

**Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional
District School Committee**

**Minutes of Special Meeting
September 24, 2020**

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

Joseph Hall of Bellingham, Chairman
Gerald Finn of Millville, Vice Chairman
Joseph Broderick of Blackstone
Anthony Yitts of Grafton
Chester Hanratty, Jr. of Millbury
Julie Mitchell of Sutton
James Ebbeling of Uxbridge
Jeff Koopman of Northbridge – *(joined meeting in progress @ 5:18 p.m.)*

Members Attended via Zoom/Phone:

Dennis Braun of Mendon
Paul Braza of Milford
David Bartlett of Upton

Others in Attendance:

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, Superintendent-Director
Anthony Steele, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michele Denise, Vocational Director

Members Absent:

John Lavin of Douglas
Mitchell Intinarelli of Hopedale

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Mr. Hall.

Item 2. Remote Enrichment Center – Dr. Fitzpatrick

2.1. The Superintendent extended a summary and rationale for the newly proposed enrichment center. He highlighted the multiple modifications incorporated within the revised document now before the School Committee. Those changes included, but were not limited to, the following: an increase in the daily rate of participation; subsidy components for maintenance and liability insurance coverage exposure by the District; and a preference to ensure the revenue neutral protection sought by the Committee.

The Superintendent introduced Assistant Superintendent Anthony Steele to address several operational aspects of the program. Mr. Steele walked the group through various components and emphasized the sunset provision originally requested by the Committee. In response to an inquiry from Mr. Finn concerning the procedure for handling any disorderly or disruptive behavior by one of the youth to be served, Mr. Steele explained that the standard disciplinary protocols would be maintained. Mr. Broderick sought a clarification regarding the age versus the grade eligibility factors for participation. It was explained that grade enrollment will govern eligibility. Within this discussion references were made to the targeted group put forth within the Governor's memorandum which Committee members had at their fingertips. Mr. Hanratty and Mr. Yitts raised several questions regarding the ensured safety of all should the enrichment center be approved. Mr. Steele addressed the concerns in detail.

2.1. a. On a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded (remotely) by Mr. Bartlett, it was unanimously voted to authorize establishment and operation of the Little Beaver Enrichment Center for the duration of the 2020-21 school year. Following the motion and its second, a lively discussion ensued.

2.2. Given the detailed debate and discussion within the earlier motion, this motion advanced with a stipulation. The Committee directed its Treasurer to provide regular fiscal status reports regarding the revolving accounts of this revenue neutral endeavor. On a motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Koopman, it was unanimously voted to authorize establishment of an Enrichment Center Revolving Fund in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 for the purposes related to the Little Beaver Enrichment Center.

Item 3. Meeting Closure

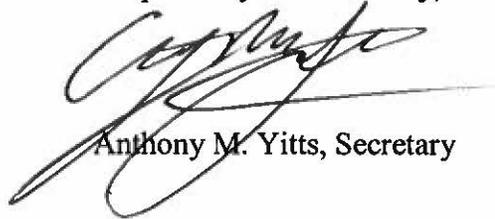
3.1. The meeting was closed as declared by Chairman Hall.

3.2. On a motion by Mr. Broderick, seconded by Mr. Finn, it was voted to close the meeting at 5:42 p.m. The meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Hall.

Listing of Materials used in the Meeting:

- Item 2.1. Little Beavers' Remote Learning Center Proposal
- Item 2.1. Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order No. 49
- Item 2.1.a. Motion to Authorize Establishment of Learning Center
- Item 2.2. Motion to Approve Enrichment Center Revolving Fund

Respectfully Submitted by,



Anthony M. Yitts, Secretary