

Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 5, 2020

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	Amy Sutherland, Recording Secretary
Anthony M. Yitts of Grafton	
Jeff T. Koopman of Northbridge	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	
Dennis P. Braun of Mendon	
Gerald M. Finn of Millville	
Paul J. Braza, Milford	
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	

Members Absent:

John C. Lavin, III of Douglas
David R. Bartlett of Upton

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mr. Hall.

The next agenda item was taken out of order.

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

5.1. Matthew Coppolino was recognized for achieving his Eagle Scout. Matthew resides in the Town of Blackstone.

Item 2. Secretary's Report – A. Yitts

2.1. On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2020 and to accept the minutes as presented.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – C. Hanratty

3.1. The Treasurer's report was presented dated January 31, 2020. The report reflects an ending balance of \$7,005,169.78 for Total Funds, including \$1,519,691.77 in Project Funds and \$5,485,478.01 in Local Funds. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the January 31, 2020 Treasurer's report as presented.

3.2. Unibank 2019 Interest Statement – The members are in receipt of the Unibank 2019 Interest Statement. The general fund interest is \$50,470.59.

Item 4. School Committee Officers Election/Appointments for 2020

4.1. Payroll/AP Warrant Signer - The Committee was advised that there was a change to the Payroll/AP Warrant Signer to Mrs. Mitchell.

4.2. Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signers - The Committee was advised that Mr. Bartlett will be the Alternate Payroll/AP Warrant Signer.

Item 6. Asst. Supt. For Finance/Operations - K. Johnson

6.1. Transfer Regional Transportation - Anthony Yitts moved to approve the transfer of \$50,000.00 of Chapter 71 Transportation Reimbursement revenues from the General Fund to the Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund in accordance with M.G.L. c.71, Section 16 C. On a motion by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to approve the transfer amount of \$50,000.00 which represents a portion of the difference between estimated (budgeted) Chapter 71 Reimbursements and final Cherry Sheet allocations. These funds will be used as a revenue source to offset transportation expenses as detailed in the FY21 Operational Budget.

6.2. Other Line Item Transfers - no transfers

6.3. Donation Approvals:

a. 2009 Subaru Outback - On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted unanimously to accept the donation of a 2009 Subaru Outback.

b. 2004 Volvo XC90 - On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted unanimously to accept the donation of a 2004 Volvo XC90.

c. 1993 Mercedes E300D - On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was voted unanimously to accept the donation of a 1993 Mercedes E300 D.

6.4. Sarnafil Proprietary Roof System - On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted unanimously to approve the use of propriety specifications, more specifically, the requirement for a “Sarnafil” Roofing system in conjunction with the recently approved MSBA roof project.

Item 7. Academic Curriculum Coordinator Report – E. Evans

7.1. MCAS Update – Mr. Evans provided an update on the preparation for the Spring 2020 MCAS schedule. The primary testing will take place on Tuesday March 24 & Wednesday March 25, 2020. The secondary test dates are March 26th and 27th. The current 9th grade students will take the next generation computer based MCAS and the 10th grade students will take the legacy paper based MCAS. There has been collaboration between the academic coordinator, assessment coordinator, technology director, and network administrator regarding BVT’s technological infrastructure and capacity as it relates to computer based testing. The students have participated in the completion of mock MCAS activities on computers throughout the school year. The students will be ready for these tests.

Item 8. Assistant Superintendent-Director's Report – A. Steele

8.1. Student Opportunity Act – The school has received an additional \$38,000 in additional Chapter 70 money. This money will be used to come up with a plan to assist those students who may not be performing as well as other students. Mr. Evans has been tasked with coming up with a plan regarding an implementation strategy plan. Some of the money will be spent on purchasing material and equipment. The plan will need to be submitted and meet the criteria. This plan needs to be submitted by the first week in April 2020. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted unanimously to support the creation of a plan to spend the Student Opportunity Acts Funds. A plan and details will be provided at the next meeting.

8.2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update - Mr. Steele informed School Committee members that the information regarding COVID-19 is changing on a daily basis. There has been a presentation provided to the faculty. The school has set up information on the website. The staff and students have been informed about universal precautions which can be taken. The school has taken steps to advance the cleaning regime throughout the school. The school is currently stocked with sanitizing wipes and additional disinfectant products. The school stocked up early when discussions started about this virus. The school counselors have been involved to address any anxiety which staff or students may have regarding this virus. The student trips for outside the country have been cancelled. The school is working on getting vouchers for those planned trips. It has also been encouraged to cancel out-of-state trips. Other planned activities will need to be discussed and a plan for the cancellation will need to be determined. The curriculum directors are working on the distance learning concept in case schools are closed. Students will be able to utilize web based platforms. There are currently enough laptops for the students to do this learning from home. There will be a non-contact day to make sure that the staff are ready to go online if this is the directive from the state. All are in agreement that it is best to have a plan in place for the students if the state closes the schools. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to move to modify the calendar to explore the non-contact day for staff to prepare for distance on-line learning.

8.3. Senior Calendar – The 2020 Senior Calendar was presented.

8.4. Out-of-State-Trips:

a. HVAC/R Shop - The HVAC/R Shop will be taking a trip to Pawtucket, Rhode Island on March 24, 2020. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the HVAC/R Shop field trip contingent upon the chance that it could be cancelled by Dr. Fitzpatrick due to specific conditions at the time of the trip.

b. Auto Technology - The Auto Tech Shop will be taking a trip to NYC on April 13, 2020. On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Broderick, it was unanimously voted to approve the Auto Tech Shop field trip contingent upon the chance that it could be cancelled by Dr. Fitzpatrick due to specific conditions at the time of the trip.

8.5. The Practical Nursing Graduation took place on January 22, 2020. There were 16 graduates honored and pinned. There were four nurses who passed the exam and the others will be taking the exam in a few weeks.

8.6. NEASC Accreditation will be in 2022. This was last completed in 2013. The process for this starts two years out. There has been money allotted to complete the work. The Chairman of the NEASC division came out to visit the school on February 24, 2020. There will be a visiting team which will come out to complete their evaluation.

Item 9. Budget Report – J. Mitchell

9.1. The School Committee was informed that the public hearing for the FY2021 budget was held prior to the school committee meeting. The FY2021 Budget Subcommittee is looking to adopt an operational budget incorporating a 3.9% increase over the previous fiscal year. The Chairman of the Upton Finance Committee and Chairman of Hopedale Finance Committee were present.

9.2. Results of School Council Vote – A. Steele – The School Council voted to support the FY21 budget request for the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District at their February 25, 2020 meeting.

9.3. E & D Authorization – FY21 Budget – Member Koopman moved and a motion was made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to approve the use of \$225,000 from the District's Certified Excess & Deficiency Funds (E & D) as a funding source for the FY21 proposed budget.

The District's commitment to identification of alternative revenue streams and fiscal austerity contributes to its ability to generate E & D. This valuable resource provides a revenue source that created a reduction to member assessments.

9.4. Adopt FY21 Budget – On a motion made by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to adopt the FY2021 budget of \$25,602,950.00 as presented.

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

10.1. School Choice – The School Council at their February 25, 2020 meeting recommended that the School Committee not participate in School Choice for the 2020-2021 school year. On a motion made by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Koopman, the School Committee voted unanimously to not participate in School Choice for the 2020-2021 school year at the Blackstone Valley Regional School District.

10.2. The School Committee was informed that Michele Denise received the Athletic Director of the Year Award. There will be an awarding banquet held on March 26, 2020 in Hyannis.

10.3. The Board of Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) voted to approve the Proposed Accelerated Repair Project for a partial roof replacement. MSBA approved an estimated maximum total facilities grant of \$751,188, and that construction contingency expenditures are eligible for reimbursement which may increase to \$781,720.

10.4. Dr. Fitzpatrick attended the AASA National Conference which was held on February 13 thru February 15, 2020. This was part of his Professional Development.

10.5. The MAVA Outstanding Vocational Award Banquet will take place on April 9, 2020. A student from Douglas will be receiving a recognition. Mr. Lavin will be the invited School Committee member since he serves as the Town of Douglas representative.

10.6. The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is the recipient of a \$830,106.00 2020 MA Skills Capital Grant Award.

10.7. Financial Donations:

- a. Milford Federal Bank provided a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 for sponsorship of the student transport van.
- b. The Millbury Federal Credit Union provided a donation of \$2,500.00 for support of one of the school's passenger vans.

10.8. BVT Visitation/Tours:

- a. Hopedale Finance Committee Chair, Sam Hockenbury, visited BVT on February 6, 2020.

10.9. Notification of Retirement:

- a. A letter dated February 10, 2020 was received by John E. Kelly about the formal notification of retirement effective June 30, 2020.
- b. A letter dated February 20, 2020 was received by Charles Murray about the formal notification of retirement effective May 29, 2020.

10.10. Notification of Separation:

- a. The Committee is in receipt of the December 18, 2019 separation agreement from Alan Bethel.

10.11. The members are in receipt of the Spring 2020 BVT Parent Newsletter.

Item 11. New Business

Member Yitts communicated that two years ago that BVT was going to be a test site for a new type of exam which could possibly become a replacement for the MCAS test. Mr. Yitts wanted to know what has become of that. Dr. Fitzpatrick explained that the newest test is a merge of the old and the new. Some of the changes included going from paper to computer.

Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

The monthly compilation of news clippings and correspondence were made available for the School Committee to review.

Item 13. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting – April 16, 2020.

Item 14. Executive Session Per MGL Chpt. 30A, Section 21 (a) #3

On a motion made by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, a roll call vote was taken at 7:59 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to approve executive session minutes.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Joseph M. Hall	aye
Joseph A. Broderick	aye
Chester P. Hanratty	aye
Anthony M. Yitts	aye
Jeff T. Koopman	aye
James H. Ebbeling	aye
Dennis P. Braun	aye
Mitchell Intinarelli	aye
Julie H. Mitchell	aye
Gerald M. Finn	aye
Paul J. Braza	aye

On a motion made by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Finn, a roll call vote was taken to come out of executive session at 8:01 pm.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Joseph M. Hall	aye
Joseph A. Broderick	aye
Chester P. Hanratty	aye
Anthony M. Yitts	aye
Jeff T. Koopman	aye
James H. Ebbeling	aye
Dennis P. Braun	aye
Julie Mitchell	aye
Gerald M. Finn	aye
Mitchell Intinarelli	aye
Paul J. Braza	aye

14.1. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2020 – On a motion made by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to accept the Executive Session minutes of January16, 2020 as written.

14.2. Collective Bargaining Strategy – The Committee will not go into Executive Session to discuss this matter. It will be discussed at a later date.

Item 15. Decide: Release Status of Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Yitts, seconded by Mr. Finn, a roll vote was taken to accept but not release the minutes of the executive session minutes January 16, 2020 as written.

Item 16. Meeting Closure

16.1. The meeting was closed as declared by Chairman Hall.

16.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Listing of Materials used in the Meeting:

- Item 2. Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 16, 2020
- Item 3.1. Treasurer's Report Dated January 31, 2020
- Item 3.2. Unibank 2019 Interest Statement
- Item 6.1. Transfer Regional Transportation
- Item 6.3.a 2009 Subaru Outback Donation
- Item 6.3.b. 2004 Volvo XC90 Donation
- Item 6.3.c. 1993 Mercedes Donation
- Item 6.4. Sarnafil Proprietary Roof System
- Item 7.1. MCAS Update
- Item 8.3. Senior Calendar
- Item 8.4. a. HVAC/R Shop Out-of-State Trip
- Item 8.4.b. Auto Technology Out-of-State Trip
- Item 9.2. Results of School Council Vote
- Item 9.3. Certified Excess & Deficiency Funds
- Item 9.4. FY2021 Budget Committee Report
- Item 10.1. Memo regarding School Choice
- Item 10.2. Athletic Director of Year Award
- Item 10.3. Approval of Proposed Accelerated Repair Project
- Item 10.6. Awarding of the 2020 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant Program
- Item 10.7.a. Milford Federal Bank Donation
- Item 10.7.b. Millbury Federal Credit Unit Donation
- Item 10.9.a. Retirement notification of John E. Kelly
- Item 10.9.b. Retirement notification of Charles E. Murray
- Item 10.10.a. Separation Agreement Alan Bethel
- Item 10.11 BVT Parent Newsletter Spring 2020
- Item 12. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully Submitted by,

Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary