil Engineering and Architecture there was one (1) student who achieved a perfect score of 600, and in Digital Electronics two (2) students achieved a perfect 600. It was suggested to invite the students who had perfect scores of 600 be invited to the next meeting for recognition.

10.3. Homecoming Status Report: Homecoming Weekend was held on October 10-12, 2019. A fun time was had by all with the exception of the pipe valve failure which happened prior to the pep rally. The annual bonfire was postponed due to the EEE health threat concern. The event was well attended.

10.4. General Advisory Dinner Status: The General Advisory Dinner will take place on October 30, 2019. RSVP's for the event are coming in and about 150 people anticipate attending. The theme is Fall Harvest.

10. 5. Out of State Trips:

- a. Visual Arts Field Trip – A field trip request form was submitted for a Visual Arts Field Trip scheduled for November 21, 2019 to Hasbro Inc. in Pawtucket, RI. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to approve the Visual Arts Field Trip.
- b. Robotics Team Field Trip – A field trip request form was submitted for the Robotics Team to go to Disney World January 24-28, 2020. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to approve the field trip to Disney World.

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

11.1. Members were provided with the FY20 Delineated Sub Committees listing.

11.2. Annual Report: School Committee members were provided with the Annual Report. This was also electronically provided to every town.

11.3. The memo entitled “BVT Comparison by Town and Grade” was referenced. This is a breakdown of enrollment by town of those students who attend BVT. This sheet helps when preparing the budget.

11.4. The school received notice that the charity trip to Haiti has been cancelled out of concern for the students' safety. The school is looking for an alternative activity.

11.5. Yancik Strong Fund Raiser: This event is being organized by Alese Cone. The event is to be held Monday October 21, 2019 from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Tickets are available for the event.

11.6. The social studies program held a Revolutionary War Reenactment which took place on October 5-6, 2019. The students were bused to the event to participate. The event took place at Daniels Farm in Blackstone. There was a tremendous turn out. The feedback was great. The efforts were funded through two grants.

11.7. Student Opportunity Act Status Update and Impact Analysis: The Committee is in receipt of a New Education Reform Act fact sheet dated September 19, 2019. This is an unprecedented 1.5 billion dollars in new investment in Massachusetts public education. The bill modernizes the K-12 education and policies. The plan will provide about an additional \$30.00 per student and additional transportation reimbursement. All updates will be provided to the Committee when available.

11.8. The School Committee is in receipt of a NESDEC Professional Development Grant Award Letter in the amount of \$7,700.00.

11.9. Presentations:

- a. Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the NESDEC Fall Conference on September 26, 2019.

11.10. Visiting Educators:

- a. Members of the National Defense University visited BVT on September 20, 2019.

- b. Quaboag Regional Superintendent Brett Kustigian & Principal Steve Duff spent half a day at BVT requesting to visit the welding, manufacturing, and health programs.

Item 12. New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee:

The monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence were made available for the School Committee’s Review.

Item 14. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting – J. Hall

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on November 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Three Seasons Restaurant.

Mr. Braun departed the meeting at 8:16 p.m. due to a previously scheduled engagement.

Item 15. Executive Session:

On a motion made by Mr. Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, a roll call vote was taken at 8:20 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to approve executive session minutes and discuss non-collective and collective bargaining strategies per MGL Chpt. 30 A, §21(a) #2 & #3, as discussion in an open session would be detrimental to the District. The roll call was as follows:

Roll Call:

Joseph M. Hall	aye
Joseph A. Broderick	aye
Jeff T. Koopman	aye
James H. Ebbeling	aye
Chester P. Hanratty	aye
Mitchell A. Intinarelli	aye
Gerald M. Finn	aye
David R. Bartlett	aye

Item 16. Decide Release Status of Executive Session Minutes 9/19/19

On a motion by Mr. Finn, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted not to release the minutes of the executive session of September 19, 2019 at this time.

Item 17. Meeting Closure:

17.1. Meeting Closed as Declared by Chair.

17.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting:

- Item 2. Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 19, 2019
- Item 3.1. Treasurer’s Report August 31, 2019
- Item 3.2. Treasurer’s Report September 30, 2019
- Item 5.1. Multimedia Communications Brochure

- Item 6.2. Field Trip Excursion April 2021
- Item 7.1. Admissions Status Report 2019-2020
- Item 7.2. List of New Students for 2019-2020 School Year
- Item 7.3. Athletic Participation History 2006-2019
- Item 9.1. Security/Gate Installation
- Item 9.3.a. 2002 Ford Explorer
- Item 9.3.b. GE Stacked Washer and Dryer
- Item 9.4. Grant & External Funding Activity
- Item 9.5. FY2021 Budget Subcommittee Timetable
- Item 10.1. MCAS Update Report
- Item 10.2. PLTW Achievement Levels
- Item 10.5.a. Visual Arts Field Trip Request Form
- Item 10.5.b. Walt Disney World Field Trip Request form for January 24-28, 2020.
- Item 11.1. Delineation of Subcommittees
- Item 11.2. FY19 BVT Annual Report
- Item 11.3. Student Enrollment Sheet
- Item 11.5. Yancik Strong Fundraiser
- Item 11.7. Student Opportunity Act Fact Sheet
- Item 11.8. NESDEC Professional Development Grant Award Letter
- Item 13. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary