

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional District School Committee**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**August 20, 2020**

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

Joseph A. Broderick of Blackstone	Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Chester P. Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury	Kurtis Johnson, Asst. Supt. for Finance and Operations
Joseph M. Hall of Bellingham, Chairman	Barbara Auger, Treasurer
Gerald M. Finn of Millville, Vice Chairman	
Anthony Yitts of Grafton, Secretary	Amy Sutherland, Recording Secretary
Paul J. Braza of Milford	
Julie H. Mitchell of Sutton	
James H. Ebbeling of Uxbridge	
Dennis Braun of Mendon	
Mitchell A. Intinarelli of Hopedale	

Members Absent:

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

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. Yitts, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting of June 18, 2020 and to accept the minutes as presented.

Item 3. Treasurer's Report – B. Auger

3.1. The Treasurer's report was presented dated June 30, 2020. The report reflects an ending balance of \$7,100,994.31 for Total Funds, including \$1,040,378.53 in Project Funds, and \$6,060,615.78 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Braza, it was unanimously voted to approve the June 30, 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented.

3.2. The Treasurer's report was presented dated July 31, 2020. The report reflects an ending balance of \$6,696,090.17 for Total Funds, including \$886,896.81 in Project Funds, and \$5,809,193.36 in Local Funds. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the July 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Item 4. Staff Recognition – Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick

4.1. Dr. Fitzpatrick recognized and thanked Assistant Supt. for Finance and Operations Kurtis Johnson for his commitment to BVT over the years. Mr. Johnson will be retiring August 31, 2020. During his tenure, Mr. Johnson has provided major contributions to the BVT community.

Item 5. Comments By Student Representatives – Isabella Caccavelli & Emma Conkey

Student representatives Isabella Caccavelli and Emma Conkey provided an update on upcoming events for students. Student representatives will be conducting a Community Reading Program which will include reading books to younger students. These readings will be available virtually for younger students. Student reps will participate in trash clean up days taking place within various communities. Additionally, events are planned for welcoming incoming freshman students. Signs and decorations will be made to welcome them. Each freshman will receive a welcoming tee-shirt. The theme for this school year is "Go with the Flow."

Item 6. Director of Construction/Facilities Report – J. Brochu

6.1. Mr. Brochu reported that the roof repair project is running on schedule and that the membrane has now been installed. The project is 90% complete. In the month of September, the punch list will be reviewed for completion. The anticipated completion date is October 30, 2020.

6.2. School Committee members were provided with a document which explained the 2020 BVT building enhancements, projects, preventative maintenance, and procedural changes. The 2020 Skills grant will be used to create a new Chapter 74 Biotech lab within a reconfigured section of the current Business Tech area and to complete a renovation of room 340 - Chemistry Lab. Approximately 3,300 sq. ft. of direct adhered carpet will be replaced with a NORA rubberized flooring system. The flooring project will be completed by August 21, 2020.

Item 7. Asst. Supt. For Finance/Operations – K. Johnson/L. Mangano

7.1. Mr. Johnson explained that the FY20 Audit prep was completed very efficiently. The second draft will be provided in a few weeks. The reports for the Department of Revenue are being prepared and the End of Year reports will be completed timely.

7.2. Biotech Lab – The Committee is in receipt of a bid summary for the Biotech General Contractor Bid. There were seven vendors who submitted bids. On a motion made by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to award the construction contract for the Biotech Labs Project to Tower Construction Corp. of Cranston, RI as the most responsible and eligible bidder, with a total bid of \$864,000.00; inclusive of the base bid plus HVAC and Plumbing Filed Sub-bids.

7.3. The School Committee is in receipt of the Grant & External Funding Activity for Fiscal Year 2021 totaling \$1,114,311. Grants were combined to fund one complete Title 1 Program in the amount of \$57,937. These funds are allocated for two teacher aides, Wilson Reading Program materials, and professional development for instructional staff.

7.4. Approval of Prior Year Invoices:

7.4.a. The School Committee was presented with an invoice for Milford Regional Medical Center in the amount of \$8,162.80. On a motion by Mr. Hanratty, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to pay the invoice for Milford Regional Medical Center in the amount of \$8,162.80.

7.4.b. The School Committee was presented with an invoice for Tandem in the amount of \$999.00. On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, it was unanimously voted to pay the invoice for Tandem in the amount of \$999.00. During the discussion section of this motion the Committee inquired and received clarification regarding the scheduling function of Tandem with Tyler Technologies/Infinite Vision.

7.5. The School Committee is in receipt of a donation from Michelle Scanlon of a 2003 Toyota Highlander. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was unanimously voted to accept the donation of the 2003 Toyota Highlander.

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

8.1. The Class of 2020 held their on-campus outdoor graduation on August 8, 2020. This was a great ceremony which successfully protected the social distancing of some 1500 participants.

8.2. School Committee members were presented with the 2020 Scholarships and Awards Report. Initial award amounts and estimated renewable values received by members of the Class of 2020 totaled \$1,473,324. The renewal value equaled more than \$5 million.

8.3. The School Committee members are in receipt of the updated new personnel listing.

8.4. School Year 2020-21 Student Handbooks were distributed at the meeting to School Committee members. The handbook was adopted and voted on May 21<sup>st</sup> and this distribution represents the published version.

8.5. School Committee members were presented with a document entitled "Our Students Shine at SkillsUSA." The students worked hard to compete and received a total of 89 Medals, winning 36 gold, 26 silver, and 27 bronze. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Massachusetts State and National Leadership and Skills Conferences were cancelled.

8.6. The School Committee was informed that BVT's Decennial Evaluation is to take place during the 2021-2022 school year. After speaking to the representatives these evaluations will be delayed for 6 months to a year due to COVID. BVT will continue to prepare for this visit.

Item 9. Superintendent-Director's Report – M. Fitzpatrick

9.1. The 2020-2021 Return to School Plan was created based on the release of school reopening guidelines on June 25, 2020 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). BVT worked to create a tiered level system ranging from Tier 1 through Tier 6. The tier system will act as an alert system that allows the school to move from Tier to Tier.

9.1.a. School Year Return Plan (All 6 Tiers): The School Committee members were informed that the tier level will be determined by current information from the State of Massachusetts on phased reopening guidelines and by BVT Administrators who are continuously monitoring the health and safety of students and staff within the daily operations of the school. School Committee members reviewed the document which clarified all tier levels. On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mr. Hanratty, the Blackstone Valley Vocational School District Committee voted unanimously to approve the schools state mandated School Year Return Plan as described and presented in detail within the six (6) tier defined plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

9.1.b. Recommend Return Tier (Tier 2): On a motion made by Mr. Intinarelli, seconded by Mrs. Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to move that the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Committee approve the BVVRSD return to school plan under Tier 2 (as described in detail within the 6 Tier defined options) as approved in the previous motion. This motion should meet the State mandated school year return plan as presented for the 2020-2021

school year. Further, it should be noted that the BVRV Technical High School Teacher's Association has agreed in concept to this blueprint.

9.1.c. The School Committee is in receipt of the Cycle & Tier 2 calendars for school year 2020-2021. Questions were raised regarding what the impact to students who need to fulfill hourly requirements within specific trades. It was explained that the school is working with the certification and licensure entities to figure out the answers to these questions. The hope is that some of the certification boards will reduce some of the requirement hours.

9.2. Visit/Tours:

9.2.a. Upton Fire Chief Mark DiFronzo visited the school on August 13, 2020 to perform an inspection. The inspection went extremely well.

9.3. The members were provided with a School Committee Member Directory.

9.4. Delineation of FY21 Subcommittees: The members are in receipt of a Notice to all Interested Parties for the delineation of Subcommittees for FY21. The various subcommunities include: Budget Subcommittee, Negotiation Subcommittee, Policy Subcommittee, and Insurance Advisory Subcommittee, Teacher Sick Leave Bank Advisory Committee, Administration/Support Staff Sick Leave Bank Advisory Committee, Fiscal Warrant Signers 2020, Fiscal Warrant Signers 2021, Capital Planning, Facilities Subcommittee, and Chapter 70 Funding Study Group. Members were asked to review the delineation of subcommittees for FY21 and to verbally express their interest in serving on another committee or remain with the existing committee in which they are currently serving. An updated document will be prepared for the next school committee meeting.

9.5. Superintendent FY20 Goal Attainment Confirmation: Consistent with the Massachusetts model system for the evaluation of the Superintendent, the board reviewed the documentation of attainment evidence provided. The Committee had previously received and provided feedback regarding the milestone status of the mutually agreed Superintendent's performance goals.

Following discussion the Committee confirmed approval of the successful completion of the eight goals aligned with state standards. To provide Committee members with an additional Superintendent evaluation instrument, each Committee member completed a summary scorecard of ratings consistent with the state DESE rubric.

On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was unanimously voted to approve the action for Dr. Fitzpatrick's FY20 Goal Attainment Confirmation as per his contract.

9.6. FY20 Draft Annual Report Review: Members were provided with the draft Annual Report for FY20. This document provides the facts and figures of the operations of the school along with the District's achievements that highlight the mission of BVT. The members were encouraged to provide any feedback since this is not a final document. To meet strict deadlines of District communities, the Committee voted in consensus to support the draft in concept.

9.7. NESDEC Mini Grant Award: *Advanced Distance Learning Training*: BVT is seeking a special \$10,000 one-time funding for Advanced Distance Learning Techniques for Career and Technical Education for Professional Development in the age of COVID-19. This online

teaching would be vital to the successful tiered method for the reopening of the school in the fall. This would be offered to 30 BVT Educators. BVT wants to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Strategic Alliances to provide their Certificate in Online Learning.

**9.8. Summer Professional Development Update:**

9.8.a. Dr. Fitzpatrick virtually attended the M.A.S.S. Executive Institute on July 14, 2020 and July 15, 2020 as part of his Professional Development.

9.8.b. Dr. Fitzpatrick coordinated an on-campus leadership retreat in concert with BVT Leadership Team members on July 22, 2020, and July 23, 2020.

9.9. The School Committee is in receipt of a Notification of Retirement from Barbara Khorasami who served as the Central Office Secretary for 20 years.

9.10. The School Committee is in receipt of a copy of the Parent Newsletter entitled "The Link."

9.11. The School Committee is in receipt of a copy of the Freshman Newsletter entitled "The Bridge."

9.12. The School Committee is in receipt of a copy of the 2020 Selected Massachusetts General Laws.

**Item 10. New Business**

The District received notification that there are new regulations from the State and MIAA regarding specific sports which can be played in the fall. A variety of adjustments and modifications need to be put in place to make sure these sports can take place. There continues to be information relative to this coming out daily. Any information on this topic will be communicated to the BVT Community.

**Item 11. 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 12. Next Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting – J. Hall**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on September 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

**Item 13. Meeting Closure**

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

13.2 On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Intinarelli, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

**Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting:**

Item 2.0. Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 21, 2020

Item 3.1. June 30, 2020

Item 3.2. July 31, 2020

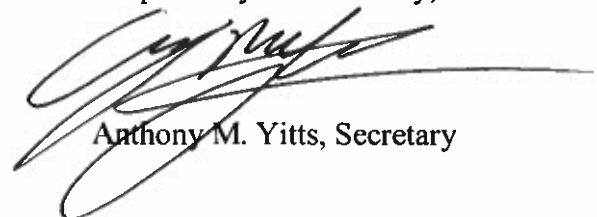
Item 6.2. 2020 BVT Enhancements/Projects/Preventative Maintenance Procedural Change

Item 7.2. Biotech Lab - General Contractor Award

**Listing of Materials Used in the Meeting (continued):**

- Item 7.2.a. General Contractor Biotech Lab Suggested Motion
- Item 7.3. Grant Listing FY21
- Item 7.4.a. Milford Regional Medical Center Invoice
- Item 7.4.b. Tandem Invoice
- Item 7.5. Donation Acceptance 2003 Toyota Highlander
- Item 8.2. Scholarship & Awards Report 2020
- Item 8.3. Update on New Personnel
- Item 8.5. SkillsUSA Update
- Item 9.1.a. School Year Return Plan (All 6 Tiers)
- Item 9.1.c. BVT Cycle Calendar August 2020 – June 2021
- Item 9.3. BVT Regional District School Committee List January 2019-2022
- Item 9.4. Delineation of Subcommittees FY2021
- Item 9.6. FY20 Draft Annual Report Review
- Item 9.7. NESDEC Mini Grant Award: Advanced Distance Learning Training
- Item 9.9. Notification of Retirement
- Item 9.10. Parent Newsletter –The Link
- Item 9.11. Freshman Newsletter – The Bridge
- Item 9.12. 2020 Selected Massachusetts General Laws
- Item 11. Items for the Good of the Committee

Respectfully submitted by,



Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary